

IHM^s IN ACTION



For 30 years, Sister Joyce Campbell, IHM, worked as campus minister at Macomb Community College (MCC). She saw her ministry as the thread connecting the school with the faith community. She retired three years ago.

But MCC asked if she would return to minister part time as a student activities programmer. Sister Joyce agreed and finds her role fulfilling.

Because of her many years within the college setting, she has many contacts and knows how to find the resources to get things done. As a result, Sister Joyce is able to bring exciting, culturally enriching programs to the college.

One of the most successful and long-standing programs Sister Joyce has coordinated for MCC is the Marygrove College Dance Company's annual performance during Black History Month (February), a yearly event for the last 20 years.

Sister Joyce, who also chairs the MCC African-American History and Culture Committee, reports, "Black History Month is the cornerstone of my programming and the committee's work. It was a student who suggested bringing the Marygrove Dance Company in for a performance back in the late 1980s.

"This year, we invited MCC students, local elementary, middle and high schools, as well as the community at-large, to attend the performance at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts. It was free and open to the public. More than 1,000 people, of all ages and from different walks of life, attended. It was one of the most successful programs we've held and was featured in the *Detroit News!*"

This enriching experience is designed to teach. The Marygrove dancers learn to perform onstage in a professional venue. The seniors in the dance company must choreograph a dance and then explain it to an audience. As a result, attendees learn more about the history of dance and drumming.

And the performance provides an opportunity for both dancers and audience members to be exposed to different cultures. As a result, Sister Joyce sees her ministry with MCC as very much in keeping with the IHM mission.

"By providing the opportunity for people to learn about the incredible diversity that makes up America, we're helping create a culture of peace and right relationship," she notes. "That's what we are about as IHMs."