

IHM_s IN ACTION



Sister Rose Graham, IHM, always knew she loved teaching, and she spent much of her ministerial life doing just that.

She taught school from 1963 to 1997, in locations as diverse as Michigan (at St. Francis De Sales and St. Mary of Redford in Detroit and St. Charles in Newport.), Puerto Rico, Honduras, Ghana, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

She also spent two years – between ministries in Honduras and Ghana – as secretary of the IHM mission province in New York. Through much of Sister Rose’s overseas ministry, she taught in a teacher training college. She also spent several years simultaneously serving as a pastoral minister.

Sister Rose’s previous ministries helped prepare and shape her for her current role. As a result of the diversity of her experience, she learned, “how necessary it is to use one’s own personal gifts and talents and not try to be someone else – or to try to accommodate all the expectations of others.”

Sister Rose’s personal gifts are many. She brings respect, acceptance and a healthy sense of humor to her current ministry as resident services assistant within the IHM Motherhouse Resident Community (MRC), a position she has held since 2000.

Sister Rose is responsible for helping acclimate IHMs moving into the Motherhouse or the IHM Health Care Center to their new environment.

“I see each sister’s room as a prayer room. The transition is a little easier for those who are moving if I can help them see their new home the same way,” she explains. “My ministry involves a little bit of everything – prayer, reflection and being present to the sisters as their lives change.”

She is also an associate of the Motherhouse Pastoral Care department and the Rupp Funeral Home, working with sisters through the final transition of death.

Because she is so familiar with those with whom she works, Sister Rose is able to assemble photos from the deceased sister’s lifetime as well as some of the personal items that had special meaning. These are displayed in the Motherhouse parlor and provide a more complete picture for visitors to the wake and funeral. She schedules sisters to greet those coming to pay their

respects and provides a warm, welcoming environment for all. She is also responsible for gathering a sister's personal effects after death, returning them to family members or taking them to the IHM Archives, as appropriate.

In reflecting on her life and ministry, Sister Rose comments, "My vision has been broadened. With all peoples and all places, I have met challenges and received graces. In all areas of ministry, it is important and necessary to work with many staff departments – nurses, maintenance workers, housekeepers. They are all marvelous examples of teamwork."