



Sister Lenore Pochelski grew up in Chicago, the oldest of three girls. Her mother was an executive secretary for Jewel, Inc., and her father was a pipe fitter and welder who mentored young tradesmen at International Harvester. Sister Lenore describes her family as more spiritual than religious. Although they attended weekly Mass, “we weren’t ‘wearing it on your sleeve’ kind of people,” she says.

With a move to the suburbs in fifth grade, the family transferred to Catholic schools. When it came time to attend high school, their mother researched schools and found the newly opened Immaculate Heart of Mary High School in Westchester, Ill. an inviting choice. There Sister Lenore was introduced to IHM Sisters.

“I was attracted to the IHMs because they were vibrant women educators,” she says. A member of the second graduating class, she entered the community right after graduation in 1965.

“My entire ministry has been spent in Catholic education, my way of serving our mutual God.” Her first teaching assignment was at St. Rose in Detroit. She also taught at Sacred Heart, Roseville, Mich., and St. Matthew, Detroit before returning to Monroe. At the Hall of the Divine Child, the IHM-run boys’ boarding school, she directed the sixth grade, taught seventh and eighth grades, and then became principal until the school closed in 1980. During this time, she completed her master’s degree in educational leadership from Wayne State University.

Sister Lenore then moved back to the Detroit area where she spent 11 years as principal of Beahan Junior High, the co-ed junior high school at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington. She served as the assistant provincial for the Southeast Province and also as an IHM member of the first board of directors at Marian High School, the IHM-sponsored school in Bloomfield Hills. At that time, she was asked to join the administrative team at Marian.

Twenty-four years later, Sister Lenore continues to serve at Marian, now as head of school, after having been assistant principal, principal and president. Her main responsibility is to ensure that Marian’s mission and vision live and prosper.



She is responsible for Marian’s external relations and advancement efforts, and she has oversight for academic and co-curricular programs for the 500 young



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women who travel to Marian from five counties for a solid Catholic, college preparatory education. “During these years, we have been able to expand and update Marian’s 57-year-old facility, keeping up with technology and the needs of 21st century leaders,” she explains.

Sister Lenore is most grateful to the IHM congregation for her own education and the opportunity to serve God by advancing the mission of Catholic education. “Along the way, I have met wonderful young people and their families – and made several close friends – including a great number of people who believe strongly in the mission of Catholic education in the IHM tradition!”