

*What comes to your mind and heart when you realize you are celebrating 75 years as an IHM? What kept you going?*

I have special gratitude for the long life God has given me. I believe in a personal God who knows and cares for me and has always been there for me. Seventy-five years is a long time and I'm kind of "worn out." I can't get too excited about this celebration. I'm 93 years old; all my brothers and sisters, most of my classmates and many colleagues are gone to God and I sometimes ask myself why I'm still alive and in good health.



I always loved my ministry of teaching for 51 years. Although I had some different summer experiences of doing social work, helping with a census and visiting the homebound, it was teaching that brought me the greatest joy. The little children teach you a lot. I always remember with the first-graders, about Thanksgiving, I would put a book on every child's desk and I would hear this little sound from them – they were reading! After all the preparation of learning letters and words on flashcards every day, to see them actually reading brought such joy. I loved it! I also worked with wonderful teachers and we have kept up our connections.

Growing up, we were lucky that faith and religious values were such a part of our family life. There were some hard times, some sad deaths and other difficulties, but I always had that feeling there was someone to whom we could go.



Entering the community, I have been blessed to share life with wonderful sisters and have had good friends with whom I've worked and enjoyed vacations over the years. My nieces and nephews still come to visit me.

Looking back, I remember all these relationships. These connections are helpful as we suffer the loss of sisters here.

Since retirement, I continue to enjoy the ways I can serve assisting our sisters. I enjoy

our prayer and sharing stories during our meals together, some TV, reading and a little art.

*Looking back over these years, how has your understanding of God changed?*

God is more real to me. Growing up, God was just part of the daily routine. Now it's like God is my very close friend. We've grown in intimacy and I hope I've grown in trust. I look back with gratitude and amazement. Call it all a blessing.

*If you were teaching now, what would you want to teach about life from the wisdom of your experience?*

Don't give up! Appreciate all that you do have. Don't worry if you're not doing things the way you think they should



be done; look at it as an opportunity for God to take over. God is above all the difficulties and circumstances you are facing; you don't need to be tied down to what happens. God knows and cares for you.

God is with you.