

Reflection for Sister Mary Edmund Speer

June 17, 1926 – July 18, 2025



Sister Mary Edmund Speer entered the Sisters of Charity in 1945 from Butler, PA. She had attended Seton Hill University for two years when she was attracted to the life of Mother Seton's followers by their "profound simplicity" and their "ever-present spirit of love and sacrifice."

Sister Mary Edmund earned a BA in Mathematics from Seton Hill University and an M.Ed. with a concentration in Chemistry from Xavier University in Cincinnati.

She taught primarily in high school for thirty-two years, covering subjects such as math, science, and chemistry, among others. Her teaching career included positions at Saint James in West End, St.

Luke in Carnegie, Altoona Catholic, Sacred Heart High School, and Greensburg Central Catholic. Additionally, for five years, she taught aeronautics classes at Altoona Catholic High School.

In 1980, Sister Mary Edmund began teaching at Butler Catholic School and worked as a part-time teacher and part-time social service minister in Saint Paul's Parish. Since 1990, she has been a full-time parish visitor at Saint Paul's. In addition to her ministry, Sister Mary Edmund, an only child, cared for her mother in Butler until her mother passed away in 2002.

In 2001 Sister Mary Edmund received the Manifesting the Kingdom Award in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The award is bestowed:

...recognizing individuals who demonstrate the presence of Jesus in their lives and have thus participated in an exceptional way in manifesting the Kingdom of God among us.

On June 8, 2009, Sister Mary Edmund received the Paul Harris Fellowship Award from the Butler County Rotary Club for her work and dedication to the people of Butler County. Paul Harris founded Rotary International, and the award is given “in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world.” During the Awards Ceremony, it was noted that Sister Mary Edmund visited Butler Memorial Hospital seven days a week and that each month she visited twenty nursing homes with a total of one hundred eighty residents. “She is such a good person,” the presenter of the award stated, “representing God so well.”

Sister Mary Edmund has visited Caritas Christi at least once a month for the past eight years. (And rumor has it that the road from Butler always passed by the Dairy Queen!)

We are glad that Sister Mary Edmund will be at Caritas Christi all the time: “Welcome, daughter, home returning!”

FAREWELL

In September, I will celebrate sixty-five years as a Sister of Charity. Thirty of those years I have spent in Butler. I believe It is time for me to go home to my Community. I am grateful to all the priests and staff I have worked with, to My parishioners, especially to my cousins, Jacky and Jim, Who have always been there for me. You have all been a blessing in my life.

May I leave you with the words of our foundress,
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton:

**“I carry you constantly in my heart
before the God who loves us.”**

Beginning May 22, my new address will be:

Caritas Christi
129 DePaul Center Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

Sister Mary Edmund Speer, SC

Reflection given by Sister Rosemary Donley