

Sister Mary Edmund Scherer, CSA

Sister Mary Edmund (Mary Elizabeth) Scherer, CSA, 94, died on Wednesday, December 1, 2010, in Nazareth Center where she resided.

Mary Elizabeth chose the day after Independence Day, July 5, 1916, to enter the world in the family of Joseph and Amelia Masanz Scherer in the small city of Defiance, Ohio. She was joined in time by brothers James and Edmund and sister, Celia Ann. The family belonged to St. John's Parish and the children attended the grade school where Sisters of St. Agnes taught. The influence of her teachers as well as of three relatives and of her best friend, all members of the Congregation, stayed with Mary even after the family moved to Tiffin, Ohio. There Mary finished her last two years of high school and worked for two years. Her heart, however, was set on joining the Sisters. With her parents' permission, she came to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, at the age of 20.



Arriving in Fond du Lac in 1936, Mary was one of the first students at the newly established Marian College, from which she received in 1944 a Bachelor of Science in Education degree, with a major in social studies. Between those years, Mary Elizabeth professed first vows as Sister Mary Edmund in 1939 and began teaching primary grades in Crown Point, Indiana and then middle grades in Marquette, Michigan, where the Sisters ran an orphanage. Her last stint in grade school was in 1947 as a sixth grade teacher at Immaculate Conception in Elmhurst, Illinois. Further education at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh earned her a business certificate; at Hunter College in New York a Masters in Education; and at Fort Hays State in Hays, Kansas, a degree in administration. For the next 25 years she was a business teacher and then principal at high schools in New York, Pennsylvania, Kansas, and Wisconsin. In 1974 she became the Business Officer at Marian College in Fond du Lac, serving there for twelve years.

After retiring from Marian College in 1986, Sister Mary Edmund continued to offer her services first in the Marian College Education Department and then in the St. Mary's Springs business office. Many students were touched by her concern for their welfare both at the college and at the Springs. Retiring to Nazareth Court and Center in 2000, Sister spent time visiting with sisters and helping with tasks as she was able.

Sister Mary Edmund was a quiet, practical businesswoman: knowledgeable, organized, orderly, and attentive to the needs of those she served. Those who got close to her experienced her loyalty and compassion. She was faithful to the God she served in others; close to her family; and loyal to friends, former students, and colleagues who maintained contact with her over the years. Her final months of suffering increased her longing to turn over her life's accounting to the God she loved and served. When she was called last Wednesday, no doubt she was greeted with the words of Jesus: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Sister Edmund is survived by a sister-in-law, Helen Scherer of Ravenna, OH; nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews; and the Sisters of St. Agnes with whom she lived, prayed, and ministered.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Joseph and Amelia Masanz Scherer; two brothers: James and Edmund; and one sister: Celia Ann.

Visitation: Visitation for Sister Mary Edmund will be held on Saturday, December 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at Nazareth Court and Center, 375 Gillett Street, Fond du Lac. A prayer service will be held on Saturday at 11:00 a.m.

Services: A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, December 4, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in the St. Francis Home Chapel, 33 Everett Street, Fond du Lac. Father Ken Smits, OFM Cap. will preside. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Springs Cemetery, weather permitting.

Memorials may be directed to the Sisters of St. Agnes Development Office, 320 County Road K, Fond du Lac, WI 54937.

The Sisters of St. Agnes are grateful to the nurses and staff of Nazareth Court and Center for their care of Sister Mary Edmund in her retirement years and to the staff of Hospice Hope for their support in these last weeks.