

## Obituary



Sister Dorothy Eddy, IHM, 94, died Thursday, Jan. 26, in the IHM Health Care Center, Monroe, Mich. - She had resided at the IHM Motherhouse since 1983.

Sister Dorothy was one of three daughters of John and Florence (Maurice) Eddy. She was born on July 24, 1922 in Flint, Mich. and baptized Dorothy. After attending Croak Elementary School, Flint, she graduated from St. Michael High School, Flint. In 1941, Sister Dorothy entered the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Monroe and received the religious name Sister Rozalia; she

celebrated her 75th Jubilee as an IHM in July 2016.

Sister Dorothy earned a bachelor's degree from Marygrove College, Detroit. Her teaching career in formal education spanned 35 years at St. Joseph, Monroe; Our Lady of Help, St. Raymond, Holy Trinity, Christ the King and Holy Redeemer, Detroit; Holy Name, Birmingham; St. Michael, Flint; and St. Michael, Miami, Fla.- After 12 years at St. Michael the Archangel School in Miami, Sister Dorothy moved to Blessed Sacrament School in Burlington, N.C.- She taught there for one year before transitioning into a pastoral assistant position, working with the senior citizens in the parish for the next three years.

In 1983, Sister Dorothy returned to the IHM Motherhouse and ministered in the Health Care Center (former St. Mary Infirmary) and in art therapy for some 14 years. In 1997, she began ministry as activities and pastoral director for the Motherhouse sisters. Sister Dorothy retired from this position in 2001 but continued her art therapy and volunteering around the Motherhouse. She could often be found in the Art Room, working in ceramics or teaching others the art.

## Remembering

Dorothy's father, John Pernie Eddy, was of English ancestry and had been born in Missouri. Her mother, Emma Florence Maurice Eddy, of French-Canadian descent, was born in Detroit. It was there that the couple met and married.

A bit of family history is important here. Years before Dorothy's parents were married, Mr. Eddy's father and mother, Dorothy's grandparents, had bartered for a beautiful home on Garland Street, in Flint, Mich. for a plot of farmland about five miles outside the city of Flint. According to its title, this 250-acre plot of land had previously served as an Indian Reservation. The grandparents still lived in a small house on the property, but a large farmhouse also stood there. How fortunate that it was ready and waiting for the newly married couple, John and Emma, to move into, following their marriage!

Here it was then, in the farmhouse on Beecher Road, that Dorothy Eddy first opened her eyes to life on planet Earth. The sun was just rising on the morning of July 24, 1922. She was welcomed by her "big sister," Mary Louise, whom we remember as Sister Doreen Eddy, IHM. Another sister, Marguerite, was born, five years later in 1927, completing the family of three girls. A little brother died at birth.

Early schooling took place for Dorothy and her sisters in a one-room schoolhouse, about a half mile from home. After finishing the eighth grade, each of the Eddy girls was enrolled at St. Michael High School in Flint, where their teachers were IHM Sisters.

Dorothy always appreciated the closeness of her grandparents and the richness of life and love that they provided as she was growing up. She also dearly loved life on the farm. The wide open spaces felt freeing to her spirit. Helping care for the cattle, horses, pigs and chickens was a constant incentive to grow close to nature.

Dorothy recalled that her father worked hard all year round on the farm. In addition to the acres devoted to regular farming, there was also a smaller garden that provided food for the table. Mr. Eddy spent some nights, as well, in the maple sugar shanty near the woods, tapping the trees and collecting the sap for the maple syrup he would make.

Dorothy's mom was a homemaker, cooking and sewing for the family. On many occasions the farmhouse became the meeting place for varied groups. Parish picnics were sometimes held in the front yard. When the girls' high school classmates would gather for sleigh rides, or on wintry days for toboggan rides,

Mrs. Eddy was the soul of hospitality, offering steaming cups of cocoa when the young folks came in from the cold. Family life was happy and good.

On June 22, 1939, as Mary Louise entered the IHM congregation, Dorothy felt a huge sense of loss when her big sister left home. However, even then, the early stirrings of her own desire to be a religious were becoming more evident. For some time, she had thought that teaching little children how to relate to one another and how to learn to read would be a challenging and worthwhile gift she could give to her students. The Sisters at St. Michael supported her as she continued to think and pray. Eventually, Dorothy realized that joining the IHM Sisters in Monroe was truly where she was called.

Dorothy entered the IHM congregation on Feb. 22, 1941. Only a few short months later, a shocking event brought pain to the whole Eddy family. On June 21, while hauling a load of hay at the farm, Mr. Eddy suddenly died. It so happened that this was the day designated for the IHM Sisters ministering in places outside of Monroe to return to the Motherhouse for the summer. Because she had provided transportation to Monroe for some of the sisters who were stationed at St. Michael School, Mrs. Eddy was not home at the time of her husband's death. Imagine the family grief and sorrow as the postulant, Dorothy, and the novice, Sister Doreen, accompanied their mother back to Flint for the funeral of Mr. Eddy!

On Aug. 15, 1941, Dorothy was received into the Novitiate, receiving the name of Sister Rozalia, and on Aug. 15, 1943, she became a professed member of the IHM congregation. Final profession occurred three years later on Aug. 15, 1946.

Sister Dorothy's many years of ministry began at St. Joseph School in Monroe. Soon, however, she was assigned to Our Lady of Help Parish, her first contact with big city life. Much was unfamiliar and challenging for her. At St. Raymond School she was one of five sisters assigned to start teaching in a new school. Sister records: "We began the school year on time, but we lacked books, paper, and pencils!"

Assigned to Holy Trinity School in Detroit, Sister Rozalia was asked to open a kindergarten, and with the help of Sister Dolora Neumaier and some materials graciously offered by the sisters at Holy Redeemer, she welcomed 60 lively 5-year-olds into her class room. This was her first experience with the truly

materially poor, and she loved teaching these students. She also welcomed the opportunity to assist in providing food and clothing for many needy children in the area.

Further mission experiences took her to other schools in Michigan, in Florida, and in North Carolina. While Dorothy was in North Carolina, the opportunity to fill a great need for pastoral ministry in the parish arose, and she enthusiastically entered into this new ministry. She brought much joy to the elderly, whom she visited in nursing homes and hospitals. She felt that it was a special gift to be able to bring Communion to people in their own homes, as well. Everyone appreciated her gentle ministry in those years.

In 1983, Sister Dorothy was invited to bring some of her pastoral talents to the Motherhouse in Monroe. She worked part-time in the crafts room, and eagerly learned from IHM artist, Sister Flora Brennan, how to work with clay in making ceramics. Dorothy soon produced beautiful artistic pieces of her own. The lovely prayer bowl carrying the intentions of the community that is brought forward at liturgy each Sunday is one of her creations.

A ministry dear to Dorothy's heart in these years was her work with the sisters in the Memory Care Unit of the Infirmary. She partnered with Sister Elza Lazlo who daily provided these residents with opportunities for physical and occupational therapy. Dorothy brought a wide selection of craft materials to the Unit so that she could assist the Memory Care residents to have the pleasure of making their own artistic creations. She arranged for "open house" events in the unit periodically, to which sisters in other parts of the Motherhouse were always invited. These were memorable times at which the residents' works of art were displayed and admired, as all visited and enjoyed cookies or popcorn treats together. Her sister, Mary Louise, also an artist, died in our infirmary on Jan. 18, 1991.

Sister Dorothy was touched every day by the love and wisdom that flowed from those in the Memory Care Unit. "My desire was to help make these Sisters' lives as full and productive as prayer and activities could make them", she wrote in her autobiography. "I felt God's presence in my ministry," she continued "as I walked with each Sister through the often unclear and puzzling times of her diminishment."

In May of 2001, sister's own health became more fragile, and she was no longer able to continue active responsibilities in Pastoral Care. However, she made daily visits to those in Memory Care and in other areas of the Health Care Center.

Her sister Marguerite, who lived in North Carolina, died Aug. 5, 2010. Sister Dorothy once reflected that she had become wise in her aging years. She believed that as she matured, her prayer life became more centered in the realization of God's presence within herself and in all those with whom she came into contact. She became more aware of the gifts of compassion and love that had been given her to lavish on the poor and lonely wherever she might meet them. She had a joyful heart in ministering to others in simple, everyday ways. Her love of art and beauty shone out in the ceramics she lovingly created and in her assisting of residents who, often for the first time in their lives, produced art works under her direction in the Art Studio at the Motherhouse.

Sister Dorothy's quiet, gentle ministry among us and her joyful smiling countenance will certainly be missed by all of us who have known and loved her.

We rejoice with you, Dorothy, as you experience fullness of life and light in the presence of the God you loved and served so well as a Sister, Servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Written by Sister Marie Gatza, IHM

Delivered by Sister Genevieve Petrak, IHM, Jan. 30, 2017