Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, South Central

Obituaries
Sister Marion Mordica, age 94, February 8, 2020

Sister Marion Mordica died in St. Louis, Missouri. She was preparing to celebrate her 75-year Jubilee as a Sister of Mercy.

Sister Marion entered the community in Webster Groves, Missouri, in 1945, and professed perpetual vows there in August 1951. She held degrees from Our Lady of the Lake, Texas, and Xavier University in Chicago, Illinois.

She had a colorful and busy ministry in education. At each school where she served as principal (29 years), she also conducted the school choir and staged an operetta each year. She spent summers teaching religion in rural areas and one summer worked with incarcerated students.

In addition, she tutored junior high and high school students at St. Joseph High School in Jackson, Mississippi. Because of health issues, she had moved to Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis in January 2015.

Sister Mary Annella Martin, age 90, February 6, 2020

Sister Mary Annella Martin died at Mercy Springwell in Baltimore, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 63 years. Sister Annella ministered at Mercy Hospital (now Mercy Medical Center) for nearly 50 years, first as a bedside nurse, then as a nursing instructor, and in later years holding various positions, including director of primary care services, director of ambulatory services and administrative assistant to the president.

Sister Annella also was an influential member of Harbel, a community organization in Baltimore, where she became more aware of the great need for decent housing among the working poor. At the hospital, she initiated Mercy Housing, which helped employees work through the processes of renting or buying homes. One of Sister Annella’s strongest interests was Mercy Association, and she considered Mercy Medical Center’s very active Association group as one of her proudest accomplishments.
Sister Maura McCartan, age 94, January 14, 2020

Sister Maura McCartan died peacefully at Mercy Springwell in Baltimore, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 75 years.

Sister Maura, a native of Ireland, entered the Sisters of Mercy in Lurgan, Northern Ireland.

In 1958 she was elected formation director for her religious community, a position she held for five years. After coming to the United States, she ministered as a teacher at Mount Washington School for Boys in Baltimore; director of religious education at Sacred Heart Parish in Bowie, Maryland; and principal of St. Francis de Sales School in Salisbury, Maryland.

In addition, she became a spiritual director and retreat facilitator at St. Francis de Sales and surrounding parishes in and near Salisbury.

Sister Valentina Sheridan, age 88, January 14, 2020

Sister Valentina Sheridan died peacefully on at Mercy Convent in Savannah, Georgia. She was a Sister of Mercy for 70 years.

Born in Macon, Georgia, Sister Valentina entered the Community in Baltimore, Maryland. She ministered in elementary education as a teacher and principal of schools in Baltimore and Rockville, Maryland; Mobile, Alabama; and Macon, Augusta, and Atlanta, Georgia.

From 1977 to 1980, Sister Valentina served as superintendent of elementary education for the Archdiocese of Atlanta. Later, she ministered in pastoral care at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Atlanta and St. Joseph’s/Candler Health System in Savannah.
Sister Virginia Harris, age 92, November 26, 2019

Sister Virginia Harris died peacefully at St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 76 years.

After teaching second grade for two years, Sister Virginia earned a nursing degree and began a long ministry in health care.

Among her positions, she served as supervisor of neonatal nurseries and later as obstetrics/gynecology supervisor at Mercy Hospital in Toledo, Ohio; OB/Gyn supervisor and emergency room and night supervisor at St. Charles Hospital in Toledo; and OB supervisor and director of nursing service at Mercy Memorial Hospital in Urbana, Ohio. From 1982 to 2012, she ministered as director of patient relations at Mercy Memorial in Urbana.

Sister Dorothy Dalton, age 87, November 13, 2019

Sister Dorothy Dalton died at St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 71 years.

Sister Dorothy ministered as a midwife and nursing instructor, including as a nursing instructor at Mercy School of Nursing in Toledo, Ohio, and director of nursing education at St. Rita's School of Nursing in Lima, Ohio.

Her midwifery experience included positions as maternity supervisor/nurse midwife at Our Lady of Mercy Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio; instructor of nurse midwifery at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg; and nursing consultant for women's health at the Memphis/Shelby County (Tennessee) Health Department. Later, she served as a community outreach nurse for a retirement center and parish in Louisville, Kentucky.

Sister Mary Immaculee McGill, age 89, December 11, 2019

Sister Mary Immaculee McGill, a Sister of Mercy for 70 years, died peacefully after a long illness at Stella Maris in Timonium, Maryland, where she had lived since 2013.

A respected educator in the Baltimore area, she ministered as a teacher and a principal in Maryland Catholic schools, including St. Cecelia's and St. Michael's in Baltimore; Holy Family in Randallstown; St. Mary's in Clinton; Mount Washington Country School in Baltimore; and, for 23 years, at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Towson.

In 2008 she received the Archdiocesan Medal of Honor for “long-standing and significant contribution of time and talent to the parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary and to the Archdiocese of Baltimore.”
Sister Mary Fatima Starks, age 90, September 18, 2019

Sister Mary Fatima Starks died in Mobile, Alabama. She was a Sister of Mercy for 72 years, and was the oldest Sister of Mercy in the world.

A native of Ireland, Sister Aidan entered the Community in Mobile. She ministered as a teacher and administrator at schools in Mobile, Bessemer, Birmingham, and Huntsville, Alabama; Baltimore, Maryland; and Pensacola, Florida. Later, from 1979 to 1994, she served in parish ministry in Mobile.

In her retirement years, Sister Aidan developed the art of watercolor painting. Until the past few months, she remained very engaged in activities at Convent of Mercy, where she had lived since 1988, and continued her role as the convent’s official greeter and minister of hospitality.

Sister Martha Milner, age 74, October 20, 2019

Sister Martha Milner died in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a Sister of Mercy for 57 years.

Sister Martha’s ministries focused on music, education and social justice, as a teacher, band and choral director, artist, grant writer and community organizer. She designed the music curriculum for Mercy-sponsored Alpha Boys School (now Alpha Institute) in Kingston, Jamaica, and continued to support the program, visiting the school as often as possible.

In 1997 Sister Martha co-founded Mercy Housing and Human Development (MHHD), which helps low-income families become homeowners. Her most recent active ministry was at Project WiTH, or Walking Together in Hope, addressing the needs of low-income residents of Biloxi and nearby areas. She recently had moved to St. Louis as her health declined.

Sister Mary Fatima Starks, age 90, September 18, 2019

Sister Mary Fatima Starks died in Mobile, Alabama. She was a Sister of Mercy for 72 years.

In Biloxi, Mississippi, Sister Fatima attended Sacred Heart School, where she later would serve as principal.

After high school graduation, she entered the Sisters of Mercy in Webster Groves, Missouri. Sister Fatima devoted her entire ministerial life to education of the young, as a teacher and administrator. She touched hearts and souls throughout the state of Mississippi, serving in Biloxi, D’Iberville, Jackson, Meridian, Pass Christian and Vicksburg. Sister Fatima culminated her active ministry at St. Francis Xavier School in Vicksburg after nearly 30 years, before retiring at Convent of Mercy in Mobile in 2016.
Sister Mary Louise Stenger, age 85, August 5, 2019

Sister Mary Louise Stenger died at Christ Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio, following an extended illness. She was a Sister of Mercy for 65 years.

Sister Mary Lou, as she was known, entered the Sisters of Mercy in her hometown, Cincinnati. She earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Our Lady of Cincinnati College and a master’s in secondary administration from Xavier University.

She ministered as an elementary teacher and principal. In addition, she served as secretary at St. Cecilia Elementary School in Cincinnati. More recently, she was an activities assistant at Bayley Place, a nursing home in Cincinnati.

Known for planning great parties and generally being a good organizer, Sister Mary Lou played the saxophone and also enjoyed playing cards.

Sister Mary Lillian Heitzeberg, age 97, July 9, 2019

Sister Mary Lillian Heitzeberg died peacefully at Mercy Convent in Nashville, Tennessee. She was a Sister of Mercy for 79 years.

Sister Lillian was born in Nashville, Tennessee. She attended St. Bernard Academy and entered the Sisters of Mercy in Cincinnati, Ohio, on September 8, 1940.

Sister Lillian received degrees from The Athenaeum in Cincinnati and Xavier University. She loved children and taught primary grades in parochial schools throughout Tennessee. In addition, she served as the head of St. Bernard Montessori School for preschool children. Sister Lillian also ministered as a pastoral associate at St. Henry Church, and she taught English as a second language to immigrants.

Sister Paula Marie Phelan, age 105, September 12, 2019

Sister Paula Marie Phelan died peacefully at Mercy Springwell in Baltimore, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 89 years.

Sister Paula Marie’s earliest ministry was in elementary education, but she later earned a bachelor’s degree in medical technology from Mount St. Agnes College in Baltimore.

She was named educational director of the lab at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore, and in a short time, became lab supervisor, a position she held for 46 years. During those years, she also founded the Mercy Medical School of Medical Technology.
Sister Mary Brenda Brady, age 81, May 24, 2019

Sister Mary Brenda Brady died at McAuley Convent in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 63 years.

Sister Brenda entered the Community in Cincinnati, which was also her birthplace. She earned a bachelor’s degree in English history from Our Lady of Cincinnati and a master’s in elementary education from Xavier University.

She ministered in education, social services and community organizing. Among her ministries were Bethany House, the Peaslee Neighborhood Center and Power Inspires Progress, all in Cincinnati; Cincinnati Public Schools; Starfire Council of Greater Cincinnati; and Alpha Boys’ School in Kingston, Jamaica.

Sister Agnes Solari, age 87, June 11, 2019

Sister Mary Sister Agnes Solari died at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont, North Carolina. Sister Agnes recently celebrated her 70-year Jubilee.

Sister Agnes was a well-known and popular teacher at several schools in North Carolina: St. Patrick’s School in Charlotte, St. Michael’s in Gastonia, St. Mary’s in Wilmington, and Our Lady of Lourdes in Raleigh. In addition, she served as principal of schools in Charlotte, Raleigh, and Asheville, North Carolina.

Her service to the Sisters of Mercy included her time as director of formation and novices. She also served as a trustee of Sacred Heart College in Belmont.

Sister Jean Marie Sullivan, age 84, July 8, 2019

Sister Jean Marie Sullivan died in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a Sister of Mercy for 66 years.

Sister Jean Marie entered the Sisters of Mercy in Webster Groves, Missouri. She served in many leadership roles, including congregational leadership and as co-vicar for religious of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

She also ministered as a facilitator for many religious congregations, both nationally and internationally. In addition, she taught at Mercy High School in St. Louis and was a houseparent at Mercita Hall. Other ministries included the Mercy Novitiate, Mercy Hospital and Mid-Atlantic Transplant Services.

Sister Jean Marie is remembered as a great story-teller and a woman of wisdom and integrity who had many devoted friends.
Sister Mary Angelica Perez, age 88, March 21, 2019

Sister Mary Angelica Perez died peacefully at Mercy Care Center in Tamuning, Guam. She was a Sister of Mercy for 71 years.

Sister Mary Angelica was a survivor of the Japanese occupation on Guam during World War II. After the war, she entered the Sisters of Mercy in Mount Washington, Maryland. An outstanding leader, she was passionate about the education of young women. She served as teacher and vice principal at St. Vincent’s Academy in Savannah for many years and touched the lives of many young women there; many of them stayed in touch with Sister Mary Angelica even after graduation.

In addition, she taught at Cathedral School in Savannah and St. Ignatius School in Mobile.

Sister Mary Angelica was most at home when on the river or at the beach, and she loved to go crabbing and shrimping.

Sister Mary Amata May, age 88, April 10, 2019

Sister Mary Amata May died peacefully at Stella Maris Hospice in Timonium, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 70 years.

Education was Sister Amata's primary ministry, and she taught in both elementary and high schools in Alabama, Georgia and Maryland. During her 10-year stint at Mercy High School in Baltimore, she was admired and respected for her skill in teaching higher-level mathematics and for engaging even students who disliked the subject.

In 1987, Sister Amata left education to work in other ministries, including managing Blessed Sacrament Residence, an outreach of Stella Maris, where she helped make a home for elderly people; and as night manager at My Sister's Place, a residence for homeless women. In addition, for three years she was a research evaluator for the University of Maryland.

Sister Mary Angelica Perez, age 88, March 21, 2019

Sister Mary Angelica Perez died peacefully at Mercy Care Center in Tamuning, Guam. She was a Sister of Mercy for 71 years.

Sister Angelica was a survivor of the Japanese occupation on Guam during World War II. After the war, she entered the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont, North Carolina, on August 15, 1948. While in North Carolina, she taught at schools in Salisbury, Belmont, Wilmington, and Raleigh. She completed a bachelor's degree in American history with a minor in music at Mercyhurst College in Pennsylvania before returning to Guam.

In addition to teaching in Catholic schools on Guam, Sister Angelica taught piano lessons for many years and is fondly remembered by students for her kindness and patience as a piano teacher. She had lived at Mercy Care Center since 2000.
Sister Mary Susan Carr, age 87, January 18, 2019

Sister Mary Susan Carr died at Providence Hospital in Mobile, Alabama. She was a Sister of Mercy for 63 years.

Sister Susan ministered as a nurse at Mercy Regional Medical Center in Vicksburg, Mississippi, for a number of years, before her primary healthcare ministry became higher education. She was a nursing instructor and later assistant professor of nursing at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg; then an assistant professor of nursing at Our Lady of Holy Cross College in New Orleans, Louisiana; staff nurse for the Mississippi State Health Department in Gulfport; and nursing instructor at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) in Gulfport.

Upon retirement from teaching, Sister Susan served as an adjunct faculty member at MGCCC until Hurricane Katrina, after which she focused her ministry on her parish community in Biloxi, Mississippi. In addition, she volunteered as a school nurse at St. John’s High School in Gulfport and Our Lady Academy in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. She had lived at Convent of Mercy in Mobile since 2016.

Sister Kate Bell, age 84, February 21, 2019

Sister Kate Bell at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, following a brief illness. She was a Sister of Mercy for 65 years.

Sister Kate entered the Community in Mount Washington, Maryland. She ministered in education, as a teacher, assistant principal, or principal at schools in Mobile, Selma, Huntsville, and Homewood, Alabama; and in Baltimore. Later, from 1987 to 2014, she served as a pastoral associate at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Baltimore.

Sister Margaret Mary McTwiggan, age 98, February 24, 2019

Sister Margaret Mary McTwiggan died peacefully at Stella Maris in Timonium, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 78 years.

Sister Margaret Mary taught at elementary schools in Alabama, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., but her primary teaching ministry was in Baltimore’s Catholic schools. In addition, she was a talented artist and taught art at Mercy High School in Baltimore for 16 years.
Sister Rosina Bayliss, age 83, December 6, 2018

Sister Rosina Bayliss died peacefully at Stella Maris Hospice in Timonium, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 64 years.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Sister Rosina was raised and educated in Baltimore, Maryland. Her ministries in education took her to many places, including Alabama, Georgia, Maryland, New York, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. She is remembered especially for her role as principal and president at Mount de Sales Academy in Macon, Georgia.

After retirement from active education ministry, Sister Rosina often was called upon by educators and a variety of other organizations for consultation and speaking engagements, and she served on numerous boards and committees.

Sister Mary Elizabeth Sheridan, age 98, December 12, 2018

Sister Mary Elizabeth Sheridan died peacefully on at Mercy Springwell retirement convent in Baltimore, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 80 years.

Sister Mary’s family home in Macon, Georgia, was within walking distance of Mount de Sales School and Academy, where she was educated for 12 years by Sisters of Mercy. After graduating from high school in 1937, she came to Baltimore to attend Mount St. Agnes College and entered the Community at Mount Washington on September 8, 1938.

During her ministry in education, Sister Mary moved more than a dozen times. She taught English and home economics and served as principal of several schools, sometimes while also teaching classes. Later she was a librarian at Mercer University in Macon and, after formal retirement, was an active volunteer at Mount de Sales.

Sister Joan Dumm, age 77, January 13, 2019

Sister Joan Dumm died peacefully at Stella Maris in Timonium, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 59 years.

Born in Washington, D.C., Sister Joan entered the Community in Mount Washington, Maryland. She earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Mount St. Agnes College and a master’s in religious education from LaSalle College. She ministered in education, teaching at St. Anne’s in Columbus, Georgia; St. Francis de Sales in Salisbury, Maryland; Our Lady of Mercy in Bethesda, Maryland; and, for 41 years, at St. Joseph School in Cockeysville, Maryland.
Sister Elizabeth Anne Corcoran, age 88, December 5, 2018,

Sister Elizabeth Anne Corcoran, a Sister of Mercy for more than 65 years, died peacefully at Stella Maris Hospice in Timonium, Maryland. Her brief time in hospice care was one of only a few occasions when she was not living in her beloved home at Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland, the hospital where she was born.

Sister Elizabeth Anne began her ministry at what was then known as Mercy Hospital, first as a floor nurse, and quickly became a supervisor and then nursing school instructor. She was sent to St. Joseph's Infirmary in Atlanta, Georgia, to teach in its nursing school, where she remained for seven years. In 1965 she returned to Mercy Hospital in Baltimore, where she served as assistant director of nursing for a decade and was named director of nursing in 1975.

In 1989, she became assistant to the president for hospitality, in charge of Mercy's conference facilities and information personnel and was fondly regarded as the welcoming face of Mercy Medical Center.

Sister Joyce Ogden, age 82, December 2, 2018

Sister Joyce Ogden died peacefully at McAuley Convent in Cincinnati, Ohio, following an extended illness. She was a Sister of Mercy for 64 years.

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Sister Joyce entered the Community in Cincinnati. She ministered as a secondary-school teacher and an art therapist, at Bridgehaven Opportunity House and Manage Art Studio, both in Louisville. Sister Joyce had lived at McAuley Convent since August 2016.

Sister Mary Lawrence Ortmann, age 95, November 22, 2018

Sister Mary Lawrence Ortmann died in Mobile, Alabama. She was a Sister of Mercy for 75 years.

A medical technologist and X-ray technician, Sister Mary Lawrence ministered at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland; St. Joseph's Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia; Stella Maris in Timonium, Maryland; St. Joseph's Hospital in Savannah, Georgia; St. Martin de Porres Hospital in Mobile; and Mercy Medical in Daphne, Alabama.

After retiring from active ministry in 2007, she volunteered at Mercy Medical, assisting with medical records.
Sister Mary Sharon Burns, age 90, November 2, 2018

Sister Mary Sharon Burns died peacefully in hospice care at Stella Maris in Timonium, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 72 years.

Sister Sharon ministered for more than 30 years in education, first at Mount St. Agnes Lower School in Baltimore, then in elementary schools in Alabama and in Woodstock, Maryland, where she was at times both teacher and principal. After a few years of working with children, she began teaching at Mount St. Agnes College. After the college merged with Loyola College (now University), she continued teaching there and became head of Loyola's Theology Department—the first woman and first non-Jesuit to hold that position.

In 1983, Sister Sharon began her second area of ministry, pastoral care, at the Cardinal Shehan Center in Timonium, where she would remain for more than 25 years. During that time, she developed a passion for hospice care. In her later years, Sister Sharon volunteered at Mercy Medical Center and at Mercy Villa retirement convent in Baltimore.

Sister Mary Jeanette Leon Guerrero, age 84, October 15, 2018

Sister Mary Jeanette Leon Guerrero died peacefully on Guam. She was a Sister of Mercy for 63 years.

Sister Mary Jeanette ministered in education and over the years, coached many National Spelling Bee finalists. Later, she served as the Guam regional archivist. She had lived at Mercy Care Center in Tamuning since August 2017.

Sister Bernardine Konkler-Redwine, age 90, September 16, 2018

Sister Bernardine Konkler-Redwine died peacefully at McAuley Convent in Barling, Arkansas. She was a Sister of Mercy for 51 years.

Sister Bernie was born in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She earned a bachelor's degree from Fontbonne College in St. Louis, Missouri, and a master's in art from Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana. Sister Bernie ministered in education for many years, teaching art at schools in Fort Smith, Little Rock, El Dorado, and Mena, Arkansas. She also was an artist, continuing to paint throughout her life. For the past eight years, she had lived at Catherine McAuley Convent, where she had an art ministry.
Sister Michelle Carroll, age 96, August 24, 2018

Sister Michelle Carroll died peacefully in her sleep at Mercy Convent in Savannah, Georgia. She was a Sister of Mercy for 73 years.

Sister Michelle grew up in Florida and received a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and education from Florida State University. Before entering the Community, she worked as a chemist in the citrus industry.

Upon taking her perpetual vows in 1950, Sister Michelle began a long ministry in education, teaching chemistry at Mount St. Agnes High school in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1960, she became the first principal of Mercy High School in Baltimore. In addition, Sister Michelle served in Community leadership and healthcare administration.

Sister Patricia Connolly, age 83, August 20, 2018

Sister Patricia Connolly died peacefully in Fremont, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 66 years.

Sister Pat began her long ministry in education at St. Ignatius school in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her first assignment as a special education teacher was in 1961 at St. Maurice School in Potomac, Maryland. This school was started by the sisters to address the needs of students before there were special-education classes in the public schools. Special education was a longtime ministry and love of Sister Pat. In 1972 she became part of the Edgecliff college faculty and was director of its Special Education Program.

Her service to children with special needs continued at the Cerebral Palsy school in Louisville, Kentucky. For many years, she was administrator of St. Bernard School for Exceptional Children in Nashville, Tennessee. In addition, Sister Pat worked with economically poor people in Florida, organizing after-school programs for the children of immigrants and helping in a soup kitchen that sometimes had five seatings in one day.

Sister Mary Alicia McGinty, age 87, July 15, 2018

Sister Mary Alicia McGinty died peacefully at Mercy Convent in Nashville, Tennessee, in the presence of her Mercy community. She was a Sister of Mercy for 69 years.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Sister Mary Alicia taught primary students at Queen of Martyrs in Dayton, Ohio, at Convent of the Divine Will and Our Lady of the Rosary in Cincinnati, Ohio; and at Our Lady and St. Athanasius in Louisville, Kentucky. Trained in Montessori philosophy and methods, she opened the Mercy Montessori School in Louisville and ministered there for 40 years as a beloved teacher and director. She retired in 2006 and began volunteering at Assumption High School in Louisville, primarily in the Development Office.

With the closing of St. Catherine Retirement Convent in Louisville, Sister Mary Alicia moved to Mercy Convent in Nashville in January 2018. She and her beloved Shih Tzu, Mikie, made the move together and were warmly welcomed by the new friends they found there.
Sister Michael Marie Flannery, age 87, June 17, 2018

Sister Michael Marie Flannery died peacefully at Catherine's Residence in St. Louis, Missouri, following a stroke. She was a Sister of Mercy for 61 years.

Born in St. Louis, she entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1956. She became one of the first midwives in St. Louis following her training at St. Vincent's Hospital in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Sister Michael Marie served as obstetrical supervisor, administrator or director of nursing at St. John's hospitals in Springfield, Cape Girardeau and St. Louis for more than 30 years. In 2014, Mercy Hospital, St. Louis dedicated the Labor and Delivery Department in her name.

Sister Mary Janice Meiners, age 88, June 6, 2018

Sister Mary Janice Meiners died at Mercy Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri, following a brief illness. Born in St. Louis, she entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1948 and was looking forward to celebrating her 70th Jubilee as a Sister of Mercy in August 2018.

In her early ministry, Sister Janice taught elementary school in Gillespie, Illinois. She then received her bachelor's degree in nursing from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio, Texas, and a master's in nursing supervision from Columbia University in New York City.

Sister Janice ministered in health care in hospitals in Kansas, Texas, Missouri, and Arkansas. For two years, she nursed in a leprosy hospital in Guyana, South America. In addition, she volunteered with the Red Cross and responded to the 9/11 terrorist attack, serving on the Governing Board for service to Ground Zero victims and their families.

Sister Mary Natalie John, age 94, June 1, 2018

Sister Mary Natalie John died at Mercy Villa in Baltimore, Maryland, after a brief illness. She was a Sister of Mercy for 76 years.

A Baltimore native, Sister Natalie received a bachelor's degree in history from Notre Dame of Maryland University there.

She entered the Sisters of Mercy in Mount Washington, Maryland. She ministered as a teacher at Mercy High School in Baltimore; St. Vincent’s Academy in Savannah, Georgia; and Holy Trinity High School in Washington, D.C.
Sister Ellen McSorley, age 88, May 21, 2018

Sister Ellen McSorley died at Marian Center in Belmont, North Carolina, following an extended illness. She was a Sister of Mercy for 70 years.

Sister Ellen received a bachelor’s degree in education from Mount St. Mary’s College in Baltimore, Maryland, and a master’s degree in religious education from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

She ministered as a teacher in Maryland, Alabama and Savannah, Georgia. In addition, she served as a chaplain at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, concentrating on the needs of patients with AIDS.

Sister Mary Bede Weldele, age 86, March 20, 2018

Sister Mary Bede Weldele died peacefully at Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis, Missouri, after a brief illness. She was a Sister of Mercy for 67 years.

Born in Alto, Tennessee, she received her bachelor’s degree in education from Siena College in Memphis, Tennessee, and a master’s from St. Xavier University in Chicago. Sister Gemma ministered in education for 42 years, serving as teacher or principal in schools throughout Tennessee. She was considered an exceptional primary teacher, who still is loved and remembered by her many students for her kind and gentle spirit.

After retiring from education, Sister Gemma ministered to retired sisters, serving as eucharistic minister and visiting the sick.

Sister Mary Gemma Marlowe, age 98, April 8, 2018

Sister Mary Gemma Marlowe died peacefully at Mercy Convent in Nashville, Tennessee. She was a Sister of Mercy for 77 years.

Born in Alto, Tennessee, she received her bachelor’s degree in education from Siena College in Memphis, Tennessee, and a master’s from St. Xavier University in Chicago. Sister Gemma ministered in education for 42 years, serving as teacher or principal in schools throughout Tennessee. She was considered an exceptional primary teacher, who still is loved and remembered by her many students for her kind and gentle spirit.

After retiring from education, Sister Gemma ministered to retired sisters, serving as eucharistic minister and visiting the sick.

Sister Mary Bede Weldele, age 86, March 20, 2018

Sister Mary Bede Weldele died peacefully at Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis, Missouri, after a brief illness. She was a Sister of Mercy for 67 years.

Sister Mary Bede ministered as a teacher at Annunciation School and St. Joan of Art School, both in St. Louis, Missouri. She also taught in Kansas, Arkansas and Illinois, and served as a parish religion coordinator and youth director in Springfield, Missouri. In addition, she volunteered at St. John’s Mercy Medical Center, Mercy Rehab and St. Vincent DePaul Parish in St. Louis.

Sister Mary Bede, who loved the outdoors, was proud to be a farmer’s daughter, and she maintained an organic garden for more than 20 years.
Sister Mary Theresa Jackson, age 79, March 9, 2018

Sister Mary Theresa Jackson died in Kingston, Jamaica. She was a Sister of Mercy for 61 years.

Sister Mary Theresa ministered as a financial manager at Alpha Institute in Kingston and served as the director of the Pastoral Centre at St. Michael’s Theological College. In 2016 she was recognized by Archbishop Charles Dunfour of Kingston for her outstanding pastoral contribution in the training of lay people.

Sister Mary Madonna Gies, age 89, March 7, 2018

Sister Mary Madonna Gies passed away peacefully at Stella Maris Hospice in Timonium, Maryland. Sister Madonna was a Sister of Mercy for 72 years.

Sister Madonna taught or was principal in many elementary schools around her native Baltimore. She also ministered in Mercy schools and parishes in Alabama, Florida, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

Later, she ministered as a VISTA volunteer in a poor region of the Appalachian Mountains in Virginia. Her work there included teaching reading and writing, presenting workshop training for potential tutors, a prison ministry, and involvement in civic affairs affecting the local population.

Sister Martha Leis, age 82, March 7, 2018

Sister Martha Leis died unexpectedly in Crestwood, Kentucky. She was a Sister of Mercy for 67 years.

Sister Martha taught primary grades from 1956 to 1969 at Our Lady, Holy Cross, and St. Athanasius in Louisville, Kentucky; Mount Mercy in Pewee Valley, Kentucky; Immaculate Conception in LaGrange, Kentucky; and Our Lady of the Rosary in Cincinnati, Ohio. After a period of study, Sister Martha taught at Mercy Montessori in Cincinnati from 1971 to 1995. In 1995, she moved to Lake St. Joseph in Crestwood and undertook a variety of activities. In 2011, she became the director of Lake St. Joseph Retreat Center.
Sister Mary Lucille Sluyter, age 94, January 21, 2018

Sister Mary Lucille Sluyter died peacefully at McAuley Convent in Barling, Arkansas. She was a Sister of Mercy for 73 years.

Sister Mary Lucille entered the Community in Webster Groves, Missouri. Sister Mary Lucille ministered in education at elementary schools in Little Rock, North Little Rock, Hot Springs, and Fort Smith, Arkansas. She was a teacher and principal at St. Patrick Elementary School and Parish in North Little Rock, where she later served as a volunteer tutor and eucharistic minister.

She was a volunteer tutor with the Sisters of Mercy Reading Program at Immaculate Conception Elementary School in Fort Smith and also volunteered at Mercy Hospital Fort Smith and St. Edward Mercy Medical Center in Fort Smith.

Sister Mary Vianney Johnson, age 84, February 2, 2018

Sister Mary Vianney Johnson died peacefully at St. Joseph’s Community in Mercy Center, St. Louis, Missouri. She was a Sister of Mercy for 66 years.

Sister Vianney entered the Sisters of Mercy Community on September 8, 1951, and professed final vows on August 16, 1957. She ministered as a teacher and a principal at elementary schools in Chaffee and Gillespie, Illinois; St. Louis, Missouri; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

From 1994 to 2015, she ministered in mission integration and mission services at Mercy Hospital St. Louis; St. Anthony’s Medical Center in St. Louis; St. John’s Mercy Health Care in St. Louis and Chesterfield, Missouri; and East Community – Mercy Health in St. Louis. Since June 2015, she had volunteered in surgery center services at Mercy Hospital St. Louis.

Sister Beatrice Baumgartner, age 92, March 4, 2018

Sister Beatrice Baumgartner died peacefully at McAuley Convent in Cincinnati, Ohio, after a brief illness. She was a Sister of Mercy for 73 years.

A Cincinnati native, Sister Bea entered the Sisters of Mercy in Cincinnati. From 1947 to 1982, she taught elementary school.

In 1982 Sister Bea moved to McAuley Convent in Cincinnati and during her first few years there, was a nurse’s aide. Later, she helped out for a number of years in the Mercy Braille Library at McAuley.
Sister Esther Raitz, age 90, December 15, 2017

Sister Esther Raitz died peacefully in Fremont, Ohio. She a Sister of Mercy for 74 years.

Sister Esther entered the Sisters of Mercy in Cincinnati, Ohio. She had a long ministry in education, teaching in elementary schools throughout the Toledo Diocese and in various parish schools.

She then had a second ministry in health care, serving for many years as a live-in home healthcare giver and later as a healthcare aide at St. Francis Rehab Hospital and St. Francis Health Care Center in Green Springs, Ohio.

Sister Marian Oldiges, age 87, January 6, 2018

Sister Marian Oldiges died at McAuley Convent in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 67 years.

She entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1951. During her novitiate, she studied at Edgecliff College in Cincinnati. By the time she graduated in 1959, she already had taught at three schools. Sister Marian taught in eight schools during her long education ministry and was part-time principal at two of them. She ended her formal ministry in education at Holy Family, where she taught for 19 years.

After a year’s sabbatical, Sister Marian became activity director at a retirement center and then went on to be a volunteer. She also was a hospice volunteer and visited people in prison.

Sister Mary Judith Guilfoyle, age 95, January 12, 2018

Sister Mary Judith Guilfoyle died at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She was a Sister of Mercy for 76 years.

Sister Judith received a B.S. in education at Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas. She entered the Sisters of Mercy at Webster Groves, Missouri, in February 1942 and ministered in elementary education.

Sister Judith taught at Immaculate Conception in North Little Rock and St. John in Hot Springs, Arkansas; St. Patrick in Walnut, Kansas; St. Joseph, Sacred Heart and John Carroll in Oklahoma City; St. Benedict in Shawnee, Oklahoma; and St. Joseph in Edinburg, Texas. She furthered her ministry as a tutor at Sacred Heart Elementary School in Oklahoma City.
Sister Betty Hailey, age 86, November 1, 2017

Sister Betty Hailey died peacefully at Mercy Convent in Nashville, Tennessee, after a long illness. She was a Sister of Mercy for 66 years.

Sister Betty entered the Community in Cincinnati, Ohio. She received a Bachelor of Science in education from Our Lady of Cincinnati College in October 1958 and a master’s degree from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas, in August 1970.

Sister Betty ministered as an elementary school teacher in parish schools throughout Tennessee and later as pastoral associate at Holy Rosary and St. Henry parishes.

She was known for her devoted compassion and service to the sick.

Sister Mary Agatha Smith, age 93, October 30, 2017

Sister Mary Agatha Smith died in Kingston, Jamaica. She was a Sister of Mercy for 73 years.

Sister Mary Agatha entered the Sisters of Mercy in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1944. She spent most of her 50 years of active education ministry serving in primary schools throughout Jamaica, 19 of those years as principal of St. Catherine Primary in Spanish Town. She also was director of Alpha Business College in Kingston and was a religion teacher at the Alpha Schools.

Sister Agatha had a wide range of interests including serving on committees and boards for the Jamaica Library Service, St. Catherine District Prison, Girl Guides, Handicapped Children, St. Catherine Teachers’ Association, and the Curriculum Development Thrust of the Ministry of Education.

Sister Mary Jonette Rolando, age 83, October 9, 2017

Sister Mary Jonette Rolando died at Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a Sister of Mercy for 57 years.

Sister Mary Jonette entered the Sisters of Mercy in Frontenac, Missouri. She began her ministry in education, especially helping those with learning disabilities in Potomac, Maryland, and in St. Louis. Later she ministered in care and counseling in and around St. Louis.

Sister Mary Jonette had many talents, including being a great musician; she played the guitar, harmonica, piano, accordion, and dulcimer. She was also a talented composer.
Sister Mary Jane Martin, age 91, September 30, 2017

Sister Mary Jane Martin died peacefully at St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 69 years.

Sister Mary Jane entered the Sisters of Mercy in Cincinnati, Ohio. She began her ministry in elementary education and later moved into finance/business office at Mercy Hospital Tiffin and the former Mercy Hospital in Toledo. Her final years were as part of the St. Bernardine community and its prayer ministry, quietly befriending many people.

Sister Mary Jane displayed her artistic talents as a sewer of clothing outfits, draperies, slipcovers for furniture, and lampshade covers.

Sister Barbara Karleskint, age 98, September 8, 2017

Sister Barbara Karleskint died at Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a Sister of Mercy for 80 years.

Sister Barbara entered the Sisters of Mercy in Fort Scott, Kansas. For nearly 30 years, she ministered as a teacher and principal in Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. She then entered pastoral ministry, serving as chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Fort Scott from 1978 to 1994.

Following her retirement from active ministry in 2006, she began taking formal art lessons and became an accomplished artist.

Sister Kathy Green, age 68, August 28, 2017

Sister Kathy Green died in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 46 years.

Sister Kathy served as the first president of the South Central Community, from 2008 to 2012. She spent more than 20 years in healthcare ministry, most recently as senior vice president for mission and values integration of Mercy Health in Cincinnati.

Also an educator, Sister Kathy was former chair of the Religion Department at Mother of Mercy High School in Cincinnati and chairperson of the Social Studies and Religion departments at Mercy Preparatory School in Erie, Pennsylvania. She also had ministered as a volunteer prison chaplain in Cincinnati.
Sister Rose Olivieri, age 84, July 29, 2017

Sister Rose Olivieri died peacefully at St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 65 years.

Sister Rose ministered as a second- to fourth-grade teacher at Holy Angels in Sandusky; St. Ann in Fremont; St. Clement, Toledo; and St. Peter, Upper Sandusky, all in the Toledo (Ohio) Diocese.

For more than 30 years, Sister Rose served as community life coordinator for Sisters of Mercy at St. Bernardine Home. She also spent countless hours raising funds for the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI). In 2016 she received the Ray of Hope Award from NAMI for her outstanding work on behalf of the organization.

Sister Mary Neil Corcoran, age 91, August 20, 2017

Sister Mary Neil Corcoran died at Stella Maris hospice in Timonium, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 72 years.

A Baltimore native, Sister Mary Neil ministered as a teacher in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Georgia for almost 30 years.

She was an associate professor at Mount St. Agnes College and Loyola College in Baltimore. From 1975 to 2002, she was Hispanic ministry coordinator for the Diocese’s Spanish Apostolate (now Esperanza Center). She also served as a chaplain at the city detention center.

Sister Mary Ellen Curl, age 75, August 25, 2017

Sister Mary Ellen Curl died in Nashville, Tennessee. She was a Sister of Mercy for 57 years.

Sister Mary Ellen entered the Sisters of Mercy in Cincinnati, Ohio. She ministered in many parishes in the Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky, beginning as a primary teacher in LaGrange.

In 1995 she was appointed the first female pastoral administrator in the archdiocese for the parishes of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis/Loretto, and Holy Cross. Upon leaving parish ministry in 2004, Sister Mary Ellen began ministering at Sacred Heart Home in Louisville, primarily as chaplain. She also was a spiritual director and conducted directed retreats in Louisville and Nashville.

She had lived at Mercy Convent in Nashville since July 2014.
Sister Carmen Cruz, age 82, June 9, 2017

Sister Carmen Cruz died at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont, North Carolina. She was a Sister of Mercy for 64 years.

Sister Carmen was born in Agana, Guam. A Sister of Mercy for 64 years, she chose as her ring motto “Rabboni” (Master) at the time of her profession of vows.

Sister Carmen earned a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education from Sacred Heart College in Belmont and a master’s in theology of applied spirituality from the University of San Francisco (California). She was an outstanding primary education teacher in Catholic schools on Guam and in Charlotte, Asheville, Wilmington, and Gastonia, North Carolina, for 28 years. For 26 years, she served at St. Joseph’s/Mission Hospital in Asheville as a certified hospital chaplain. During that time, Sister Carmen also ministered with the Asheville Police Department as a volunteer chaplain.

Sister Elise Schwalm, age 100, May 14, 2017

Sister Elise Schwalm died at The Villa in Baltimore, Maryland, after a brief illness. She was a Sister of Mercy for 70 years.

A Baltimore native, Sister Elise entered the Community in Mount Washington, Maryland. She ministered as a medical technologist at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore. Later, she was a counselor at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, and she also did parish ministry and diocesan work in Atlanta.

Sister Mary Antonine Maca, age 91, May 11, 2017

Sister Mary Antonine Maca died at Mercy Convent in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She was a Sister of Mercy for 73 years.

During her years of ministry in Oklahoma, Sister Antonine taught at John Carroll School, Holy Angels and Immaculate Conception in Oklahoma City; and St. Benedict’s, Shawnee and Blessed Sacrament in Lawton. She also taught at St. Alphonsus and Holy Name of Jesus School in New Orleans, Louisiana.; St. Joseph’s School in Slaton, Texas.; and St. Eustachius School in Portageville, Missouri.

In addition, Sister Antonine taught English to Cambodian refugees in Oklahoma and assisted them in resettlement. She also ministered on the Sioux Wind River Indian Reservation in Eagle Butte, South Dakota; St. Joseph’s Indian School in Chamberlain, South Dakota; and did parish ministry at Our Lady of the Cove in Kimberling City, Missouri, and St. William in Gainesville, Missouri.
Sister Jean Marie Hobbs, age 72, April 18, 2017

Sister Jean Marie Hobbs died at Stella Maris in Timonium, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 54 years.

Sister Jean Marie entered the Community in Mount Washington, Maryland. She ministered as a kindergarten and pre-kindergarten teacher at schools in Baltimore, Maryland; and Washington, D.C. Most recently, she taught from 2013 to 2016 at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Baltimore.

Sister Irene Huber, age 88, April 27, 2017

Sister Irene Huber died peacefully at St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 70 years.

Sister Irene held a bachelor’s degree in education from the Athenaeum in Cincinnati, Ohio, and a master’s in art from Notre Dame University. Her ministry was in education. She taught elementary grades in Cincinnati, St. Catherine’s in Toledo, St. Mary’s Mansfield and St. Mary’s Kirby, where she also served as principal.

After graduating from Notre Dame University, she taught art for the rest of her life, beginning at Central Catholic in Toledo. Later she moved to Jamaica and taught at Alpha Academy in Kingston. Returning to the States, Sister Irene taught art for many years at Daytona Beach Community College and later at the Center for Seniors in New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

Sister Mary Bernadette Karleskint, age 99, May 5, 2017

Sister Mary Bernadette Karleskint died Friday, May 5, 2017, at Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis, Missouri, after a brief illness. A Sister of Mercy for 81 years, she would have turned 100 on Tuesday, May 9.

Sister Mary Bernadette earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education and administration. With her love for teaching, she ministered in multiple areas throughout what was then known as the St. Louis Province: in Kansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Missouri. Among her positions, she served as teacher, principal, librarian, and superintendent. After retiring from education, she volunteered at St. John’s Hospital in Springfield, Missouri.
Sister Mary Clare Windholtz, age 85, April 15, 2017

Sister Mary Clare Windholtz died Saturday, April 15, 2017, at McAuley Convent in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 67 years.

Sister Mary Clare entered the Community in Cincinnati in 1950. She devoted much of her ministry to elementary education, parish ministry and religious education.

Sister Mary Matthew Snow, age 95, March 31, 2017

Sister Mary Matthew Snow died at Marian Center in Belmont, North Carolina. She was a Sister of Mercy for 62 years, she recently had celebrated her birthday.

Sister Mary Matthew taught every grade except first. Included in her teaching ministry were Charlotte Catholic High School; Sacred Heart College, where she was dean of women; Belmont Abbey College; and the Catholic Orphanage of Nazareth in Raleigh, North Carolina.

She also ministered at St Joseph’s Hospital in Asheville and Mercy Hospital in Charlotte, where she was the head of the School of Medical Technology.

Sister Marjorie Woods, age 82, March 22, 2017

Sister Marjorie Woods died in Jamaica. She was a Sister of Mercy for 62 years.

Born in Canada, Sister Marjorie entered the Community in Cincinnati, Ohio. She ministered as a teacher at the Jessie Ripoll School and at Alpha Academy in Kingston, Jamaica. She also served as Alpha charities coordinator at Convent of Mercy/Alpha and most recently was manager of St. Joseph’s Daily Bread soup kitchen in Kingston.
Sister Cordelia Eckert, age 94, March 20, 2017

Sister Cordelia Eckert died at The Villa in Baltimore, Maryland. She was a Sister of Mercy for 63 years.

After graduating from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with a bachelor's degree in business administration, Sister Cordelia went on to earn an MBA from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, and later, an MSW degree from the University of Maryland.

Her abilities in the business arena were recognized immediately; on the day following her first profession of vows, she was assigned to full-time ministry in the business office at Mount St. Agnes College in Baltimore. She enjoyed her work there and at Mercy Medical Center, where she served as internal auditor for 21 years.

Sister Mary Christopher Bourke, age 99, March 18, 2017

Sister Mary Christopher Bourke died surrounded by several sisters, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Maryland following a heart attack. Sister Christopher had just celebrated her 99th birthday on March 17, St. Patrick's Day, and she would have celebrated 80 years as a Sister of Mercy this year.

Sister Christopher devoted her ministry to education, as a teacher and administrator. For most of her active years in ministry, she was principal at Mount St. Agnes High School in Baltimore, during which time she also served on the Provincial Council of the Sisters of Mercy.

Sister Marie Moore, age 84, March 18, 2017

Sister Marie Moore died peacefully while hospitalized in Knoxville, Tennessee. She was a Sister of Mercy for 65 years.

Sister Marie ministered for many years in health care, most recently as mission representative with Tennova Healthcare in Knoxville. She also had served in leadership, as Tennessee regional councilor for the Cincinnati Provincialate.

Among her healthcare positions, she served as chief executive officer of Mercy Hospital and Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois; as vice president of mission at Uihlein Mercy Center Convent in Lake Placid, New York; as vice president of mission integration at Lourdes Hospital in Paducah, Kentucky; and as mission representative for Mercy Health Partners – St. Mary’s Medical Center in Knoxville.
Sister Mary Bernarda Hoff, age 91, January 27, 2017

Sister Mary Bernarda Hoff died peacefully at Marian Center in Belmont, North Carolina, after a lengthy illness. Sister Bernarda was a Sister of Mercy for 71 years.

A native of Greensboro, North Carolina, she entered the Community in Belmont. She finished nursing school at St. Leo’s Hospital in Greensboro and later earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Sacred Heart College in Belmont.

In 1952 she began her ministry at St. Joseph’s Hospital (later Mission/St. Joseph) in Asheville, North Carolina, where she served until 2001. Sister Bernarda retired from the hospital to Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont in 2001 but continued volunteer work, particularly at Catherine’s House, a shelter for women in transition, until she no longer was able.

Sister Mary Placide Kilcoyne, age 102, February 26, 2017

Sister Mary Placide Kilcoyne died at Mercy Convent in Nashville, Tennessee, surrounded by her sisters. She was a Sister of Mercy for 68 years.

Among her ministries, Sister Placide ministered as administrator of finance at St. Mary’s Memorial Hospital in Knoxville, Tennessee, and served on the Province of Cincinnati Administrative Team as treasurer. She returned to St. Mary’s as a financial auditor until her retirement to Mercy Convent in 2006.

Sister Mary Virginia Marasco, age 90, February 10, 2017

Sister Mary Virginia Marasco died at Convent of Mercy in Mobile, Alabama. She was a Sister of Mercy for 73 years.

As an educator and an administrator, Sister Virginia ministered to children in schools throughout the state of Mississippi, serving in Jackson, Greenville, Biloxi, Gulfport, and Bay St. Louis, as well as in New Orleans, Louisiana, and St. Louis, Missouri. In addition, she served on the staff at Mercy Junior College in St. Louis as an instructor in English and speech, guiding and directing the educational formation of many future Sisters of Mercy. She also served as coordinator for the Mercy Associate Program for the St. Louis Province.

Sister Virginia continued to minister to those who were sick and shut in through her telephone ministry after she moved to Convent of Mercy in Mobile in January 2015.

Sister Mary Bernarda Hoff, age 91, January 27, 2017
Sister Rosemary Schlagheck, age 96, January 15, 2017

Sister Rosemary Schlagheck died peacefully at St. Bernardine Home in Fremont, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 78 years.

Sister Rosemary spent 46 years ministering in Catholic elementary schools in Ohio. At various times, she served at St. Catherine’s in Toledo, St. Mary’s in Kirby, St. Vincent de Paul in Toledo, St. Mary’s in Mansfield, St. Mary’s in Vermilion, and St. Clement’s in Toledo. In addition to teaching, she was principal and assistant principal at several of these schools.

Sister Maria Thecla Camacho, age 99, January 21, 2017

Sister Maria Thecla Camacho died at Mercy Care Center in Tamuning, Guam, surrounded by Sisters of Mercy and close relatives. She was one of the first residents at Mercy Care after she retired from active ministry as a social worker and a director of the Campaign for Human Development and director of Social Justice in Inarajan, Guam.

Sister Thecla, who had celebrated her Diamond Jubilee with Mercy, was one of the first local Chamorro women to enter religious life in 1941, before World War II. She entered the Franciscan Missionaries in Manila, Philippines, and did missionary work in Madras, India, for some 20 years. She started the Master of Social Work program at Stella Maris College in Madras, then returned to Guam to care for her aging parents and transferred to the Sisters of Mercy in 1978. She was pre-deceased by two sisters who also were Sisters of Mercy.

Sister Mary Geralda Schaefer, age 98, January 18, 2017

Sister Mary Geralda Schaefer died Wednesday, in St. Louis, Missouri. A Sister of Mercy for nearly 84 years, Sister Mary Geralda was 98 years old.

Sister Geralda ministered in education, teaching at schools in New Orleans, Louisiana; Little Rock, Arkansas; several cities in Texas; and St. Louis. She served as principal of Sacred Heart Parish School in McAllen, Texas, and she also had been a professor at Pan American University in Edinburg, Texas. After retiring from education, Sister Geralda was involved in prison ministry in south Texas.
Sister Mary Angelita Heinrich, age 91, January 6, 2017

Sister Mary Angelita Heinrich died peacefully surrounded by members of her community at Catherine's Residence in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a Sister of Mercy for 73 years.

Sister Angelita ministered as a teacher and principal of schools in Missouri and Texas. In addition, she ministered in the development office and library at Mount St. Mary High School in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; as superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Amarillo, Texas, and archivist for the Sisters of Mercy St. Louis Regional Community.

Sister Alvin Seubott, age 81, January 6, 2017

Sister Alvin Seubott died peacefully at Mercy Convent in Savannah, Georgia. She was a Sister of Mercy for 63 years.

Sister Alvin ministered for more than 50 years in education and child care. In her first ministries, she taught at Shrine of the Sacred Heart elementary school and then at Villa Maria in Baltimore, Maryland, and St. Mary's Home in Savannah, Georgia. In 1994 she received the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* from Pope John Paul II for service on behalf of the children at St. Mary’s.