

Name: Sister Mary Edith Schimpf
Date of Birth: April 16, 1935
Place of Birth: Zanesville, Ohio
Parents: John and Edith (Ryan) Schimpf
Religious Profession: August 15, 1955
Date of Death: May 27, 2019
Age: 84
Years Professed: 63



Wake Reflection by Sister Natalie Binversie, Community Director

Nancy Ann Schimpf was born to John and Edith (Ryan) Schimpf on April 16, 1935 in Zanesville, Ohio. She was baptized at St. Nicholas Church on April 28, 1935 by Father Joseph G. Bender. Nancy made her first Holy Communion on May 7, 1944. She took the name Veronica when she received the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 18, 1947.

Nancy had a younger brother, John. She attended St. Nicholas Grade School and Bishop Rosecrans High School in Zanesville. While in High School Nancy worked at Good Samaritan Hospital doing general office work. She also worked in the Medical Records Library.

Nancy got to know the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity during her elementary and high school years, as well as during her time of employment at Good Samaritan Hospital. The Sisters were an inspiration, nurturing her desire to be a Sister. In a letter written June 5, 1953, one week after her high school graduation she wrote the following letter to Mother Edna:

Dear Mother Edna,

I would like to apply for admission into your Community. I have given the possibility of entering the religious life much thought during the past few years and have come to the decision that it is what I want most to do and above all, that is what God wants me to do. I am eighteen and a 1953 graduate of Bishop Rosecrans High School in Zanesville.

I am sending this letter air-mail hoping that I might hear before June 12th. My family plans to leave on a vacation trip and I am to accompany them.

*Sincerely yours,
Nancy Ann Schimpf*

Mother Edna must have responded for she received a letter dated August 13, 1953 from Nancy's pastor, Father Linus J. Dury which reads as follows:

To whom it may concern:

I am more than happy to recommend to you Miss Nancy Ann Schimpf, 1234 Richards Avenue, Zanesville, Ohio, as a candidate to the religious life. In the approximate two years that I have been here as pastor, I have observed her as one of the outstanding young ladies of this Parish. Her mother and father are

exemplary Catholics and I know they will be very happy to think that one of their children will dedicate her life to the service of the Lord. I feel sure that if God blesses her with the vocation she would like to follow, the day will come when she will be one of the outstanding nuns in Your Community.

Signed Linus J. Dury, Pastor

Nancy entered Holy Family Convent on August 21, 1953. On her reception day, June 13, 1954 she received the name, Sister Mary Edith, after her mother. She attended Holy Family College. On graduation day, July 27, 1962, she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a Major in Mathematics and a Minor in Chemistry. She went on to earn a Master's Degree in the Teaching of Science in the area of Mathematics, Aug. 6, 1970, from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Sister Mary Edith's active ministry years took her to three schools, Holy Innocents in Manitowoc, Xavier High School in Appleton and Silver Lake College of the Holy Family. Sister served on the General Administration for two terms and was Local Director in St. Rita Health Center for three years. She was a part-time Computer Lab Assistant at the College for eight years before she moved to St. Rita Health Center in 2018. Sister Mary Edith was a loyal friend and Community member. She was especially gifted in her organizational skills, she enjoyed putting jigsaw puzzles together and doing fancy work.

In a Jubilee reflection Sister Mary Edith shared the gifts that God gave her for which she was grateful:

- God's love and gentle direction in all the events of my life
- My family, father, mother and brother whose love and care for me will always be a sustaining force in my life
- The many people He has moved into my life as friends, mentors and co-workers, all of whom came into my life and enriched and broadened my perspective
- My vocation to live the vowed life as the spouse of the poor, chaste and obedient Christ
- Gratitude for my Community, the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, who provided me with so many occasions for:
 - Spiritual growth to increase knowledge of God and to deepen in love for Him
 - Educational and professional development of personal gifts and talents through opportunities too numerous to count
 - Ministry to serve God and His people in education and Community Service
 - Community life with my Sisters, which draws me out of myself and enables me to appreciate the goodness and gifts of others.

A touchstone for her life came in answering a question from the *Baltimore Catechism*, "Why did God make me?" As the answer unfolded through her life, Sister Mary Edith knew that God made her to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him in this life and to be happy with Him forever in the next. Sister Mary Edith had this confirmed on Monday afternoon when she saw God face to face and she was welcomed home.

Eternal rest grant to Sister Mary Edith, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. AMEN!