



**Sister Dorothy Rachuba SSND**  
**Aug. 24, 1926 – June 29, 2019**



**Baltimore** – Sister Dorothy Rachuba, SSND, 92, died peacefully on June 29, 2019. She was a vowed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 70 years. She ministered as an educator for 60 years, many in Baltimore City.

On August 24, 1926 in Baltimore, Maryland, Dorothy Rachuba, the first of the family's two daughters, was born. She was baptized on Sept. 9,

1926 at Holy Rosary Church, Baltimore, Maryland. At the age of six, Dorothy found herself "sitting in the first grade at Sacred Heart of Jesus School where she first met the School Sisters of Notre Dame." She received her first Holy Communion in 1933 as a second grader and was confirmed by Archbishop Michael J. Curley that same year. As a seventh grader, Dorothy noticed pictures of girls, wearing long black dresses, on her teacher's desk and asked Sister Cassian about them. She learned that they were candidates preparing for the religious life. Dorothy tells in her autobiography that, "Then and there, I don't know why, I was determined to become one of them."

Dorothy met Sister Dosithea, Directress of the aspirants, while visiting Notre Dame College (now Notre Dame of Maryland University) for an eighth grade Sodality meeting. Before she knew it, she was on her way to the Juniorate where she lived "the happiest years that I had ever spent." Under the guidance of the Sisters, she "grew more firm in a conviction that the religious life was meant for me." The long awaited day arrived on Aug. 24, 1946 when Dorothy walked down the aisle of Sacred Heart Convent chapel in the long black dress and received the bonnet of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

After a year of Normal School and one year of teaching the first grade at St. Peter's School, Philadelphia, Pa., Dorothy was received into the novitiate on July 16, 1948. She was given the name, Mary Edwardine. Sister Mary Edwardine professed her first vows on Aug. 3, 1949.

Sister Mary Edwardine taught primary and elementary grades at St. Wenceslaus School, Baltimore, Md.; St. Joseph School, 87<sup>th</sup> St. New York City, NY; St. Gerard School, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.; St. Ambrose School, Baltimore; St. Joseph School, Verona, Pa. and St. Matthew School, Baltimore from 1949 to 1984. While at St. Matthew, Sister completed her studies for a Master of Education in Reading at Loyola College, (now University) in 1971. She previously received a Bachelor of Science in 1956 from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland. Sister Dorothy then used her education as a reading specialist coordinator at St. Matthew's School (1984-87). Dorothy returned to teaching elementary classes at St. Pius X School and Our Lady of Fatima School, both in Baltimore (1987-2006).

Dorothy was a woman with a calm and generous spirit. She loved her family. According to her niece, Debbie, Dorothy was a very special aunt to her nieces and a godmother to many. She was an important part of every family celebration and loved to talk about her family. Their concerns were always in her prayers.

Unable to attend the celebration of her 70th anniversary of profession, Dorothy was ready and patiently waiting to go to heaven. She was at peace; she would celebrate in heaven with all that God had ready for her. As she entered the novitiate, Dorothy had written in her autobiography, "My only desire was coming true, my only dream. Little did I realize that the long dress I wanted was the pattern of the seamless robe of Christ."

The wake service for Sister Dorothy was held on Tues., July 2 and the Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated by Rev. John Savard, S.J.; Rector of the Jesuit Community, on Wed., July 3. Interment followed at Villa Maria Cemetery, Glen Arm Rd., Glen Arm, Md. Sister Dorothy is survived by her sister, Jean Orozco and several nieces.

Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Atlantic Midwest Province, c/o Development Office, 345 Belden Hill Road, Wilton, Conn. 06897 or online: [www.amssnd.org](http://www.amssnd.org)