



SR. CONSTANCE DODD, SM

June 4, 1933—August 8, 2025

Sister Constance Dodd died peacefully on Friday, Aug. 8, in the loving care of her community. She was born June 4, 1933, in Ballindoon, County Sligo, Ireland, the 7th of 8 children.

She was 21 when she entered the Marist Sisters in Ireland, having attended secondary school at Carrick during her high school years, and a commercial college in Dublin. She came to the United States in 1956, the last surviving member of the first 5 Marist Sisters who brought the community to the U.S. She attended college at Marygrove, and taught at St. Albert the Great School in Dearborn Heights, MI, which she also served as principal. Moving to Canada, she had 14 happy years in the secondary schools in the Province of Quebec. She served in the General Administration in Rome as bursar, which allowed her to experience the Marist life in Mexico, Colombia and Brazil, where the Marist Sisters minister in some poorer areas.

She ministered for 12 years in Wheeling, WV, with the poor and homeless at the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center. She really loved the ministry there, and was in many ways the face of service to the most disadvantaged of the area. She said once that, at the end of each day, she could say: “The hungry were fed today. The poor were clothed. The sick were visited.”

During those years, she received from Pope Benedict XVI the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal, the highest honor a non-cleric can receive in the Church. She valued even more highly the honorary doctorate she received from Wheeling Jesuit University for her committed service to the poor, while also drawing the faculty and students of Wheeling Jesuit into the ministry. The Neighborhood Center served around 120,000 meals every year and provided food baskets to 750 families per month, and is still in operation today!

Her last years were spent in Michigan, where she continued to serve the Marist Sisters’ congregation and beyond in many ways.

An article appears in the Wheeling-Charleston diocesan newspaper of Sept. 19, 2025, informing readers of a special Mass for Constance at the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center in Wheeling WV. The sub-heading reads “Devoted Shepherdess of the Poor and Homeless.”

One volunteer shared recently that she used to bring students to the Neighborhood Center to offer service. Constance would first speak to the children and pray with them. The prayer she most often used, said the teacher, was that of St. Teresa of Avila:



*“Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes
with which he looks compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet
with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands,
with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.”*