

**Sister Mary Stella Szewczyk, SSND,
teacher, hospital administrator**

Sister Mary Stella Szewczyk, a longtime teacher and hospital administrator, died of heart failure on Oct. 27 at Resurrection Life Center in Chicago. She was 86 and had been a professed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 64 years.

Mary Carolyn Szewczyk was born Dec. 12, 1924, in Chicago to Polish immigrants Michael and Stephanie (Liss) Szewczyk. She attended St. John Cantius School in Chicago, where she made her first acquaintance with the School Sisters of Notre Dame, and graduated from St. Stanislaus Kostka High School in 1943.

After working as a secretary for Western Electric Co. for a year in Cicero, Ill., she entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Milwaukee, Wis., in September 1944. She was given the religious name Mary Stella and made her first vows in July 1947.

Sister Mary Stella's first teaching assignment was the sixth grade at St. Casimir in Milwaukee (1947-50). She also served at Notre Dame High School in Milwaukee (1950-56), where she taught Business Education, and Cardinal Stritch High School in Chicago (1956-62) before moving to West Catholic High School in Grand Rapids, Mich., in 1962. After a year of teaching, she became an associate administrator at West Catholic and served there until 1969, when she joined Academy of Our Lady School in Chicago as an administrator. In 1970, Sister Mary Stella returned to her alma mater, St. Stanislaus Kostka High in Chicago, as a teacher (1970-73).



In 1973, Sister Mary Stella left teaching to begin serving at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, Ill., first as a clerical assistant to the staff and later as residence director and admissions clerk. She remained in administrative posts at the hospital for nearly two decades.

In 1993, Sister Mary Stella retired from full-time service but continued to volunteer in health care settings, including Frances Manor (1997-2011) and Holy Family Hospital (1997-2005), both in Des Plaines, Ill.

Sister Mary Stella earned a bachelor's degree in education and business administration from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee in 1955. She earned a master's in secondary education administration from the University of Notre Dame in 1970.

Sister Mary Stella is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Atlantic-Midwest Province, Mission Advancement Office, 345 Belden Hill Road, Wilton, CT., 06897. (800) 993-7763.

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