

Sister Mary Cordelia Eckert, hospital administrator, dies at 94

A funeral Mass for Sister Mary Cordelia Eckert of the Religious Sisters of Mercy was offered March 25 at Mercy Villa in Baltimore. Sister Cordelia died March 20; she was 94.

Born in Pennsylvania, Sister Cordelia attended primary and secondary Catholic schools and was studying at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia when she entered the Sisters of Mercy. She would go on to earn a bachelor's degree from St. Joseph's, and MBA from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and a master's degree in social work from the University of Maryland.

Ministering mainly in administration, Sister Cordelia was assigned to the business office of the former Mount St. Agnes College in Baltimore the day following her first profession of vows.

Later, she ministered at Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore in various positions, including as the hospital's internal auditor for 21 years.

While she had little direct contact with patients, an obituary prepared by her congregation notes, Sister Cordelia believed she was carrying out the charism of Venerable Catherine McCauley, the Mercy Sisters' foundress, by "caring for the poor in a dollars and cents role."

The obituary noted that many who were unable to pay their bills to Mercy Medical Center were helped by the hospital's charity write-offs, and Sister Cordelia was grateful to be a small part of that ministry.

She was also remembered for her prayer life, maintaining a schedule similar to the

one she had learned during her formation, and for the joy she found living in community.

Sister Cordelia was a Sister of Mercy for 63 years.

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