

With deep sorrow and profound gratitude, we share the passing of **Sister Mary Shamus Zehrer**, RSM, who entered eternal life on February 25, 2026, at the age of 90.

A Sister of Mercy for 71 years, Sister Shamus devoted her life to Catholic education and to the people of Atlantic City. After teaching at Our Lady of Victories School in Sayreville and Saint Joseph School in Keyport, she was sent to Atlantic City in 1964 — and “the rest is history.”

At **Our Lady Star of the Sea School**, Sister Shamus served as teacher for eight years and then as principal for 38 years, shaping generations of students with discipline, compassion, and unwavering faith. She remained a beloved presence at “Star” even after retirement, continuing to support the parish and school community she so dearly loved.

Her extraordinary leadership earned her the Bishop’s Medal and the Distinguished Principal Award from the Diocese of Camden. She was especially proud to be named an honorary member of the **Atlantic City Beach Patrol** and to have the street beside her beloved school renamed “Sister Shamus Way.”

Sister Shamus leaves behind a powerful legacy of faith, strength, and love. As one former student beautifully shared:

“She made you proud to be a STAR. She made you stand taller. She made you want to represent well. She made you better.”

Funeral services will be held March 7, 2026, at Immaculate Conception Chapel at Mount Saint Mary in Watchung, NJ.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, March 28, at 10:30 AM at **Our Lady Star of the Sea Church**.

Please keep Sister Shamus and her family in your prayers. May she rest in the peace of Christ she served so faithfully. ❤️

[Sr. Mary Shamus Zehrer Obituary | Higgins Home for Funerals, Inc. | 1935 - 2026](#)

Livestream link:

[Sisters of Mercy Watchung - YouTube](#)