



**We remember  
Sister Elizabeth Sedlmayer  
1923-2009**

~ a Sister of Mercy for 62 years!

“I Have Chosen You”

*Eulogy as given by Sister Loretta Sedlmayer  
(sister of Sister Elizabeth)*

God said to Elizabeth (Lily) Sedlmayer: "I have chosen you to give birth to a daughter. Her name will also be Elizabeth. She will grow to have courage and will be a quiet influence to many."

God said to little Elizabeth (Betty): "I have chosen you. You will be the first of 12 children in Ed and Lily's family of 10 girls and two boys." Elizabeth, known as Betty, attended the Presentation School in Denver where she grew to love the Sisters of Mercy. At home she was her mother's right hand as her brothers and sisters entered the family.

After St. Francis deSales High School, Betty worked at the *Denver Catholic Register* for five years when another mother, Catherine McAuley, called to her, "I have chosen you to become a Sister of Mercy." With her parents' blessing, Betty entered the novitiate in 1946 and chose a new name for a saintly mother who was special to her. She became Sister Mary Xaverine, named for Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini whom our dad knew as a child. The motto inside her ring very appropriately reads: "I HAVE CHOSEN YOU" In. 15: 16.

During the first 30 years of her religious life, Sister Elizabeth devoted her time to a dedicated life as a Sister of Mercy and answered each call to fill the roles as teacher, principal, community superior and even part-time mother to girls in a boarding school. These assignments took her to Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and Colorado.

One of her special gifts that the Sisters really appreciated was Elizabeth's talent as a seamstress that she had learned from her mom at an early age and continued to use even at The Gardens of St. Elizabeth in Denver after retirement. Thousands of her loving stitches went into the Sisters' habits!

Elizabeth returned to St. Joseph's School in the late 1970s and then to Mercy Medical Center where she began a new career - that of secretary, followed by employment for our Mercy Housing until she retired at the age of 75. It was during those 25 years in Denver that her Sedlmayer sisters could become more fully a part of her life and share somewhat in her Sedlmayer-Mercy life. They were saddened when Elizabeth chose to move to Mercy Villa in 2003, but when she said, "I am going home," they sent her off more joyfully.

Indeed, the quietness of Elizabeth's manner shouted very loudly to us as a special example that there is a power within each one of us according to the call that we are given.

Like all of you, our Sisters of Mercy, the Sedlmayer sisters are proud to have shared in the life of one beautiful, loving woman who only two days ago responded to His call, "I have chosen you this day. Come, enter into the fullness of life that has been promised to my faithful Sisters."

It is a glorious thing to be a  
Sister of Mercy.  
- Catherine McAuley