

## Sister Emily Marie Walsh, SC

Entered eternal life on January 17, 2026



Hello, my name is Margaret Tretola, I am one of Sister Emily Walsh's nieces, a daughter of her youngest sister, Patricia Walsh Marinaro. Many years ago, Aunt Emily asked me if I would speak at her funeral and of course, I said yes. I just hope I can do her this honor and not ramble on and on. She would not have liked that. Alright, so where do I begin? This amazing woman has been such a huge part of my life and my family's life for 104<sup>1/2</sup> years. Can you believe it? We laughed with her, cried with her, confided in her, traveled with her and loved her without question. And I bet everyone in this place has done and feels the same way about her. This is what Aunt Emily was, this was her life. This woman at such a young age felt a calling to serve God and help anyone He decided to send her way. Whether she was a teacher, principal, head of a convent, or a pastoral visitor at hospitals and homes, she did her best and left a piece of herself wherever she went. Just look around this room, this is her legacy, a testimony to her life. She was a simple woman. Aunt Emily never required

much in her life and always accepted what she was given without questioning it. She was generous to a fault, ready to give whatever she had and could to others. If you ever traveled with her, her one small suitcase was all she would bring. When I traveled with her, I packed so much stuff and maybe used half of it. Aunt Emily loved to go out to eat, but most of the time all she wanted was a grilled cheese sandwich. She liked it when she was taken out shopping, but it was always a trick to keep up with her. She could go into a store, find what she needed and purchase it and be ready to leave before I even had a chance to look at anything. If you ever went shopping with her you know what I'm talking about. When Aunt Emily moved to Saint Elizabeth's, she thought this meant her life would be slowing down. I don't think she ever thought she would have as full and busy a life there as she had before. There were many times she told me how tired she was and when I would say to her, "Do they realize how old you are?" her answer was always, "I have a job to do, and I have to do it". I do think always feeling the need to do for others is what kept her here so long. Aunt Emily ended her days at St. Josephs Center in Cedar Grove. Whenever I visited her, she was always happy and glad to see me. I brought her the small chocolates she loved, cleaned out her drawers, went through her mail and would just have a visit with her. She always spoke of how well she was taken care of there and how good the nurses were. I never had any complaints about the care she got there.

She would tell me most times she was ready to go home whenever the dear Lord called her and didn't know why she was still here when so many of her loved ones went before her. I always said, "He has something else planned for you and you haven't finished it yet." Aunt Kitty said to me once, she can't go yet, then I will have no-one left. I know I still need her, and I am sure there are plenty of you who still need her too. I said once before when I was asked to speak about her, "She has been a mother to her fellow Sisters, a companion to many, and a friend to all." She is, was and will always be cherished by both her blood family and her religious family. She was an aunt to many, a great aunt to more, and even a great-great aunt. We were all blessed to know this woman. We are together here now to celebrate her life as she begins a new chapter at "The Even Bigger House" - home with God and all her dear family and friends who went home before her. Don't think for a minute she is retiring or going there to slow down either. I have called her "The Energizer Bunny" - she just kept on going and going and will keep on going. I am sure God has lots for her to do there also. Aunt Emily, we love you. Thank you for your love, your heart, your generosity and your faith. Thank you for being you. You will be missed more than you will ever know.

~ Margaret Tretola, niece of Sister Emily