

Alleluia!

Sister M. Evangeline Kleiss, OSF

Sister Evangeline Kleiss was born on October 22, 1916, in Crittenden, Illinois to William and Frances (Harmon) Kleiss. She was baptized Elizabeth Pauline at St. Joseph Church in Pesotum, Illinois. Elizabeth was the older sister to Luella and Margaret who survive her today.

Elizabeth attended school at St. Mary and St. Joseph School in Pesotum, Illinois before entering the Prep in Joliet, Illinois, graduating from St. Francis Academy. On September 8, 1933, Elizabeth became a postulant with our congregation. At her reception as a novice Elizabeth received the name Sister Mary Evangeline. She loved to be referred to as Vange, a name that most of us called her. Sister Evangeline professed her first vows in 1936 and her final vows in 1939.

Sister Evangeline enjoyed studying and keeping abreast of current trends, especially in the fields of education and spirituality. She received her undergraduate degree and a certificate from the Seraphic Institute at the College of St. Francis. She was also an avid student at St. Louis University, De Paul, St. Mary's, Notre Dame, IIT, and St. Norbert's, learning as much as she could and broadening her experience. Sister Evangeline worked in the field of education as a teacher and as a principal in the states of Illinois, Ohio, Alabama, and Wisconsin as well as a Math tutor at our St. Francis Reading Center. She also volunteered in our Development Office, helping Sisters Albert Marie and Dolores Marie by writing thank-you cards, and was a chauffeur to many of our sisters. As said by many of her superiors, she helped in any way that she could. Vange lived with our sisters and with the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and enjoyed the friendships and comradery of all. She liked being with people through work, at prayer and at play, especially if she was playing cards, attending bingo games or participating in Mexican Train Dominoes. She and her cousin, Sister Sandy Sudkamp, spent many happy moments together talking and playing games. Crocheting was also one of her pleasant pastimes.



When asked about her favorite mission, she replied that she really enjoyed teaching at St. Joseph School in Freeport, Illinois because of the community living there and the people who were so good to the sisters. But we know she also loved being in the scenic beauty of Bayfield and longed to go back to visit but knew that her health issues did not allow this. In the community *Patchwork Quilt*, Sister Evangeline talked of our congregation as a plant with many gorgeous flowers and leaves, each necessary to make the plant a wonderful work of our creator. She saw the sisters who have gone before us as the roots keeping us alive and strong. She said that there were times in her life that she knew she was a thriving green leaf and other times she knew her leaf was somewhat brown and withered though kept alive because of the food each of us supplied. Vange did stay as active as possible until the time that her fall resulted in a broken hip that mandated surgery. But her physical condition was serious enough that on the evening of February 24th, 2006 at the age of 89 while she was recovering from surgery at Provena St. Joseph Medical Center, she was called home to the loving God whom she served so faithfully for so many years. We pray for her classmates Sisters Florence, Alcuin and Cherubim, for her sisters Luella and Margaret, for her niece Darlene, for all her relatives and friends, and our sisters who remain here. We also remember her cousins in community, Sisters Illuminata and Audrey as well as all who have preceded her in death that they may welcome her to her new home.

Sister Evangeline, we thank you for the many happy moments we shared with you and for the love and attention you gave to each of us. We ask our loving God to hold you in peace forever. Amen. Alleluia.

Sister M. Evangeline Kleiss, OSF

October 22, 1916 — February 24, 2006

Born: October 22, 1916, Crittenden, Illinois
Parents: William H. Kleiss and Frances (Harmon) Kleiss
Postulancy: September 8, 1933
Novitiate: August 12, 1934
First Profession: August 12, 1936
Final Profession: August 12, 1939
Entered New Life: February 24, 2006

Ministry History

1936-1940 Teacher; Grade 3: St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL
1940-1942 Teacher; Grades 4, 5: St. Pascal, Chicago, IL
1942-1944 Teacher; Grade 5: St. Clement, Chicago, IL
1944-1949 Teacher; Grades 3, 4, 5: St. Joseph, Freeport, IL
1949-1950 Teacher; Grade 4: St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH
1950-1952 Teacher; Grade 5: St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL
1952-1954 Teacher; Grades 4, 5: St. Mary, Fairfield, AL
1954-1957 Prefect; Junior Boys: Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL
1957-1958 Teacher: Marybrook Academy, Maumee, OH
1958-1960 Teacher; Grade 7: St. Francis of Assisi, Chicago, IL
1960-1964 Teacher; Grade 7: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago, IL
1964-1970 Teacher; Grade 7: St. Peter, Mansfield, OH
1970-1971 Principal; Holy Family, Bayfield, WI
1971-1980 Teacher; Junior High: Cathedral School, Superior, WI
1980-1989 Driver/Receptionist: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL
1989-1992 Receptionist: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL
1992-2002 Tutor/Volunteer Development Office: Motherhouse, Joliet, IL
2003-2006 Retired/Special Ministry

Wake: Friday, March 3, 2006, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Wake Service: Friday, March 3, 2006, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Mass of Christian Burial Friday, March 3, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Burial Saturday, March 4, 2006, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
Interment: S8-L5-G4 Resurrection Cemetery
Predeceased by: Her parents William H. Kleiss and Frances (Harmon) Kleiss
Survived by: Her sisters Luella Rennie and Margaret (Ray) Hawkins; nieces, nephews and cousins.

Rest in Peace, Sister Evangeline