

Sister Evelyn Lins, OP



Born to Earthly Life on October 7, 1929

First Profession on August 15, 1949

Entered Eternal Life on September 14, 2025

EVELYN MARY LINS was born on October 7, 1929 in Plain, Wisconsin. She was third of the fourteen children of John and Rose Lins. Everyone worked hard on the family farm and Evelyn loved to be outdoors. Prayer was an important element of their family life, with morning and evening prayer, the daily rosary and Sunday Mass at St. Luke's Parish.

Evelyn had three aunts who were Franciscan Sisters, and she was taught by several Racine Dominicans, and they all had an impact on her. She felt the call to religious life early and in 1944 Evelyn entered the community as an aspirant. She made her first profession on August 15, 1949 and her final professions on August 15, 1955, taking the name S. Elizabeth before returning to her baptismal name of S. Evelyn.

S. Evelyn received a Bachelor's degree from Dominican College in Racine, Wisconsin and a Master's degree from St. Xavier College in Chicago, Illinois. She began her ministry as a teacher and principal for nearly 30 years. She taught at Sacred Heart, Holy Name and St. Edward in Racine, (where she was also the principal), St. Andrew in Verona, Wisconsin (where she was also the principal), and Sts. Peter and Paul in Green Bay.

She was then asked by the Racine Dominican Community to take on the role of House Coordinator, a position she loved and held for 11 years. She was in charge of organizing programs and services for the Sisters, hiring employees and other duties to make Siena run smoothly. The Sisters really appreciated her cheerful attitude and the interest she took in each of them.

During this time, S. Evelyn was also very involved in the Racine community. She helped to coordinate care boxes for those in need, and she got involved as a volunteer with the Women's Resource Center, helping women and children who had been abused with services to help them get on their feet.

After her role as House Coordinated ended, S. Evelyn helped to drive a study about the need for services to help abused women and children beyond emergency services only. She was instrumental in the founding of Bethany Apartments, a transitional housing program for women and children leaving situations of abuse. The former St. Mary's School was purchased and renovated into apartments, and the residents were offered job assistance, counseling and programs to help them break the cycle of abuse and forge a new path for themselves. S. Evelyn was named the Director of Bethany Apartments, a role she held for four years. As she said about her time at Bethany, "I find it difficult to even imagine spending my days away from Bethany. I will always be grateful to have worked with women and children who have rebuilt their lives, their self-worth and regained their dignity. It has been a real privilege to stand with them."

S. Evelyn was then elected to the leadership team of the Racine Dominicans, where she served for four years. She then went back to Bethany to assist with grant writing and programs and joined the Racine Literacy Council to teach English. Her entire life was dedicated to service.

S. Evelyn was a strong presence for so many, in school, as a counselor and advocate for those in crisis, as a leader and most of all in her faith. We are grateful for her example of a faith-filled life of service to others.

