



Sister Lucy Edelbeck, OP

Born to earthly life: October 18, 1922
Religious profession: August 4, 1942
Entered eternal life: April 19, 2018

“...I am convinced that the universe is under the control of a loving purpose and that in the struggle for righteousness, we have cosmic companionship.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

SISTER LUCY EDELBECK’S CHOICE of reflection to conclude the celebration of her life could not be more apt. “I hope to be remembered... as someone who lived on Earth, expressed compassion to creation, listened deeply with my heart, and experienced communion with those most neglected and abused,” Dr. King’s reading began. S. Lucy could have written that!

Eleanore Christine Edelbeck, the fifth of 12 children, was born on October 18, 1922, to Caroline and Anton Edelbeck, farmers near Wausaukee, WI. In this large Dutch-Bohemian family, she learned early in life to care for, teach, and mentor others, and unabashedly to speak her mind.

Following in her older sister Lucy’s footsteps, Eleanore entered the Racine Dominicans in 1939. When she was received a year later, she became Sister Lucy. The two birth sisters honored one another, as nine years earlier, Lucy was received into the community as Sister Eleanore.

“S. Lucy’s life had many facets, all of them coming from deep conviction, study and prayer. The jewels of this life were justice and care for others,” S. Agnes Johnson said in welcoming people to S. Lucy’s memorial. “Her early years were spent teaching middle school, then high school, and finally college and university students. She also spent several years as a campus minister at Marquette where she inaugurated programs to help young people wrestle with the controversies of the day and learn to see various sides of the issues.”

As she became more aware of the injustices around her, S. Lucy started Emmaus House in Milwaukee, where over time many young men and women lived a very simple lifestyle, eating vegetarian meals in solidarity with people who could not afford to eat meat. Emmaus House residents committed themselves for a year to work with and learn from Milwaukee’s people living in poverty. These volunteers found an atmosphere of love, support, prayer and sharing. They learned about social injustice and how difficult it is to change unjust systems; they also learned to live a simple lifestyle that would influence them the rest of their lives. In speaking of Emmaus House, Lucy said, “I think each of us in our journeys has come to the realization that our faith has called us to do something about making the world a more just place to be in.”

When S. Lucy celebrated her diamond jubilee in 2017, she wrote:

“Being a Dominican has enabled me to live among excited, dedicated, joyous women who have inspired, encouraged and walked with me in joy and support. They have taught me to live the gospel fully. Through the inspiration of these women, I have been able to live and work among those who are poor and left behind by society. I have spoken out often in voice and in writing for women, especially in our church, who have been denigrated by society and church. I have been enabled to inspire countless women who struggle to reach for their place in society and church.”

As S. Lucy joined S. Eleanore and other loved ones in God’s glory, we know her ways of “making the world a more just place” had incredible impact not only in the *number* of people she touched, but in the *depth* of her relationship with and challenge to them. Though she is missed, her vision and passion for justice live on in countless others.