

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Evelyn Monnin

BORN: January 1926

ENTERED CONGREGATION: August 13, 1942

DIED: August 6, 2014

On August 6, 2014, Sister Evelyn Monnin was called home to the Father, whom she loved so deeply. Evelyn was born in January 1926 to Clarence and Anna (Dapore) Monnin. She grew up on a farm located just outside of Russia, Ohio. She was the eldest, and over the years five more children were added to the family. Sister Evelyn had fond memories of her childhood days. Since she was the oldest, she began at an early age to help with the chores on the small farm. She did not mind doing these chores; completing them was a way she could help her parents.

In 1942, Evelyn came to Salem Heights, in Dayton, to enter the Sisters of the Precious Blood. Sister Evelyn remarked, "I soon learned that convent life was different from farm life. I had more time to pray and to study under the guidance of Sister Nathalia, whom I dearly loved." On investment day, she was given the religious name of Sister Mary Georgina and in 1948 she made her profession as a Sister of the Precious Blood.

For the next 44 years, Evelyn's ministry was in elementary education. Either as a teacher or as a principal she worked in many schools. Sister Evelyn's ministry took her to St. Joseph, Missouri; Arvada, Colorado; and to Dayton, Vandalia, Coldwater, and Celina, all in Ohio. Evelyn thrived as a teacher and enjoyed her years in the classroom. A friend of Evelyn's wrote, "I remember how Evelyn's students loved her. She had good

discipline and didn't let them get away with things; at the same time, they knew she loved them. After school, former students would flock to her classroom, and she would always find time for them." As a principal, she was a mentor to her staff. Evelyn knew what was right and acted accordingly, even when it was difficult.

No matter with whom or where she lived, Evelyn enjoyed life and others enjoyed living with her. One Sister noted that "Evelyn was quick with her congratulations, but not afraid to comment when things need changing. She is a great person to live with. She is always willing to help or to go on an adventure if life needs a spark." Evelyn liked to read, crochet, and complete jigsaw and crossword puzzles. She tried new recipes, cared for flowers, and enjoyed fishing. She liked sports; she was a fan of the Reds, the Cowboys, the Broncos, and the Browns. When she lived in Colorado, she loved to walk in the mountains or sit by a lake. She appreciated the peaceful summers at Maria Stein, when the pace was less hectic and she had more time for prayer.

In 1989, Sister Evelyn began a new ministry. She returned home to Russia and cared for her ailing mother. While doing that she also volunteered as a teacher in the parish school of religion and took communion to the sick. Living in Russia gave Evelyn the opportunity to spend more time with her siblings, their spouses, and her many nieces and nephews. She dearly loved both

her families; her family by blood and her Precious Blood family. After her mother's death, Evelyn moved to Salem Heights in Dayton, but Sister Evelyn continued to care for others. She became the assistant to the coordinator at Emma Hall where she aided in the day to day needs of the Sisters who lived there. Whether it was praying with the Sisters, talking with them, sitting with them as they were dying, or mending their clothes (and she did a lot of mending); she did those tasks with kindness and compassion.

The following is a quote from a letter that Evelyn wrote to another Sister. "I know we must all go through a dying process before we resurrect. One of my favorite reflections is the planting of a seed. In the process of dying it gives life to another plant. In the life span of a plant, it brings much joy, beauty and happiness to all who look upon it. I hope that I resemble this plant in my time here. Like the plant I try to bring joy and happiness to those I care for in my ministry....Yes the process of resurrection is happening each day. As we live out the gospel, we are experiencing a new life. I would like to think that the Kingdom of God is better because I am a part of it." Sister Evelyn, all of us have been blessed to have you as a part of our lives and we will miss you. However, we all know that you are now with your heavenly Father in his Kingdom and you are smiling that wonderful, sweet smile of yours.

— Sister Linda Pleiman