

Sister Evin Rademacher

Prioress from 1973–1981



Sister Evin (Josephine) Rademacher was born in Rosen, Minn., on August 2, 1926, the third of Martin and Anna Dols Rademachers' three children. She entered Saint Benedict's Convent as a high school student on August 28, 1940, and became a novice on June 21, 1945. She professed her first vows on July 11, 1946, and her final vows on July 11, 1949. Prior to her election as the 11th prioress of Saint Benedict's Monastery, Sister Evin served the community as a teacher at the elementary, secondary and college levels. Her teaching specialty was math, having received her Master of Arts degree in mathematics from the University of Detroit, Mich. In addition to teaching, she served as religious superior at Cathedral High School Convent, as coordinator of the

Millstream House of Simple Monastic Observance, as director of community renewal and as president of the Federation of Saint Benedict.

Sister Evin was elected prioress of Saint Benedict's Convent on June 9, 1973, and re-elected for a second four-year term on June 5, 1977. It was during her time as prioress that the title "Mother" for the prioress was discontinued. Sister Evin continued the Vatican II renewal, adaptation and restructuring begun by Mothers Richarda Peters and Henrita Osendorf.

Under Sister Evin's leadership, the community decided to renovate the Sacred Heart Chapel, the outstanding symbol of the community's work of renewal. It was also her conviction that the sisters living and serving in the community's international missions, and in areas at a great distance from the motherhouse, would be more effective in their cultural adaptations if they became autonomous priories. Therefore, she assisted the sisters in Ogden, Utah, Manchester, N.H., Japan, Taiwan, the Bahamas and Puerto Rico in their first steps in achieving this goal. Toward the end of her service as prioress, it became apparent that the health care center at St. Benedict's could no longer meet the needs of the increasing number of aged and infirm sisters. Therefore, in 1978, the decision was made to transfer the sisters' health care services from St. Benedict's Convent to the vacated St. Joseph Home in St. Cloud, now known as Saint Scholastica Convent.

Following completion of her second term as prioress in 1981, Sister Evin moved to St. Anselm College in Manchester, where she served as part-time instructor in mathematics, as regional superior for Manchester Priory (1982-1986), as a librarian and as a social worker at St. Theresa Manor nursing home. She returned to Saint Benedict's in 1989, where she worked for various intervals as a nurse's aide at Saint Scholastica Convent and in the monastery's business and development offices. In 1992, Sister Evin was instrumental in developing the space and program that is now Studium. Until she moved to Saint Scholastica Convent in 2011, she assisted the archivist in organizing and computerizing community records. Sister Evin died on November 20, 2016.