

Evelyn Crain—5/6/1945-12/23/2017



Evelyn Crain was born on May 6, 1945 to Lee and Theresa Crain, the youngest of six children in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. Evelyn's brothers, Ralph Crain and Clarence Crain, and sister Catherine Boswell, preceded her in death. Evelyn is survived by her sister Mary Ellen Carter, and brother Lawrence Crain, and several nieces and nephews.

When Evelyn was about four years old her family moved to California, first to Parlier, then to Sanger, both near Fresno, and then to Citrus Heights and finally to Orangevale.

Evelyn as a child, wanted to be a teacher, like Jo in *Little Women*. She wanted to have six children. When she was about ten years old her life changed. One day she was skating all over the neighborhood; the next day she was diagnosed with polio, spent a year in an iron lung and came home to life in a wheelchair. She attended school and graduated from Sanger High School in 1963 and from Reedley College in 1966, thanks to her mom's encouragement, transportation by Jim Kaprilian and her own persistence. She met Ray Shipman when he was building a ramp for her wheelchair at the Oak Avenue house, and he became her life companion for 27 years until his death in 2000.

She and her family were active members of Divine Savior Parish in Orangevale. She taught Confirmation classes, participated in a long-running Tuesday morning Bible Study and was a lector for several years. In fact, when Divine Savior Church was built, she was the inspiration for the ramp up to the altar so that she could continue as a lector after the church was built, Evelyn was drawn to the Salvatorians after Ray died. She said, "When Ray died the Salvatorians surrounded me with care," and in September of 2003 she made her commitment as a Lay Salvatorian.

Evelyn's life continued against all medical odds. She inspired many with not only her longevity but how she lived her life – always a sense of adventure in her van, a sense of humor and a trust that God always had a plan for her.