



Evelyn A. Vavra

July 26, 1921 - May 22, 2016

A Funeral Mass for Evelyn will be held on Friday, May 27, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Geneva. Father Tom Walsh will officiate the service.

Graveside services will follow the funeral and be held in the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Geneva.

Visitation will be Thursday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Farmer & Son Funeral Home in Geneva.

A Rosary will be prayed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Geneva.

Evelyn Ann Kempkes Vavra was born to Henry N. Kempkes and Ann Kotmel Kempkes on July 26, 1921 at Crete, Nebraska and died May 22, 2016 at Fairview Manor, Fairmont, Nebraska. One of six children, she grew up as a farmer's daughter in the Crete, Friend and Fairmont, Nebraska communities. She attended grade school at District 18 in Crete and District 100 in Friend. She completed her freshman year at Friend High School in 1934 and graduated from Fairmont High School with the class of 1938.

On May 15, 1939, she married Leslie D. Vavra of Friend, Nebraska at St.

Stephen's Catholic Church in Exeter, Nebraska. To this union six children were born. A baby granddaughter, Paula, was taken into their home in 1963 after the accidental death of Paula's mother, Barbara Corallo Vavra. Paula was raised and loved as the family's seventh child.

Evelyn loved children—especially, her grandchildren! She will not only be remembered by her family as a loving homemaker, mother and grandmother, but also as a C.C.D. & C.Y.O. teacher for the children of St. Stephen's, Exeter and St. Joseph's, Geneva parishes for many years.

Evelyn was employed as a dental assistant for Dr. G. H. Liggett for 6 years. After moving to Geneva from their farm in Exeter in 1974 with her husband, Leslie and daughter, Paula, she was employed by the Fillmore County Hospital. She served as a Certified Nursing Assistant and Certified Social Services Designee for 13 years before retiring in 1986 to care for her husband who was suffering from Parkinson's disease. In 1992, she once again worked as Social Service Designee at Fairview Manor in Fairmont, where Leslie then resided.

Evelyn's service to her community was extensive. She served as an officer on St. Stephen's Altar Society for 6 years. During the periods when her four sons were serving their country (three in Vietnam) she was a member of the American Legion and V. F. W., serving as president of the American Legion Auxiliary in Exeter. After her own experience of caring for her ill husband, she was led in March of 1990 to form a support group for other family caregivers. With the help of others, she organized and coordinated, "Friends of Family Caregivers," which proved very supportive for people caring for loved ones in their homes. During this time, she was also a member of the St. Joseph's Catholic Church Council, serving 7 years on the Evangelization Committee. In addition, she volunteered in prison ministry and spent several years visiting and counseling youth at the Geneva Youth Development Center.

Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband, Leslie D. Vavra; her parents, Henry N. Kempkes and Ann Kotmel Kempkes; her brothers, Franklin Kempkes, Carleton Kempkes and Henry Kempkes, Jr.; her sister, Darlene Kempkes Jowers; her brother-in-law, Leonard Swiercinsky; her sister-in-law, Jayne King Kempkes; her daughters-in-law, Barbara Corallo Vavra and Sherry Zimmerman Vavra; her son-in-law, Max Rhoads; her grandsons, Neal Christopher Koenig and Christopher D. Gooch; and great-grandchildren, twins, Megan & Bradley Koenig and Alexander Slechinger's twin sister, Emily.

Evelyn is survived by her three daughters: Connie Vavra Koenig and husband, Alfred of Brunswick, Maryland; Ann Vavra Gooch Rhoads of Goddard, Kansas; and Paula Vavra Anderson and husband, Darrell of Geneva, Nebraska; four sons: Jerry Vavra and wife, Marty of Gates, Oregon; Paul Vavra of Cheyenne, Wyoming; Michael Vavra and wife, Charlotte of Wichita, Kansas; and Joel Vavra and wife, Elaine of Crete, Nebraska; her sister, Kathryn Kempkes Swiercinsky of Savannah, Georgia; her sister-in-law, Marge Glazier Kempkes of Wichita, Kansas and her many grandchildren. During her lifetime, Evelyn took great pride and joy in her 21 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Many times she remarked, "how richly blessed I am in grandchildren—I'm leaving my mark in descendants—there's no doubt about it, I've been here!" Her final legacy for her descendants was the writing of her family history book, "Ninety Years of Life" in 2011. Her book has been donated to several Nebraska libraries.

Previous Events

Visitation

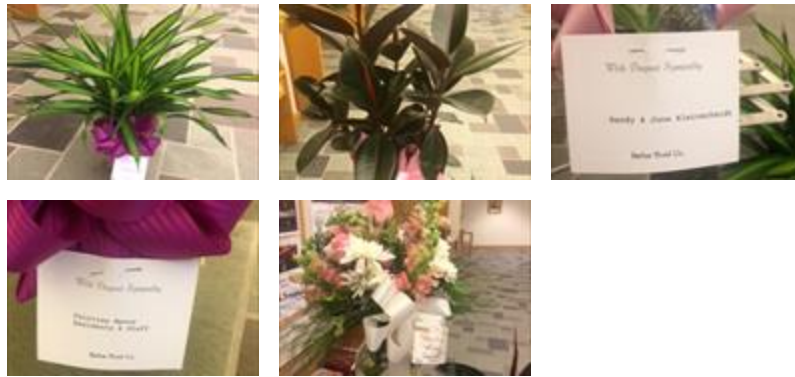
MAY **26**. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home
242 N 10th Street
Geneva, NE 68361
(402) 759-3617
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ 22 files added to the album Vavra Flowers



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - May 27, 2016 at 12:44 PM

BM

I loved my aunt Evelyn. She was my favorite aunt.

Brenda mclendon - December 20, 2016 at 07:18 PM

SR

“ *My condolences to the family, especially to Connie and Paula. Evelyn and I called each twins because we are the same age, although I am 2 months older although what are 2 months when we are both in our 90's. I have many happy memories of Evelyn. She joined the Koenig family for many special occasions, coming with Connie and Alfred to those occasions. My last visit with her was at Nancy (Koenig) Jensen's funeral. Evelyn and I couldn't go to the cemetery so we had a long enjoyable visit. That visit remains special in my memory. We continued to correspond by mail until she was no longer able to do so. My prayers are with the family at this time of loss. God bless all of you. Sr. Dorothy Koenig, OSB*

Sr. Pia Rottinghaus - May 27, 2016 at 08:54 AM

KE

“ *Kris Ekeler sent a virtual gift in memory of Evelyn A. Vavra*



Kris Ekeler - May 25, 2016 at 02:21 PM

HK

“ *Hilary Kassik lit a candle in memory of Evelyn A. Vavra*



Hilary Kassik - May 24, 2016 at 10:01 AM

MB

“ *So very sorry for your loss. She will truly be missed by those who loved and knew her.
God's Blessings!*

Marvin & Bridgette Brummer

Marv and Bridgette Brummer - May 24, 2016 at 08:45 AM

MB

“ *Marv And Bridgette Brummer lit a candle in memory of Evelyn A. Vavra*



Marv and Bridgette Brummer - May 24, 2016 at 08:44 AM

TN

“ *Tiffany Nutsch lit a candle in memory of Evelyn A. Vavra*



Tiffany Nutsch - May 24, 2016 at 07:48 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Evelyn A. Vavra.*



May 23, 2016 at 11:23 PM

CC

“ *Cyndy Callenius lit a candle in memory of Evelyn A. Vavra*



Cyndy Callenius - May 23, 2016 at 10:39 PM



“ *Amy Franssen lit a candle in memory of Evelyn A. Vavra*



Amy Franssen - May 23, 2016 at 06:29 PM

MR

“ So sorry to hear of Evelyn's passing. She was a great lady. Cherish all the memories, with sympathy!

Mark, Sarah, Brandon & Ethan Reinsch - May 23, 2016 at 03:27 PM

GP

Sympathy to the Vavra kids, so sorry for you're lost. Wayne (Pete) and Gladys Petersen

Gladys Petersen - May 24, 2016 at 08:08 AM

SZ

I have such fond memories of Evelyn. So sorry for your loss Paula and family.

Suzanne O'Brien Zeutzius - May 24, 2016 at 12:12 PM

PG

Paula so sad to hear about your Mom, praying for you and your family during this sad time.

With Love and Friendship, Patsy and Dayle

Patsy Gewecke - May 26, 2016 at 09:08 AM