



Sr. Lynn Patrice Lavin, OSF

Professed 1970

“When you listen with your soul, you come into rhythm and unity with the music of the Universe” ~John O’Donahue



Throughout her 55 years as a professed Sister of St. Francis, Sr. Lynn Patrice Lavin embodied love and care through the relationships that defined her life—with God, family, her Franciscan sisters, and countless friends. Her ministries were marked by deep listening, a discerning spirit, and a supportive presence that helped people become their best selves. This relational approach became the foundation of all her work, creating lasting connections that transformed both individuals and communities.

Born Rita Kathleen in Baltimore, Maryland, she lived with her parents, Thomas and Helen, her brother Tom, and sisters Lynn and Trish. The Lavins attended St. Stephen Parish in Bradshaw and Sr. Lynn was a graduate of The Catholic High School of Baltimore. In 1967, Sr. Lynn entered the congregation, professing her first vows in 1970. She earned a B.A. in English from Neumann University, an M.A. in Formative Spirituality from Duquesne University, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Pastoral Counseling from Loyola University Maryland. Sr. Lynn once shared, “My life has been rich and

challenging and the congregation has encouraged me to utilize my gifts for the good of others. I believe religious life offers a message of hope that is sorely needed in our times.”

Sr. Lynn’s ministry benefited from her ability to listen deeply. As a vocation director, formation director, provincial, and congregational minister, she shared her gift of presence with her sisters in community. As a counselor, teacher, and spiritual director, Sr. Lynn helped others to grow. A former student wrote on social media that Sr. Lynn was “knowledgeable and compassionate—everything a great counselor strives to become.” Another said, “She is the reason I continue to do the work of counseling.” Sr. Debbie Krist said, “For more than 40 years, Lynn blessed my life with her faithful presence. In her mutual love for me and others, she embodied our Franciscan charism. Her care for our sisters and those in need was a beautiful expression of the Gospel message brought to life in words and actions. Lynn forever changed my life, and I am grateful to God for the gift she was to me ... what a blessing to be loved by her!”

In addition to the impact, she made on sisters and students alike, Sr. Lynn’s legacy includes the renewed connection of the Sisters of St. Francis with the people of Chester, Pennsylvania. Sr. Maggie Gannon explained, “Lynn transformed Chester by uniting diverse groups to serve the materially poor and marginalized. Inspired by her dream of walking with Mother Francis Bachmann, she invested countless hours and personal care in the Chester community. Her generosity and kindness, including providing dignified funerals for those suffering from housing insecurity, had an immeasurable impact on the lives of Chester’s residents. Lynn not only changed the face of Chester, but she also changed me personally ... I will be forever changed by her beautiful witness, strong leadership, faithful companionship, and loving care.”

In her leisure time, Lynn enjoyed spending time with her family and delighted in her nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. She loved sunflowers and all things Disney. She also loved dogs! Lynn enjoyed traveling and sharing the highlights of her travels. Some of her hobbies were connecting with friends, making scenic cards, knitting, reading mystery novels, and watching good movies and her local sports teams play.

Through her five decades of faithful service, Sr. Lynn was a living testament of the power of love, presence, and deep listening to transform lives. As we carry forward her legacy of compassionate care, we honor not only her memory but the Gospel values she so beautifully embodied. Her life reminds us that true ministry happens in relationship, and that by loving others well, we create a more hopeful world for all.

All services will be held in Our Lady of Angels Chapel in Aston on Thursday, September 25, 2025, and will be livestreamed.

A Christian Wake Service will be held at 9:30 A.M. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 A.M.

Interment of Ashes will be in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery in Aston.

