



Act justly,
love tenderly
and walk
humbly with
your God

Micah 6:8



Sister Jacqueline Briegel, SSND

Born

April 12, 1929

Professed

August 2, 1951

Ministry

*elementary educator/ administrator;
tutor*

Illinois, Missouri

Died

April 2, 2009



School Sisters of Notre Dame
of St. Louis

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Sister Jacqueline (Marie David) Briegel, SSND



Just ten days before her 80th birthday, God invited Sister Jackie to enter into the fullness of eternal life. She was transferred from Anna House to St. Louis University Hospital for surgery for a torn aorta. Further testing revealed that surgery would not be successful. At 6:05 p.m. on April 2, 2009, with her nephew, Tony, and several SSNDs at her bedside, she peacefully surrendered her earthly life and embraced a new vision of God.



On April 12, 1929, the second of five children was born to Myrtle [Schwendemann] and Walter Briegel in St. Charles, Mo. On April 21, she was baptized at St. Charles Borromeo Church and given the name Jacqueline Jean. An older sister had died in infancy; three younger brothers would join the Briegel family.

Jackie attended St. Charles Borromeo Grade School and St. Peter High School staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Their example inspired her to consider joining them. Her high school days were four busy and fun-filled years of sports, parties and part-time work with the Sisters of St. Mary in the local hospital and classes sandwiched in between. After high school, she was employed one year at Bell Telephone Company.



In the midst of all this activity, the thought of becoming a sister continued to haunt her. Finally, she spoke to her family and with the assistance of the SSNDs at the convent, Jackie entered the candidature at Ripa on June 14, 1948. During her second year in the candidature, she was missioned to St. Peter in Jefferson City, Mo., to teach fourth grade. She entered the novitiate on August 1, 1950, and received the name, Marie David, after her younger

brother who was born during her senior year in high school. She professed first vows on August 2, 1951, and final vows on August 2, 1957.

Following profession, Sister Jackie spent 57 years in elementary education: 27 years as full-time administrator; 12 years as principal and teacher; nine years as a teacher; nine years as a tutor. She was one of the pioneers to open St. Raphael, St. Louis, in 1951. She taught junior high at St. Peter, Jefferson City, and Blessed Sacrament, Belleville, Ill. She was principal at St. Peter Grade School and St. Charles Borromeo, St. Charles; St. Peter Cathedral, Belleville; and St. Bernard, Wood River, Ill. She ministered in the dual role of principal and teacher at St. Bernadette and Our Lady of Loretto, St. Louis. In June 1999, she came to the motherhouse and taught full-time in the Notre Dame Learning Center.

Sister Jackie's life changed drastically in April and May 2003. She suffered two strokes which left her legally blind. She continued to tutor part-time until May 2008. In June, she was missioned to Veronica House. She was hospitalized at DePaul Health Center in late March 2009.

Sister Jackie donated her body to St. Louis University School of Medicine. A prayer vigil was held at Anna House on April 7 and a memorial Mass was celebrated at Veronica House on April 13. Rev. Richard Tillman and Rev. Charles Deister presided at the memorial Mass celebrated in the motherhouse on April 18. She is survived by her brother, David of St. Charles. Other family members, classmates, colleagues, former students, friends and SSNDs attended the funeral services.

Sister Jackie was a fun-loving, pleasant, creative and grateful person who valued relationships. She was an outstanding administrator and educator who mentored many young teachers. When she lost her sight, she was an inspiration to all as she continued to live her life while embracing her limitation. She frequently responded to others with "God is Good!" Freed of her bodily limitations, may she now enjoy fullness of life and the reward her Good God has prepared for her!

Precious and blessed is the death of the faithful before God.