

August 27, 2018

Sister Jean Marie Blake, SSND
Elementary teacher

Bridgeton, Missouri – Sister Jean Marie (formerly Agnes Joseph) Blake, died peacefully at Anna House, The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri, on Monday, August 6, 2018. She was 86 and a former elementary teacher.

The funeral Mass was celebrated August 14 at Theresa Center, Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis. Burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa Cemetery.

Sister Jean Marie was born in St. Louis. She entered the congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1950. In February 1951, she was missioned to St. Anthony in Sullivan, Missouri, to teach fourth and fifth grade.

Later in 1951, she was missioned to St. Mary, Fort Madison, Iowa, to teach third and fourth grades. She professed first vows in 1953 and final vows in 1959.

In 1960, she earned a B.A. in history from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, and a M.Ed. in administration from Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, in 1968.

After first profession, Sister Jean Marie taught elementary education for 62 years. She taught at St. Liborius, St. Louis; Holy Angels, East St. Louis, Illinois; and Academy of Our Lady, Chicago. For 52 years, she ministered in the South, 44 of those years in various schools in the New Orleans diocese. When she was missioned at St. Mary, Gainesville, Texas, she helped seek funds for the building of the motherhouse in Irving, Texas. She taught at St. Francis of Assisi in Brookhaven, Mississippi; St. Philip Neri, Metairie, Louisiana; Visitation of Our Lady, Marrero, Louisiana; and St. Agnes Elementary School, Jefferson, Louisiana. She performed community service at St. Mary of the Pines, Chatawa, Mississippi, for one year. In New Orleans, she taught at Sacred Heart, St. David, Our Lady Star of the Sea, Holy Redeemer, Corpus Christi, St. Mary of the Angels, and Holy Rosary Academy. In 2007, Sister Jean Marie helped open St. Dominic School in New Orleans; she spent her last years there tutoring children.

Sister Jean Marie enjoyed helping others in need, including providing assistance to Houston residents after Hurricane Harvey, helping to obtain FEMA aid for those in need of disaster relief and supporting missions in Africa and Haiti. She is survived by a brother, William of Punta Gorda, Florida. Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Resource Development, 320 E. Ripa, St. Louis, MO 63125 or online at <https://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/give>.

