



Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Société de Marie
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Biography of Death Notice N. 22

The Province of the United States recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother **DuWayne BRISENDINE** of the Marianist Residence Community in San Antonio, Texas, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 18, 2024, in San Antonio at the age of 89 with 71 years of religious profession.

A devoted teacher and administrator for many decades, Brother DuWayne knew even as a teenager that he desired to devote his life to the service of Mary. This heartfelt dream would ultimately draw him into ministries in seven different states and three foreign countries. In his letter requesting permission to take first vows, he wrote, "I have acquired a great love and confidence in Our Lady, and this is how I want to spend my life – serving her."

DuWayne Brisendine was born on December 13, 1935, in Addison, Michigan. He was one of two sons in the family of Edgar and Ardith (Cheesbro) Brisendine. He would later gain a half-brother and two half-sisters when his parents divorced,

and his mother remarried. As a youngster, DuWayne moved frequently – attending five different public schools in rural Michigan before graduating from Devil's Lake School in 1949.

During his freshman year of high school at East Intermediate (Jackson, Michigan), DuWayne entered the Catholic Church, receiving the sacrament of Baptism at the local parish – St. Mary's, Star of the Sea. The following year, DuWayne moved with his mother to Belleville, Illinois, where he enrolled at Cathedral High School and first encountered the Marianists. It was a transformative experience: "The example of the brothers led me to follow their beautiful vocation," he later wrote.

Still a high school student, DuWayne entered the postulancy in 1951 at Maryhurst in Kirkwood, Missouri. A year later, he began novitiate at Marynook in Galesville, Wisconsin. Brother DuWayne professed first vows there on August 15, 1953. He returned to Maryhurst to pursue scholastic studies before enrolling at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, where he was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics in 1956. Later, he also earned a Master of Science in Mathematics from the University of Notre Dame (South Bend, Indiana). He professed final vows at Our Lady of the Pillar Church in St. Louis, Missouri, on July 13, 1958.

Brother DuWayne began his teaching career in 1956 at St. Joseph School in Victoria, Texas. Over the next ten years, he continued this classroom work at schools in Missouri, Illinois, and Colorado. Starting in 1965, he also began serving in administrative positions – taking on the assistant principal role at Roncalli High School in Pueblo, Colorado; Chaminade College Prep in St. Louis, Missouri; and Central Catholic in San Antonio, Texas – where he would also be named principal in 1972. In between these assignments, Brother DuWayne did formation work in the Marianist Scholasticate at St. Mary's University (1969-71). Additional teaching assignments followed at high schools in Missouri and Oklahoma before he then branched into college-level instruction at St. Mary's University, where he also served in the admissions office.

The ensuing years brought significant changes to Brother DuWayne's life of ministry, starting in 1989 with his being named director of the St. Joseph Health Center in San Antonio. He then accepted the first of several international assignments, becoming Principal at St. Joseph International School in Yokohama, Japan, in 1992. Returning to San Antonio in 1994, Brother DuWayne joined the Archdiocesan Education Office as assistant superintendent. From

there, he went back to Japan for a difficult year spent shepherding the close of St. Joseph School, followed by time working in various Marianist ministries in India. Coming back to the United States in 1999, he served two years as business manager for St. Mark Parish in Denton, Texas.

During his time at the parish, Brother DuWayne was also named Secretary for the Marianists' 2001 General Chapter meeting in Rome, Italy. He was called to Rome on a full-time basis in 2002, beginning a three-year term as communications director for the *Curia Generalizia Marianisti*. Brother DuWayne returned to the classroom in 2006, wrapping up more than five decades of active ministry by joining the faculty at Chaminade University in Honolulu, Hawaii. He taught there until 2012 before moving to the Woodlawn Marianist Community and the Marianist Residence in San Antonio.

Marianist Father Oscar Vasquez recalls being blessed by having the chance to live in community with Brother DuWayne on several occasions through the years. "He was always a dedicated religious and a brother on Mary's Mission," Father Oscar says. "Whatever the community or ministry, he was ready to be of service."

Marianist Brother Michael McAward was brand-new to Rome when he arrived in 2005 to succeed Brother DuWayne as director of communications for the General Administration. Brother Michael remembers how effective Brother DuWayne was in easing the transition. "It was he who met me at the airport and subsequently taught me my new responsibilities. He even introduced me to an English-speaking liturgical community in Rome, which eventually became the center of my Sunday worship for all my 20 years there." The assistance went well beyond matters of logistics and orientation. "Brother DuWayne had a gentle way of instructing me, and he did so with clarity and care," Brother Michael says, "One of the most important things I learned from him was to always use personal and fraternal words in the myriad messages that this role required. He showed me that a kind and fraternal word, even in the midst of official or 'strictly business' communication, goes a long way. I always tried to remember Brother DuWayne's advice as my responsibilities (and correspondence) increased during the years I served at the GA. He was right!"

From the very start of their teaching careers at St. Joseph's School in Victoria, Texas, Marianist Father Al McMenemy remembers relying on Brother DuWayne's insights and professionalism. "My classroom was right next to DuWayne's, and I remember on a number of occasions asking him for help and advice with the students," Father Al says. "He was always very gracious, going

out of his way at times to assist. That was DuWayne. I think this was characteristic of him for the rest of his long teaching career in the many places where he ministered. He could be stern, but always for the sake of the young men.”

Just such a legacy appears to have motivated Brother DuWayne from the beginning of his life as a Marianist. Preparing to profess his first vows in 1953, Brother DuWayne wrote that he desired to “save souls through teaching.” As he noted a couple of years later, something equally important had become apparent to him in his work: “What joy there is in living a life totally consecrated to Mary! May he rest in peace.
