



**Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Société de Marie**  
*Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma*



**November 10, 2022.**

### **Biography of Death Notice N. 34**

The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **James MAUS**, of the Marianist Residence Community, San Antonio, Texas, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on October 26, 2022, in San Antonio, at the age of 79 with 60 years of religious profession.

Brother Jim was a gentle, warm-hearted teacher and counselor whose long ministry was devoted to teens at high schools in Wisconsin, Texas and Missouri. Brother Jim often said he felt blessed to guide young people on their journeys toward maturity, and over the course of 47 years of ministry, he touched the lives of thousands of young people. He was deeply devoted to both his earthly mother and the Blessed Mother.

James Michael Maus was born on June 27, 1943, in St. Louis. He was the only

child of Wilfred Maus and Pura (Menendez) Maus. His father died serving in World War II; Jim never knew him. He grew up with his mother and grandparents in East St. Louis, Illinois.

Young Jim was drawn to religious life at an early age. He thought, initially, he might become a diocesan priest. The example of his Marianist teachers at Assumption High School in East St. Louis, however, changed his perspective. By the time he graduated, he was certain he was called to the Marianist brotherhood.

In August of 1961, Jim entered the Marynook Novitiate in Galesville, Wisconsin. He professed first vows there on August 22, 1962. He attended St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, earning a bachelor's degree in English in 1965. He began teaching that autumn at McBride High School in St. Louis, where he remained for the following four years. He professed perpetual vows on August 20, 1967, in St. Louis.

Brother Jim spent two years (1969 – 1971) teaching at Don Bosco Catholic High School in Milwaukee. In 1972, Don Bosco was merged with another Catholic boys school to form St. Thomas Moore Catholic High School, where Brother Jim continued to teach until 1979. By dedicating several summers to graduate courses, Brother Jim earned a master's degree in English from Saint Louis University in 1975 and followed that up with a master's degree in counseling from St. Mary's University in 1980.

The counseling degree enabled Brother Jim to pursue a new area of ministry. In the autumn of 1980, he began work as a guidance counselor at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth, Texas. (Nolan Catholic was a Marianist school at the time.) He served youth from grades 7 through 12, providing both academic and personal counseling.

“Dealing with teenagers is no job for the weak at heart or the untalented,” wrote Dr. Richard Citrin, a Fort Worth psychologist to whom Brother Jim sometimes referred students and who came to know Brother Jim well. “Jim always seemed to know the right way to approach students. He guided parents in understanding the complexity and confusion of adolescence. And he accomplished it all with grace, dignity and a sense of humor,” Dr. Citrin wrote.

Brother Jim remained at Nolan Catholic for more than 20 years, until 2004. During this time, he served many years as the director of the school's guidance and counseling department.

Brother Jim was known as a calm, caring man, but he was also a *busy* man. For many years (1977 – 1991) he spent a large part of his summers as a camp counselor at Tecaboca, a Marianist boys camp in the Texas Hill Country. Brother Jim loved the rustic character of Tecaboca and the opportunity it gave him to interact with young people outside of the academic setting. From 1997 to 2001, he was camp administrator and part-time director, serving mostly off-site.

In the autumn of 2005, Brother Jim returned to his birthplace, St. Louis, and began ministry at St. John Vianney High School. The move allowed him to be nearer to his mother, who was then in her late 80s. At Vianney, Brother Jim served as a freshman counselor, helping boys make the often-difficult transition to high school life.

During his time at Vianney, Brother Jim helped establish the "Care Team," an interdisciplinary group of staff and teachers focused on identifying and helping students who were struggling socially, emotionally or academically.

"I served on the Care Team with Brother Jim. He was always looking out for the best interests of his students," said Kevin Walsh, a Vianney teacher and formerly dean of students. "Whenever I had an issue arise with a student, I could count on Brother Jim to find the good in the young man and help us focus our discipline on the boy's growth and improvement."

"I think the one thing Brother Jim was most proud of was his work as a counselor," said Father Tim Kenney, who also served at Vianney with Brother Jim. "Jim reached out to the underdog, to students in need, to those with low self-esteem and those who were grappling with their identity," said Father Tim. "Jim's insights, his compassion and his sensitivity to students were amazing."

Brother Jim retired from Vianney in 2012. He remained in St. Louis, where he could be near his mother and other family members. He was a helpful, contributing member of the Maryland Avenue Community. In failing health, Brother Jim moved to the Marianist Residence in 2018.

“During Jim’s last months of suffering, he was not able to talk plainly due to tubes in his mouth, yet he kept up a peaceful spirit and would always try to pray along with me during our visits,” said Brother Delmar Jorn, who lived at the Marianist Residence with Brother Jim and who had known him for decades.

Christopher Heise was a longtime friend of Brother Jim’s and was the brother of one of Brother Jim’s students at Nolan Catholic High School. He visited Brother Jim regularly during Brother Jim’s final years. Mr. Heise provided this remembrance:

“Brother Jim took me to summer camp every year while I was growing up. He taught me how to drive. He helped me plan financially for college, and he helped me move into college. He was standing next to me when I graduated from law school.

“All he had to do was teach my older brother for a semester or two in the 1980s. He did infinitely more than that, and he did it all voluntarily. That’s who he was as an individual and how he lived out his Christian walk.”

May he rest in peace.

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