

Sister Jean Rachel Brown, C.P.P.S.

Born: January 21, 1937

Professed: August 10, 1958

Entered into Life: May 26, 2020

Verse on her memorial card:

**“Remember to rekindle the gift of God that is within
You through the laying on of hands.”
(Second Letter of Paul to Timothy)**



May 27, 2020

Dear Sisters,

Shortly after 10 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, our Sister Jean Rachel Brown went home to God. Her free spirit, which so characterized her in this life, now will celebrate the fullness of the Spirit of Pentecost in her new life.

Born on January 21, 1937 Sister Jean Rachel was youngest of five children in the family of James and Clara (Hansen) Brown. She was baptized as Patricia at St. Wenceslaus in St. Louis, on February 14, 1937, and grew up in St. Agatha Parish.

After graduating from Bishop DuBourg High School, Pattie Jean entered our novitiate on July 25, 1956, and professed first vows on August 10, 1958. She earned a bachelor's degree in Education at Fontbonne College. She also held certification as a Montessori teacher and as a licensed massage therapist.

Sister Jean Rachel taught at the pre-school, kindergarten, and elementary levels, serving at St. Clement of Rome, St. Nicholas, Holy Family, and Visitation Child Development Center, all in St. Louis. She also taught at Linda Vista Catholic School in Chesterfield, Missouri and St. Peter's in Quincy, Illinois.

While on sabbatical at the Institute in Culture and Creation Spirituality at Holy Names College in Oakland, CA, Sister Jean Rachel studied massage therapy as a form of meditation and body prayer. She later enrolled in Kaleidoscope School of Massage in University City to obtain her therapist license. She applied these skills at the Motherhouse in O'Fallon, at Parc Provence Retirement Center, and at St. Monica and St. Joseph Retirement Centers while also serving as local coordinator of the latter two sites. Every massage session began with a prayer or affirmation. Her compassionate touch carried dimensions of the sacred, healing touch of Jesus. One of her instructors said of her, "Love just seems to flow through her fingers."

Sister Jean Rachel was bountifully creative. One of her good friends in community remarked that Jean could take anything and make something beautiful from it. “Jean’s art came from her soul,” she added.

Both her creativity and her caring response to human needs are demonstrated in a story told of her time teaching in the Head Start program. After receiving a rather large government grant, she used a portion of the funds to buy art supplies and pairs of canvas shoes, a pair in each child’s size. The students decorated the shoes, and every child went home with a uniquely creative and thoroughly practical work of art. “Meeting the needs of the community with a little flair was my Aunt Pat in a nutshell,” said her niece, Mary.

Sister Jean Rachel was deeply in love with nature where she found God to be so present. As part of her studies in Oakland, she wrote a poem entitled, “The Earth Cries Out.” Each stanza begins with the Earth saying, “I am God’s Word.” Her appreciation of beauty, her care for creation, and her tender gardening each demonstrated her deep belief that creation is, indeed, a manifestation of God.

Sister Jean Rachel was preceded in death by her parents, by her brother, James (Jake), and by her sister, Mary Jane Fuenfgeld. She is survived by two sisters, Virginia Becker and Jackie Bless, and by many nieces, nephews and grand-nieces and nephews. Her niece, Mary, writes, “How horrible it is to tell your mother that her baby sister is gone and she can’t go to a funeral to honor and mourn her; how she can’t hug her other sister who sits alone in a nursing home for her own safety, and how horrible it will be for my cousin to tell her mother this news without being able to hug and console her.” Please hold her family and her many friends, both within and beyond our community, tenderly in your hearts and your prayers.

Sister Jean Rachel chose a verse from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy for her memorial card. In part it reads, “Remember to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of hands.” She touched so many lives through her hands. Let us be consoled by our belief and trust that her healing touch will continue to be with us.

Sister Jean Rachel wanted to donate her body to science but because of the Covid-19 pandemic, that will not be possible. There will be private burial in our convent cemetery and a Memorial Mass later to celebrate the gift of her life and her love.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Janice Bader". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Sr. Janice Bader