

GRACE (Mary David) MAERTENS, CSJ
March 8, 1926 - April 26, 2017

*In joy shall you depart,
in peace you shall be brought back.
Mountains and hills shall break into song before you,
and all the trees of the countryside shall clap their hands.*

~ Isaiah 55: 11-12

On March 8, 1926 a typical March blizzard blew in and Grace Maertens was born on a small farm near Ghent, Minnesota to her parents, Hero J. and Mary Ann Buysse Maertens. Two days later, March 10, 1926, the weather had cleared and the Lyon County plows were out, baby Grace was baptized at St. Eloi Church in Ghent receiving the name Grace Anna Marie. Grace was the fifth child welcomed to the Maertens' family: Hero, Joan, Earl, Donald and Grace. David, Richard and Doris came later.

From her earliest years Grace was an outdoors person. She loved all the animals, but horses were her favorite. She became an experienced gardener and in her early years was a 4H member of the Grandview Club. She enjoyed sports, especially the Minnesota Twin and she never passed up a good card game.

Grace spent eight years at St. Eloi School in Ghent, three years at Marshall High School and her senior year at Derham Hall High School in St. Paul where she graduated in June, 1944.

On September 8, 1944 Grace joined the Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Paul, Minnesota. She received the religious habit March 19, 1945 and the name, Sister Mary David. She made first vows March 19, 1947 and three years later made final vows on August 15, 1950.

Grace earned a BA degree from the College of St. Catherine in 1957 majoring in English and Elementary Education. Later she was awarded a Lifetime Elementary

Teaching Certificate. In 1965 she received an NDEA grant to study geography at the University of Texas and a *Right to Read* grant in 1971.

For 45 years Sister Mary David (Grace) taught students in grades 4-6 in St. Paul at Nativity, St. Vincent and St. Mark schools, and at St. Thomas the Apostle in Minneapolis and Nativity of Mary in Bloomington. Teaching assignments also took her to Graceville, Waverly and to Minneota, where she became a teaching principal.

Grace held a professional membership in the *Right to Read* program. She, along with Sister Anna Marie DeVos, CSJ, kept the program alive and well in Lyon County for many years.

After the death of her father, Grace retired in Marshall. In 2011 she moved to Bethany Convent in St. Paul and in December, 2011 she moved to Carondelet Village where she died peacefully on April 26, 2017.

Grace was preceded in death by her parents, Hero J. Maertens and Mary Buysse Maertens; siblings Hero, Joan, Earl, Donald and Richard (Dick). She is survived by her brother David and sister Doris, many nieces and nephews, caregivers at Carondelet Village and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consociates.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on May 3, 2017 in Our Lady of Presentation Chapel in St. Paul, Minnesota. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery in Mendota Heights, Minnesota

Rest now, Grace, in the peace and love of God