

= Jackie Hudson =

Jacqueline Marie " Jackie " Hudson , O.P. , (November 19 , 1934 ? August 3 , 2011) was an American Dominican Sister and anti @-@ nuclear activist . She spent the first 29 years of her working career as a music teacher . After her retirement from education , she dedicated her life to anti @-@ war activism , during the course of which her actions led her to be arrested several times . In 2011 , after a decline in her health in prison , Hudson died from multiple myeloma at the age of 76 .

= = Early life , education , and career = =

Born in Saginaw , Michigan , she was the youngest of two children . Her father had studied in a seminary for a time and both her parents were very religious . Hudson was raised in the Roman Catholic faith and attended Catholic schools for her entire education . In 1952 , at the age of 18 , she decided to join the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids .

After her initial formation as a member of her religious congregation , Hudson was permitted to attend VanderCook College of Music , concentrating in music and religious education . This led to a nearly three decade long career as a music teacher at a series of Roman Catholic junior high schools in Michigan , where she taught piano and band as well as vocal music . Throughout this time , she also sang in a musical group composed of other Dominican Sisters , known as the Mellow D ? s .

= = Activism = =

After her retirement in the early 1980s , Hudson started to study the effects of nuclear bombs and radiation on the environment and people ; because of what she found , she subsequently focused her ministry on peace and protesting nuclear proliferation . In 1983 , she protested the introduction of nuclear cruise missiles to Michigan . In 1990 , she was arrested and imprisoned for 6 months for illegally accessing a bunker on Wurtsmith Air Force Base and painting " Christ lives , Disarm " on the side of it . Hudson had a strong belief that she was doing the right thing and living out her faith , and stated that " [Jesus] put life before the law . " In this , she was acting upon a determination by her congregation that the members were free to take social stands about which they felt deeply as individuals , without , however , representing the congregation .

Hudson moved to Bremerton , Washington , in 1993 where she joined a peace community involved in social justice issues . She became certified as a commercial driver and obtained a job driving a city bus in order to earn an income through which she both could support herself and meet her financial obligations to the congregation .

In 2000 , Hudson and two other Sisters of her congregation , Carol Gilbert , O.P. , and Ardeth Platte , O.P. , entered Peterson Air Force Base without authorization and sprinkled blood on a fighter plane . The trio was caught and arrested . They were then held in a federal prison until the charges were dropped because there was no lasting damage was done to the airplane . Gilbert claimed that the base was part of the " Star Wars " defense system and the government did not want to draw unnecessary attention to the area . In 2002 , the same group of nuns gained access to a Minuteman III missile silo in Colorado . Wearing white hazmat suits emblazoned with " Citizen Weapon Inspection Team , " they pounded on the missile , drew a cross in their own blood and prayed for peace . At their pre @-@ trial hearing , the Sisters , dressed in their religious habit , engaged in silent protest by only answering the judge with a nod . When their trial came about , the presiding judge , Robert E. Blackburn , granted an in limine motion to the prosecutor preventing the Sisters from arguing that their actions were legal under international law and the Nuremberg defense . The group was sentenced to between 31 and 40 months for obstructing national defense and damaging government property . The sister 's appeal was rejected in 2005 by the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals .

In 2010 , Hudson and 13 others illegally entered the grounds of Oak Ridge National Laboratory .

She was incarcerated in a Georgia prison pending her sentence , but was allowed to go home in June 2011 due to a serious decline in her health .

= = Death and legacy = =

Hudson died on August 3 , 2011 , at age 76 , at the Harrison Medical Center near her home in Poulsbo , Washington . She had suffered from pneumonia , but the cause of death was multiple myeloma . For 58 years , until her death , she was a member of the Dominican Order . In November 2011 , Dorli Rainey , an Occupy Seattle protester cited Hudson as her inspiration " to keep fighting the good fight , even in the winter years of her life . "