



**School Sisters  
of Notre Dame**  
*Atlantic-Midwest Province*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Sister Jane Burke, SSND,  
teacher, provincial leader, LCWR director**

BALTIMORE - Sister Jane Burke, former teacher and provincial leader of her congregation who most recently served as executive director of the national Leadership Conference of Women Religious, died of cancer on Jan. 11 at Maria Health Care Center in Baltimore. She was 63 years old and had been a professed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 44 years.

Jane Patricia Burke was born on Feb. 28, 1948, in Hollidaysburg, Pa., the fifth of seven children born to Margaretta (Riley) and Joseph Burke. She graduated from Bishop Guilfoyle High School in Altoona, Pa., in June 1965 and three months later entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Baltimore. She was given the religious name Ann Mary and made her first vows in July 1967.

Sister's first teaching assignment was at St. Patrick School in Mount Savage, Md. (1967-68). She went on to teach primary grades at St. Jane Frances in Pasadena, Md., (1968-72); St. Ambrose in Baltimore (1972-73) and Rosa Parks Cluster School in Baltimore (1973-76). Sister Jane, who reverted to using her given name, also taught at St. Boniface School in Philadelphia (1976-77) and became principal at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Washington, D.C. (1977-81).



Sister Jane spent a year educating teachers in Immokalee, Fla., before co-founding in 1982 the Guadalupe Center for migrant and seasonal workers and rural poor in Immokalee. She served as co-director there until 1991. After earning her master's in social work, she became a social worker in community outreach ministries in Hendry County, Fla., for a year before being named executive director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Venice, Fla., in 1994.

In 1996, Sister Jane was elected provincial leader of the Baltimore Province of SSND. She held that position for nine years and was on the leadership team that was responsible for the ultimate reconfiguration of three SSND provinces into one. In December 2005, the Baltimore, Chicago and Wilton, Conn., provinces of the School Sisters of Notre Dame merged to become the Atlantic-Midwest Province.

In 2007, Sister Jane became the national manager of Justice for Immigrants, an agency of the U.S. Catholic Mission Association, at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The following year, she became executive director of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, a 1600-member, canonically established organization for leaders of U.S. religious communities. She served for three years, until illness forced her to leave in August 2011. During her service she saw the conference through the apostolic visitation of its members and the doctrinal assessment of the LCWR.

Sister Jane is a 1974 graduate of what is today Notre Dame of Maryland University. She earned a master's degree in education, from Loyola University of Maryland, in 1978 and a master's in social work, from the University of Georgia, Athens, in 1993.

Sister Jane is survived by four sisters, Bernadine Bainton of Bethel, Alaska, Agnes Slippey of Penns Grove, N.J., Ann Burke of Hollidaysburg, Pa., and Mary Lynn Hlavati of Frederick, Md.; two brothers, James Burke and Joseph Burke, both of Hollidaysburg; and many nieces and nephews.

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