

Fr. Michael Burke, SCJ

1937-2017

Former provincial superior of the US Province, Fr. Michael Burke, SCJ, died February 9, 2017. He was 79 years old.

Originally from Chicago, Fr. Burke professed his first vows in 1956. He celebrated his 60th anniversary of religious life the year before he died. He studied at the SCJs' Kilroe Seminary in Pennsylvania, Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology (then Sacred Heart Monastery) in Hales Corners, and at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Among his degrees was a master's in Medieval History.

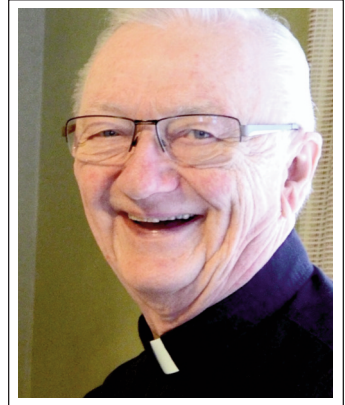
Ordained in 1963, his initial assignment was as a teacher at Sacred Heart Monastery. He then went into administration, first as superintendent of St. Joseph's Indian School in Chamberlain, SD, and in provincial administration serving as personnel director and as vice provincial.

Fr. Burke was elected as the ninth provincial superior of the US Province in 1983.

After completing his second term in 1989 he was named novice master of his congregation's international novitiate in Toronto. Fr. Burke continued in various formation and vocation roles until his retirement in 2009.

Reflecting on his own vocation Burke said that it was important to him to belong to a congregation that was dedicated in a special way to the Sacred Heart, "promoting the love of God through service to his people," he said. "I wanted to be of service to others and serve through the Church."

Fr. Burke lived his last years at Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake, just across the street from where he had his first assignment at Sacred Heart Monastery.



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