

John F. Burke BA. Med.

Bio

I attended St. Mary's College for Grades XI, XII and XIII, from 1953 to 1956.

After graduation, I went on to Novitiate at Senville, Quebec and then on to Holy Redeemer College.

I left Holy Redeemer in 1961 after First Year Theology. I returned to St. John's, NL and finished my BA at Memorial University.

In 1962, I headed to Toronto to attend The Ontario College of Education, inspired by the awesome teaching of Fr. Ed Kennedy, who taught me English each year at St. Mary's. What an inspiration that man was!

I entered the teaching profession in 1963 at the Smith's Falls Collegiate. In subsequent years, I taught in Lambton County and in London, ON. I taught for twenty eight years in the public high school system. In 1990, I switched to the Catholic system, teaching my last five years at Regina Mundi College in London.

Since retiring in 1995, I have had the privilege of being accepted as a Redemptorist Associate. As such, I served on a Mission Team with Fr. Emanuel Demerah. We conducted parish missions in Ontario, Newfoundland and Bermuda in 1996-1998. It was a most inspirational experience.

I now reside in London, with my wife of forty years, Carol (Kirby) whom I met when she was a student nurse and a member of St. Theresa's Redemptorist Parish in St. John's, NL. We have two daughters and one granddaughter.

Currently, I volunteer with the Cross Cultural Center and enjoy conversational circles with immigrants and refugees. As a Motivational Speaker, I have facilitated days of reflection for teachers and Parish Staffs and given talks to Catholic Women's Leagues and Volunteer Groups.

My years at St. Mary's College were happy and joyful years. Meeting fellows from all across Canada was an education in itself. Talent nights brought home to me the ethnic richness of our Canadian culture. The best bunch of guys I have ever met.