

Sister Jeanne Burg, OP



Born to Earthly Life on June 6, 1931
First Profession on August 15, 1951
Entered Eternal Life on July 30, 2024

REGINA (JEANNE) CECILIA BURG was born to Orville and Marie Catherine Burg on June 6, 1931 in Monches, WI. She had one brother, and the Burg family worked together on the family farm until they moved to Milwaukee.

Jeanne knew from second grade on that she wanted to be a Sister. Her grandmother told her friend about her granddaughter's interest in religious life and they connected her with the Racine Dominican Sisters. Jeanne knew she had found her home. She professed her first vows in 1951 and her final vows in 1957 and was given the religious name Sister Mary de Montfort.

S. Jeanne earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Dominican College in Racine and her Master's in Elementary Education Administration from St. Mary's College in Xavier, Kansas. She began her ministry work as a teacher and principal for more than 27 years, including at St. Joseph, St. Sebastian, Holy Name and St. Rita in Racine. It was during her time as a teacher that she found her love of service to others and taking care of God's children.

After teaching, S. Jeanne felt a call to a new kind of ministry. She began taking Spanish immersion classes and studying Mexican culture and history in hopes that she could be of service to those immigrating to the United States. S. Jeanne began her ministry to the immigrant population in Nampa, Idaho. She tutored and shared her faith, always attentive to what the people identified as needs and being an advocate and listening ear.

S. Jeanne would share her gifts, talents and faith with migrant workers in Idaho, Utah and Nevada for more than 30 years. As a woman of faith, she lived out of a deep spirituality, which informed her political action, working with Cesar Chavez and United Farmworkers, attending protests and rallies, and her work at legalizing over 200 Mexicans with their green card.

She also had a passion for being a voice against violence. She and another Sister were arrested for trespassing on federal land when they were part of a protest to draw attention to a shipment of nuclear arms travelling through Idaho. S. Jeanne was a woman of action and truly lived our mission of being "Committed to Truth, Compelled to Justice." Her faith in God and desire to live as Jesus taught us was evident in her work. She let the Spirit lead her, often saying "si' Dios quiere," or "God willing!"

S. Jeanne's quiet and thoughtful ways revealed the depth of her faith in God as she reached out to those in need and worked tirelessly for those without a voice. She also had a smile that lit up a room and loved to joke and laugh. We are so grateful for her life and her example of living a life of service and joy.

