

Ronald Burke, 57

June 10, 1944 – April 5, 2002 ✓

OMAHA – Ronald Burke was born June 10, 1944, in Harlan. He attended St. Michael's Elementary School in Harlan where his family was associated with Burke Bros. hog buying station. He graduated from Creighton Prep in Omaha, in 1962. He received his Master's degree in theology at the University of Notre Dame, where he also earned his Bachelor's degree. He received a Master's degree and doctorate in philosophy from Yale University. In 1971, he began his teaching career at UNO. Thirty years ago, he began an introductory world religions class. Now, seven sections of the class commonly enroll almost 500 students every semester. While teaching at UNO, he won two National Endowment for the Humanities grants and has been published in numerous journals. He also founded the Roman Catholic Modernism Group in the American Academy of Religion. He recently received a combination of grants for his work with the electronic Journal of Religion and Film.

Married since 1971, Ron and his wife, Mary, have two daughters, Rebecca and Katie. He died April 5, 2002, at his home after a two-year battle with bladder cancer at age 57.

He is preceded in death by his father, Ray Burke of Omaha. Survivors include his wife, Mary Dworak Burke; daughters, Rebecca Burke of Boston and Kathryn Burke of Denver; mother, Marjorie Burke of Omaha; brothers, Denis Burke of Omaha; Brian Burke (Trish) of Irvington, NY; and Larry Burke (Lynette) of Portland, OR; sisters, Barbara Burke of Indianapolis; JoAnn Burke of Phoenix and Sister Rosalie Burke of Omaha, nephew, John Kelsey; nieces, Claire and Hannah.

A Funeral Mass was held April 8, 2002, at St. Robert's Church in Omaha. Heafy-Heafy-Hoffmann West Center Chapel in charge of arrangements.