



IAAS Walks of Life 2007
Sr. Maureen Burke

Sr. Maureen Burke, SND, is a visionary educator under whose leadership Regina High School in South Euclid has pioneered imaginative collaboration with institutions here and abroad to provide innovative opportunities for girls. These have included a Pre-Engineering Program; an Allied Medical Careers program; a Shadowing/Mentoring program; an ongoing student exchange program with a high school in Germany also run by her religious order, the Sisters of Notre Dame; an on-site Notre Dame Tutoring Agency and Japanese Language School; a "Step Ahead" program that lets fifth graders from St. Gregory Elementary School take courses at Regina; and various cooperative programs with Notre Dame College that allow many Regina students to finish high school with 20 or more college credits.

A member of the Sisters of Notre Dame, Chardon, since 1973, Sr. Maureen herself is a graduate of Regina High School, Notre Dame College (Magna cum Laude), Baldwin Wallace College (master's degree in Education), Kent State University (master's in Political Science) and Nova Southeastern University (doctorate in Educational Leadership.)

Her appointment as Regina principal in 1992 followed six years in administration and 12 years of teaching at the school. She also has been an adjunct professor at Notre Dame College of Ohio. Under her leadership, Regina has been named a National School of Excellence.

Sr. Maureen has been described as "a beloved figure who brings a large heart and understanding soul" to all she does. Besides moving Regina to a new Sponsorship Governance Model, she was instrumental in initiating a summer student experience for Notre Dame high schools throughout the country to do active service in Cleveland's inner city. She is now in the process of organizing a Katrina Relief Trip to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi for the summer of 2007.

She further has shared her educational talents by lecturing on Irish history for the East Side and West Side Irish American clubs and by leading retreats on Celtic spirituality. Her memberships include both clubs as well as the former's Padraic Pearse Center, the Women's Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Pioneer Total Abstinence Society.

Sister Maureen is the daughter of Irish immigrants, the late Joseph Burke and Julia Kerrigan Burke, now of Mentor. Her father was born in Tullamore, Offaly, and her mother in Tourmakeady, Mayo. When they emigrated to the U.S. in 1949

they brought with them their first three sons, Michael, Sean and Joseph. Here, they gave birth to three more boys and two girls, James, Thomas, Maureen, Judy and Kevin.

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