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## Former Notre Dame provost Burtchaell dies

Margaret Fosmoe South Bend Tribune Apr 13, 2015

SOUTH BEND — The Rev. James T. Burtchaell, a former University of Notre Dame provost and professor who resigned from the university in 1991 after claims he had engaged in sexual misconduct while counseling male students, died Friday at Holy Cross House in South Bend.

He was 81.

Burtchaell was a prominent Holy Cross priest and theologian who was stripped of his priestly faculties, meaning he could not celebrate Mass or otherwise perform the religious duties of a Catholic priest.

He was chair of Notre Dame's theology department from 1968 to 1970, and university provost — the second-highest ranking academic officer — from 1970 to 1977, during the administration of the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh.

Burtchaell became a leading theologian and a powerful voice in the anti-abortion movement. His book, "Rachel Weeping: The Case Against Abortion," was published in 1982 and won a Christopher Award, which is given to promote works that "affirm the highest values of the human spirit."

He left Notre Dame for a sabbatical at Princeton University in 1990. In 1991, the National Catholic Reporter published an article saying that Burtchaell had agreed to resign from Notre Dame after the university investigated allegations made by several male students who claimed the priest had made sexual advances when they had gone to him for spiritual counseling.

At the time, Burtchaell issued an apology without making specific reference to the allegations against him, saying he "had behaved toward some former university students in ways that were wrong, and which I very much regretted," according to South Bend Tribune archives.

He later lived in Phoenix, Ariz., but didn't serve as a priest. He no longer had priestly faculties, the Diocese of Phoenix and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend told the South Bend Tribune in 2003.

Burtchaell was born in 1934 in Portland, Ore. He earned a bachelor's degree at Notre Dame in 1956 and was ordained a Holy Cross priest in 1960. He earned a degree in theology from Gregorian University in Rome and a doctorate in divinity from Cambridge University, then returned to Notre Dame in 1966 as a theology professor.

Since 2009, he had lived at Holy Cross House, the priests' retirement home near Notre Dame.

A wake will be held at Moreau Seminary Chapel at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and a Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Basilica at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday. Burial will follow at Holy Cross Community Cemetery.

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