

Joann Burzichelli, RSM is a 1955 graduate of PHS. She attended Pierce Business School and continued her education at Georgian Court College (now University), completing a degree in Business Administration in 1970. She earned a Master's Degree in Elementary Education Administration from Villanova University in 1974 and was awarded an accreditation for Pastoral Ministries by LaSalle University in 1984.

Sister Joann became a member of the Religious Sisters of Mercy Order, in 1967 when she took her final vows. Through the years of fulfilling her calling, Sister Joann has worked as a teacher for the Diocese of Camden, a principal in Piscataway for the Diocese of Trenton, and both as a teacher and principal at St. John's School in Paulsboro. She became the Director of Religious Education for the Camden Diocese in 1994 and stayed there until 2015. Sister Joann is now a Grief Counselor for St. Clare of Assisi Parish in Paulsboro/Gibbstown/Swedesboro. She continues as a parish volunteer for the Camden Diocese and leads prayers and rosary at Harmony House in Gibbstown on a weekly basis.

Sister Joann has continually demonstrated the spirit of love underpinning her vocation. As a result of her many beneficent endeavors, she has created a standard of excellence, displaying compassion and humility. Sister Joann has devoted her life to serving people.

Sister Joann has been recognized for her service by the Gloucester County Commissioners and the Gloucester County Commission for Women as a Gloucester County Woman of Achievement (2022). In 2024 her 65 years of service were recognized by the Knights of Columbus, Gloucester County Commissioners and the State of New Jersey.