OBITUARIES

Msgr. Maurice Souza

Bishop Sean O’Malley, OFM Cap., was principal celebrant and many priests of the diocese were concelebrants at the Aug. 20 funeral Mass of Msgr. Maurice Souza, 83, who died Aug. 17.

Born in New Bedford Sept. 24, 1912, Msgr. Souza was the son of the late Manuel R. and Leopoldina (Silvia) Souza. After graduating from New Bedford High School in 1930, he prepared for the priesthood at St. Charles College, Catonsville, MD, St. Mary’s Seminary, Baltimore, and the major seminary in Montreal, Que., Canada.

He was ordained June 3, 1939, by the late Bishop James E. Cassidy and chancellor was parochial vicar at St. John the Baptist parish, New Bedford; St. Anthony’s, East Falmouth; St. Anthony of Padua, Fall River; and St. Anthony, Taunton. He was named administrator of Our Lady of Health parish, Fall River, in 1956, serving there until 1962.

In that year Msgr. Souza returned to St. Anthony, Taunton, as pastor, serving there until 1977 when he returned to St. Anthony, East Falmouth, again as pastor, remaining there until he retired in 1986.

He was named a monsignor in 1969. Over the years Msgr. Souza, in addition to his pastoral duties, served as a judge on the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal, was a member of the Diocesan Music Commission, was Taunton area dean from 1968 to 1977 and was moderator for the Cape and Islands District of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.