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December 2017



Profile

Paul Doherty

Music teacher, disc jockey, Catholic priest, OLLI instructor, board member....

Between his growing up in Worcester, Mass., and retiring in Arundel, Maine, Paul Doherty lived an unusually rich and varied life. And he is no less active in his present life.

You may know him now as an OLLI Advisory Board member or a SAGE Committee member or an OLLI teacher or as an Advisory Council member of the Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging or as an OLLI classmate.

But first, Paul was a student of piano at the New England Conservatory of Music (Boston), where he earned a Bachelor of Music in Education. He used that background to become an elementary music teacher at several Boston area schools. While teaching, he developed an interest in guidance counseling and earned a masters degree in that subject from Bridgewater College. But it was a career he decided not to pursue.

Funding for the arts in schools was then drastically cut, so Paul decided it was time to pursue his love of music in a different direction: radio deejay. "I had wanted to be a deejay since I was a kid, so I enrolled in the Northeast Broadcasting School," said Paul, "and then spent four years at WPLM in Plymouth, Mass." After that, Paul moved back to Worcester for four more years of broadcasting at WNEB. (To hear Paul's deep, clear voice is to know that broadcasting was a natural career path for him.)

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Following eight years of broadcasting, it was time for Paul to go back to school again. This time it was for a Master of Divinity from the Pope St. John XXXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass. He was ordained a Catholic priest and served several parishes in the Worcester area from 1995 to 2006, when he retired to Maine.

When asked about his wishes for OLLI's future on the occasion of its 20th anniversary, Paul commented that he would like "to see OLLI grow along with USM." He added, "I'm grateful that I found OLLI and am thankful to all the people I've met here."

As both an OLLI teacher and student, Paul Doherty's many life experiences are a rare gift to everyone he meets.

-Shelley Dunn

