

Rev. Francis E. O'Brien Jr.

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Rev. Francis E. O'Brien Jr. NATICK The Rev. Francis E. O'Brien Jr., 68, pastor of St. George Parish in Saxonville, died unexpectedly Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008, at his home in Natick. Born in Framingham, June 9, 1940, he was raised in Natick, the beloved son and only child of the late Francis E. and Gertrude (Fair) O'Brien. Father O'Brien attended Cardinal O'Connell Seminary in Jamaica Plain and St. John's Seminary in Brighton, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy. He later received a Master's degree in guidance and counseling from Framingham State College. On May 26, 1966, he was ordained at Cathedral of the Holy Cross by the late Richard Cardinal Cushing. Following his ordination, Father O'Brien was assigned as parochial vicar to Christ the King Parish in Hudson. His later assignments included St. Mary's Parish, West Quincy, St. Patrick's Parish, Watertown, where he served as chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, Watertown Council #155, and Immaculate Conception Parish, Everett. In 1988, he was named pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Medford, where he remained until being named pastor of St. George Church in Saxonville in 1995. He is survived by several cousins. A rite of reception will be held at St. George Church, Saxonville, Sunday, Sept. 21, at 2:30 p.m. Father O'Brien will lie in state at St. George Church until 7 p.m. A concelebrated funeral Mass will be offered at St. George Church Monday at 10 a.m. Principal celebrant will be His Eminence,

Sean Cardinal O'Malley, OFM, Cap. Archbishop of Boston. Burial will take place in St. Patrick Cemetery Natick. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made in Father O'Brien's name to St. Patrick's Manor, 863 Central St., Framingham, MA 01701. Arrangements are by John Everett & Sons Funeral Home (www.everettfuneral.com), 4 Park St. at Natick Common.

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31 Entries

Dear Frank, I was at your ordination in 1966 and you said the mass as I exchanged vows in 1993. I will always hold you close, you are dearly missed.

William Fandel

September 13, 2021

So sad when I heard of your passing. Frank, you are the kindest person I know. I am blessed to have had you in my life. Rest in Peace!

William Fandel

Friend

September 13, 2020

I miss you , and I'm blessed that you came into my life.

William Fandel

Friend

June 14, 2020

Deepest sympathies to all of Fr O'Brien's vast family of friends and admirers. I'll always remember him as someone who could be relied on to have the right words for times of, both, sorrow and joy. R.I.P.

Gregory Greene

October 6, 2008

We first met Fr. OB when he came a new priest to Christ King, Hudson.A living example of Christ to all. Our family loved him and respected him dearly. May he live eternaly in heaven with his wonderful Mom and Dad

the MacDonald family

October 4, 2008

Fran and I were classmates and alter boys at St. Patrick's in Natick. We served many masses together. I especially remember the kind words he sent me when he read that my parents passed away. I am saddened to learn of Fran's passing.

Don LaBorne

September 29, 2008

God bless you FOB! I have great memories of you from when I was a student at St. Pat's in the 80's.

Heather

September 25, 2008

The Garvey's of St. Francis of Assisi in Medford have such fond memories of Father O'Brien...he will be missed! Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Lydia Garvey

September 22, 2008

A week prior to Fr. O'Brien's passing I had the gift of attending a Mass said by him for the students of Marian High School. I did not know of Father O'Brien however, I was touched by his depth and exploration of the gospel. I was hoping to have further opportunity of hearing him at Mass from time to time and am saddened to know of his passing. He is with our Lord now, and I am thankful for His gift of Father to us.

Kathryn Peirce

September 22, 2008

Fr Francis (Franny) was as gentle and loving an individual that God has put on the earth. Having spent the elementary years at St Patricks in Natick & High School at Our Lady's (Class of '58) many fond memories rush through my mind. Franny I, as I know hundreds of others, will miss your tender & compassionate nature. There is no doubt that you are in a far greater place with our Lord & creator. Pray for us Fr Francis.

William Pansire

September 21, 2008

I, too am a long time friend, and can attest to the fact that his thorough humanity did not flag since I first met him 50 years ago.

Mike Kelly

September 21, 2008

I was very surprised to hear the passing of Fr. O'Brien. he was a very good man. He married us Sept. 11, 1971 at Christ the King in Hudson, MA. My prayers to out to his family.

Frank & Kathy Chiaravalloti

September 21, 2008

Father O'Brien was the pastor at St. Francis of Assisi in Medford when I was in that parish. He was a wonderful and caring priest, truly a gem. When my father died, he was so supportive to

my family and me. I also remember how devoted he was to his mother. May he rest in peace.

Mary Renda

September 20, 2008

Father O'Brien,

May you rest in peace. Thanks for all of your love and support for our family over the years. Thank you for making such a huge impact on our and many other peoples lives. You will be sadly missed..

Kathy (Gallagher)Robidoux

September 20, 2008

My children both loved Father O'Brien. Nice man, good sense of humor, wonderful priest. And, we were fortunate at Marian High School to have him say our opening Mass on Sept. 11. He will be missed and remembered for he touched the hearts of young and old, and many in between.

Sue Antonellis

September 20, 2008

Fr. Frank O'Brien was first of all a man of God. He was a very compassionate, kind and honest priest whom I had the pleasure of calling my friend and then work for at St. George's before I retired to Cape Cod. His Irish Christmas card to me last year still sits on my mantle -I will miss him very much. Mary Vacaro

Mary Vacaro

September 20, 2008

Fr. O'Brien was first my pastor at St. Pat's in Watertown when I was in high school there. He was always involved with student activities and interested in what we thought. He was then my pastor and boss at St. Francis in Medford. He honestly respected the faculty and parish members. He was one of the good guys and we have lost a wonderful human being.

Martha McCarthy

September 20, 2008

"Gentle Shepherd, Peaceful One"

Fr O'Brien, accepted all, no matter who you were.

He has left an indelible mark on the faith communities he served, and we are all SO blessed to

have had him in our lives!

I was privileged to have had him at as a religion teacher, guidance councilor, He married us, and baptized both my children. He lead by faith, and SO many of us followed!

Well done Faithful Servant, the world knows Christ's love better, because of you!

Judy Johanson

September 20, 2008

Father O'Brien, we are so very sorry to see you go. You were a wonderful priest who helped see us through our parents' illnesses. You always brought a smile to my Mother's face. Now, I know she is so happy to see you. And Dad is there with more jokes for you to laugh at. God Bless You.

Lori Gallagher Macklin

September 20, 2008

FATHER OBRIEN WAS A VERY COMPASSIONATE MAN. HE LOVED PEOPLE AND TALKING. I JUST HAD THE PRIVILAGE OF HIM BAPTISING MY SON IN AUGUST. HE WILL GREATLY BE MISSED IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY.

RICKY FINLAY

September 20, 2008

Franny was a great classmate at Our Lady's High School, he was also a great priest, who loved his church.

Paul Moscato

September 19, 2008

Fr. Frank was always there in the good times and the bad. To be a shoulder to lean on in the tragic times and to help us celebrate the many weddings and births and the good times. The St. Patrick of Watertown community was a better place because of him. God Bless you Frank .

Danny McCarthy

September 19, 2008

Everyone that met Fr. O'Brien will miss him terribly because once he touched your life you were his friend. Fr. O'Brien lived the true meaning of our faith, always with a smile; always willing to help and always making you feel welcome. He would be the person to do those special things when no one was looking – and not wanting to be thanked because it was just who he was. We experienced God's love through Fr. O'Brien, and we will continue to thank God

for having him in our lives even if it was only for a short time. Words cannot explain the emptiness we feel with him gone.

Roberta Pawluczonek

September 19, 2008

Father O'Brien is the finest, most Christlike member of the clergy I personally have ever met. He was humble, generous, unjudgemental, understanding, loving and forgiving. He cannot be replaced. He was one of a kind!

Elsa Aviza Framingham

Elsa Aviza

September 19, 2008

Father O'Brien it was an honor to have known you. Thank you for all that you did to support the Cherry Street Association. You will be greatly missed.

Sari Spickler

September 19, 2008

I am so shocked and saddened by Fr Frank's passing. He was an unbelievable example of the practice of compassion and unconditional love. I knew Fr Frank 12yrs and he saw me through so many trying and joyful times in my life. What a source of strength and love. He will be surely missed.

Maryellen Damiano-Capadais

September 19, 2008

May God Bless You And Your Family At This Time Of Sorrow. You Will Be Missed.

Pat Stone

September 19, 2008

Fr. O'Brien you will be deeply missed. You were an incredible person, priest, and especially a family friend. Your support to my family during some very difficult times meant the world to us. You helped all of us keep the faith! My prayers are with you. Say hello to my parents for me.

Diane Gallagher-Wadman

September 19, 2008

My family and I were deeply saddened at the loss of a truly great man. Fr. O'Brien was an inspiratinal part of our lives, there with us through joyous and trying times. We will sincerely miss him.

Lorelei Capuzzi

September 19, 2008

Father Frank loved life, a good joke, and most of all.....people. As a dear friend for 48 years, I miss him.

John O'Rourke

September 19, 2008

I am in shock! Franny was a person you could not find fault with. His compassion and love of his church was something he lived for. He had a much larger family than anyone I ever knew. The event only a couple of days ago was an example of his undying commitment. All those blue shirts...

People like Franny give us reason to believe again. Now that's ridiculous...there was no one like Franny.

I served his first mass when I was 12, 42 years ago.

You will never be alone. I love you!

Chris Perdue

September 19, 2008

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