

PAUL MCLAUGHLIN OBITUARY

McLAUGHLIN, Father Paul Age 91, died at his home in La Quinta, CA on Tuesday, November 10, 2021 after a period of failing health. He was born in South Boston, the only child of the late Daniel J. and Mary G. (Murphy) McLaughlin.

He attended Gate of Heaven High School class of 1947 and was

headed for Boston College to study history. At the last minute, however, he decided to heed the call to serve as a priest and instead went to Saint John's Seminary. He was ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of Boston 66 years ago by Cardinal Cushing on February 2, 1955.

He served at Saint Ann's Church in Peabody for a year and

was then assigned to assist at Christ the King Church in Richland, WA until 1958. From 1958 - 1961, Fr. McLaughlin served at Saint Joseph's in White Salmon, WA. In the early 1960's, he came back to Massachusetts to St. Agnes Church in Arlington. Here, he developed a choir (Troubadours) that went on to receive regional honors in choir competitions. He

also headed up a debate team which was equally successful. His next assignment was at Saint John's Church in Swampscott until 1972, after which he served as chaplain at Regis College from 1972 to 1977. He then became pastor at St. Peter's Church in Lowell.

In 1985, Fr. McLaughlin received his last assignment as

pastor of the Immaculate Conception Church serving for 16 years, longer than at any other parish, until his retirement in 2001. During his tenure there, he led a rejuvenation of the parish school working with the principal to oversee a 3x increase in enrollment and the renovation of several school properties. His contribution to the parish was not only in

growing and
developing the school,
but also in parish life
as a whole. He
cultivated an
ecumenical spirit in
Marlborough and
enjoyed a working
relationship with
clergy of other faiths
in the city.

In his early years as a
priest, Fr. McLaughlin
was active in Pax
Christi, the
International Peace
Organization. His

homilies frequently spoke of social injustices and compared today's social and ethical problems to those of Christ's era and looked to the Holy Scriptures for solutions. He was also an avid piano player and loved to perform for parishioners and friends.

After retirement in 2001, Fr. McLaughlin moved to Indian Wells

in the desert of
California where he
used to say "The West
is Best" and where the
biggest decision to be
made was where to go
to dinner with new
friends. Although on
the West Coast, he
was always faithful to
HIS Boston Red Sox.

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