

Rev. Paul L. Gregoire





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The Rev. Paul L. Gregoire, age 93, a retired Roman Catholic priest, passed away Dec. 29, 2022 at Mount Carmel Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, where he had lived for four years.

He was born at Wentworth-Douglass Hospital in Dover on March 28, 1929, to Joseph A. Gregoire and Regina M. (Crateau) Gregoire. He celebrated 50 years as an ordained priest on June 12, 2005, at Saint Charles Borromeo Church in Dover, his family's church.

Father Paul, as he was known to friends and family, was proud of his French-Canadian heritage. Raised in an era when French was spoken in the home and in the classroom, he celebrated Mass in French until 1995 and could still turn a phrase in his later years.

He attended St. Charles Grammar School in Dover, graduating in 1943, and then Assumption Preparatory School and Assumption College in Worcester, Mass. He prepared for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary and the University of Baltimore, graduating in 1949. He was ordained on June 4, 1955, at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Manchester and celebrated his first Mass at Saint Charles in Dover the next day. He earned a license in sacred theology from Notre Dame University in 1962.

He became a member of the Society of St. Sulpice on May 5, 1953, and taught at seminaries in Baltimore, California, and Seattle. He returned to the Diocese of Manchester in 1977 and was assigned as associate pastor of Saint Anne Parish in Berlin. In July 1978, he was assigned as associate pastor of Saint Joseph Cathedral in Manchester. He served as pastor of Saint Denis Parish in Hanover and Saint John the Baptist Parish in Manchester, and as administrator of Saint Patrick Parish, Manchester.

Father Paul loved a good game of cribbage and was a lifelong fan of the Boston Red Sox. He had a keen sense of humor and was always quick with a joke.

In 1993, he returned to Saint Charles, the parish he considered home. According to a 2005 article in the New Hampshire Union Leader, he said, "St. Charles was a wonderful return. Coming back to my roots and the community that nurtured my vocation was

perhaps one of the greatest satisfactions of my life.”

He served Saint Charles for 13 years before retiring from active ministry in 2006. He lived in Manchester, residing at the Bishop Peterson Residence for retired priests until his health declined and he moved to Mount Carmel. The family is grateful to the staff of Mount Carmel for their dedication and supportive care of Father Paul in his last years.

Father Paul was preceded in death by his parents, his sisters Irene Hardy, Anita Galanes and Reina Gregoire, his brother, Albert Gregoire, and nephews Robert and Thomas Hardy. He is survived by nephews and nieces: James Gregoire of Meredith; Timothy Gregoire of Guilford, CT; Michelle Gregoire of Westbrook, ME; Skip Galanes of Phoenixville, PA; Paul Galanes of Dexter, MI, and Reina Galanes of Alameda, CA.

Services will be held on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023, at Saint Martin Church in Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish, at 120 Maple Street (off West High Street) in Somersworth. Father Paul will lie in repose in the church from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. The Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci, Bishop of Manchester, will preside at a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 a.m. The Rite of Committal will take place after Mass at Saint Charles Cemetery, Old Rochester Road, Dover. Tasker Funeral Home, Dover, is in charge of arrangements.

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Service Information

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish - St. Martin Church 120 Maple St. Somersworth NH 03878

January 05, 2023 at 11:00 AM