

Rev. John F. O'Brien

Rev. John F. O'Brien, age 66, a priest of the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington, died on Tuesday, January 7, 2003 of an apparent heart attack while vacationing in Ventnor, NJ.



Father O'Brien was born November 15, 1936 in the Bronx, NY, son of the late John J. and Mary (O'Shea) O'Brien. He received his early education at St. Luke's School and the Bronx and Rice High School in Manhattan, NY. He attended college at St. John's University in Long Island, NY and studied for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, MD. Father was ordained to the priesthood May 26, 1962 at St. Peter Cathedral in Wilmington by Bishop Michael W. Hyle.

Father was first assigned to St. Paul Church in Wilmington from 1962-64. He also served as associate pastor to St. Helena Church in Bellefonte, Wilmington from 1964-69 and St. Ann in Wilmington from 1969-72. Father served as pastor of Our Lady of Fatima in New Castle from 1972-82 and St. Elizabeth in Wilmington from 1982-97, and in 1997 he was assigned to St. Mary Magdalen Church in Wilmington, where he served until his death. Father O'Brien also served as diocesan director of the Catholic Youth Organization, director of Young Catholic Adults from 1968-73, Dean of the New Castle, City of Wilmington and Brandywine Hundred Deaneries, Secretary to the Priests' Council, a member of the diocesan Pastoral Council and coordinator of deaneries for the Diocese of Wilmington.

Father is survived by his sister, Margaret McDonald of Rockaway, NY; and his brother, Michael J. O'Brien of Long Island, NY.

A concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Mary Magdalen Church, Concord Pike & Sharpley Rd., Wilmington on Monday morning, January 13 at 11 am. A viewing will take place at the church on Sunday, January 12 from 2-7 pm with a wake service at 7 pm and again on Monday morning, January 13 from 9-10:30 am. Interment will be in All Saints Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the seminary fund of the Diocese of Wilmington, PO Box 2030, Wilmington, DE 19899.

Arrangements by
DOHERTY FUNERAL HOME
www.dohertyfh.com