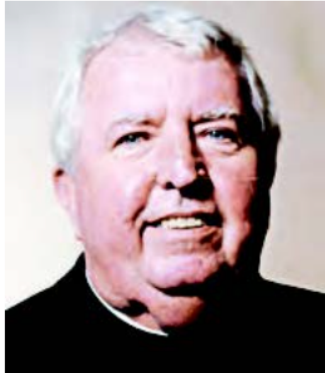


OBITUARIES

Obituaries, Week of Feb. 4, 2023

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Father Coleman J. Costello, a retired priest of the Diocese of Brooklyn, was born Sept. 28, 1941, was ordained to the priesthood on May 27, 1967, and died Sat. Jan. 21, at age 81.

Born in Brooklyn, Coleman Costello was raised in St. Adalbert's parish in Queens, attended high school at LaSalle Military Academy on Long Island, and studied at St. Vincent's Seminary in Latrobe, Va. and St. John's University in Queens.

During the course of his priestly career, Father Costello served the Diocese of Brooklyn as Parochial Vicar for St. Saviour (Brooklyn), St. Francis de Sales (Belle Harbor), St. Anthony of Padua (Brooklyn), St. Vincent de Paul (Brooklyn) and St. Andrew Avellino (Brooklyn). He also served as part-time chaplain of Holy Cross High School (Flushing).

In the early 1970s, Father Costello transitioned from a role as a parish priest to a ministry working with young people struggling with drug and alcohol problems.

That included establishing a not-for-profit referral agency called The Outreach Project.

"Father Costello was very sensitive to the needs of people who were on the fringes of society," said Msgr. John Bracken, who became good friends with Father Costello when both served as priests at St. Francis de Sales in the late 1960s.

"He was a missionary, touching the lives of the people who needed to know the most that God loved them," he added

Msgr. Bracken added that Father Costello was a "warm, welcoming priest with a truly outgoing personality who always put smiles on the faces of those he came in contact with."

He spent his later years at the Bishop Mugavero Residence for Retired Priests in Douglaston, Queens.

A funeral Mass for Father Costello was celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan at Immaculate Conception Center, Douglaston, New York, on Jan. 25, followed by interment at St. John Cemetery, Middle Village, New York.