Thomas Trepanier Obituary

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Lincoln – Reverend Thomas J. Trepanier, 64 Pastor of St. Ambrose Church, Albion died Wednesday at the rectory. Born in Woonsocket a son of the late Leo J. and Veronica (Kennedy) Trepanier.

He attended public schools and Mount St. Charles Academy, Woonsocket and Boston University College of Music, Boston, Ma. He completed studies for the priesthood at Our Lady of Providence Seminary, Warwick Neck, and at St. Paul University Seminary, Ottawa, Canada. He was ordained a priest on May 23, 1964 at the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul by Bishop Bernard M. Kelly.

Fr. Trepanier's first assignment was at St. Charles Parish (1964-1965) as assistant pastor, then at St. Aloysius Church (1965-1970), and Holy Family Church (1970-1975) all in Woonsocket. Between 1973-1978 he made extended post graduate Theological and Biblical studies at Harvard Divinity School, at the University of Louvain, Beligum, Boston Theological Institute, and Andover – Newton Theological School. In 1977 to 1978 he was also administrator pro tem in two parishes in West Warwick – namely, Our Lady of Good Counsel and Christ the King.

In June 1978 Fr. Trepanier was appointed Director of the Priestly Formation Program at Our Lady of Providence Seminary, Warwick Neck, and remained there until June 1982 when he became chaplain in the United States Army. In September 1989 he was appointed pastor of Holy Name Church, Providence. As an accomplished pianist, Fr. Trepanier gave several piano recitals for the benefit of Holy Name Church. In the fall of 1995 he made Sabbatical studies at Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. In June 1997 he was transferred to St. Ambrose Church, Albion, as pastor and became a chaplain at Bryant College in Smithfield. In addition, in February 1998 he was appointed Diocesan Director of the Office of Catholic-Jewish Relations. For many years Fr. Trepanier was also a columnist for the Providence Visitor.

Father leaves a brother, Joseph Trepanier of North Smithfield, and two sisters, Mary Gonsalves of Providence and Joanne Gonsalves of Westerly. He also leaves several nephews.

A concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday at 10 am in St. Ambrose Church, 191 School Street, Albion. Burial will be in St. Ambrose Cemetery. Arrangements by Bellows-Falso Funeral Chapel, Lincoln.