



Rev John F. Andrews

Father Andrews grew up in Dighton, but since there was no parish in the town back then, he was a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Taunton. “Our pastor, Father Francis McKeon and the curate, Father Francis Connors were two priests who were very instrumental in my decision to become a priest,” he said. “They led the way and my family was very supportive.”

A graduate of Msgr. Coyle High School in Taunton, he entered Cardinal O’Connell Seminary in 1954, continued his studies at St. John’s Seminary in Brighton, MA and was ordained on February 2, 1962 by Bishop James L. Connolly at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Fall River.

Following his 1962 ordination, Father Andrews was first assigned to St. Joseph’s Parish in Fall River, beginning a ministry that took him all across the Diocese of Fall River, most of that on Cape Cod where he spent 34 years.

Father Andrews has the rare distinction of having been responsible for building two new church buildings — St. Joan of Arc in Orleans, which was dedicated in 1984, and Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Wellfleet, dedicated in 2009.

He served at SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Fall River, St. Margaret’s in Buzzards Bay, and St. Francis Xavier Parish in Hyannis. Other pastoral assignments included St. Bernard’s in Assonet, St. Dominic’s in Swansea, and St. Patrick’s in Fall River.

Diocesan appointments included serving as chaplain of the Fall River and Cape Cod Boy Scouts and assisting on the Bishop’s Charity Ball and the Catholic Charities Appeal.

One of his favorite ministries was his involvement with the ECHO retreat program for nearly 50 years. In a 2011 interview with *The Anchor*, he said of the program, “It’s designed for high school juniors and seniors. I got involved with it while I was assigned at St. Margaret’s Parish in Buzzards Bay. It was just a super, fantastic program. It was God’s grace coming through my priesthood into other people and me bringing them through my priesthood to God. Oh, I loved it.”

That sums up his 50 years as well. “The priesthood was everything I hoped for and more,” he said. “I think I did some good. And I had a good time.”