



Rev. Richard J. Butler

Fr. Butler was born and raised in West Roxbury, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew P. Butler. He graduated from Boston Latin School, and attended Holy Cross College and Cardinal O'Connell Seminary prior to entering St. John's Seminary where he received his A.B. and M.Div. degrees. He later earned a M.A. degree from Catholic University and a D.Min. degree from Boston University.

He was ordained with his brother, Rev. Robert J. Butler, on February 2, 1962 by Richard Cardinal Cushing, and offered his first Mass on Monday, February 5, at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Belmont where his family had moved while he was in the Seminary.

His first assignment after ordination was to St. Mary Parish in Foxboro (1962-66). He later served at Blessed Sacrament, Cambridge (1966-70) and at Our Lady of Sorrows, Sharon (1970-75).

From 1975 to 1978, he became Director of the Center for Pastoral Liturgy at Catholic University in Washington, DC.

In 1978, he served as chaplain at Archbishop Williams High School in Braintree. He also served in-residence at Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in South Boston and was parochial vicar at Holy Family Parish in Rockland (1981-85).

Fr. Butler has served as pastor of five parishes:

- Immaculate Conception, North Cambridge; appointed on March 13, 1985
- Sacred Heart, Lexington; appointed on February 15, 1989
- St. Lawrence, Brookline; appointed administrator on November 3, 1994
- St. Timothy, Norwood; appointed on March 13, 1996
- St. Isidore, Stow; appointed on October 1, 1999

In 1994, he was appointed as Director of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese of Boston, a position he held until 1996.

As an adjunct faculty member over the years, he occasionally taught at Stonehill College, Emmanuel College and Merrimack College.

A liturgical scholar, Fr. Butler was

- Executive Secretary of the Boston Liturgical Commission (1970-75)
- Columnist for The Pilot (1972-96)
- Chairman of the Liturgical Commission (1989-92)
- Founding member of the North American Academy of Liturgy
- Member of Societas Liturgica

He served on the Board of Directors at the

- Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee (1967-70)
- National Liturgical Conference (1967-70)
- Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (1985-90)
- Somerville Cambridge Elder Services (1985-89)
- Hospice St. Joseph, Haiti (2002-08)

Fr. Butler was granted senior priest/retirement status on June 30, 2006, at which time he became resident at St. Mary, Brookline (2006-11); he briefly served as administrator at Incarnation Parish, Melrose (2010).

He celebrated his golden jubilee with his brother at a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. John Chrysostom Church in West Roxbury on February 5, 2012.

He resided at Regina Cleri where he passed away on September 30, 2012.