



Rev Leonard M. Mullaney

Father Mullaney was born on October 7, 1936 in Fall River, Massachusetts. He was one of four children of Joseph E. Mullaney and retired Judge Beatrice Hancock Mullaney.

Upon graduation from Msgr. Coyle High School in Taunton where he was taught by the Holy Cross Brothers who “made a great impression on him to pursue a priestly vocation”, he entered Cardinal O’Connell Minor Seminary in 1954. He 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.

Father Mullaney’s first assignment was at St. Patrick’s Parish in Wareham. While there, he also was Priest-in-Charge at St. Rita’s in Marion for several months. It was there he developed an affinity for riding motorcycles. In an interview with *The Anchor* he said, “I began riding a motorcycle there. The young men would ride through the cranberry bogs and so I began to join them.”

Besides cycling, he took a liking to quahogging, which he enjoyed with his extended family – including dozens of active nephews and nieces.

From 1972 to 1974 he was Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in New Bedford, then Parochial Vicar at Immaculate Conception in Taunton from 1974 to 1978 when he was named Pastor at St. Bernard’s in Assonet. He was appointed Pastor at St. Anthony’s in East Falmouth in June 1986, and became Pastor of St. Anthony’s in Mattapoisett in June 1999 where he retired in 2009.

He has also served as an advocate and a pro-synodal judge in the diocesan Tribunal, and was Director of Cathedral Camp in East Freetown from 1972 to 1983.

“I know I made a good choice in becoming a priest,” he said. “I’ve put my life to good use as a priest.”

A resident at Catholic Memorial Home in Fall River since 2009, Father Mullaney passed away on December 10, 2014.