



Rev. John J. Nichols

Father Nichols was born on September 29, 1936, the son of Charles T. and Alice (McMahon) Nichols. He grew up in Maine and attended St. Joseph Grammar School and Cheverus High School in Portland, Maine from which he received an Honorary Diploma (Class of 1954) before his family relocated to Milton, MA (24 Garfield Road) where he transferred to Boston College High School graduating with the class of 1954. He was ordained on February 2, 1962 by Richard Cardinal Cushing. He offered his first Mass on February 4 at St. Mary of the Hills Church in Milton.

His assignments have included:

St. Lawrence, Brookline; 1962-1964
Sacred Hearts, Malden; 1964-1966
Blessed Sacrament, Saugus; 1966-1969
St. Joseph, Kingston; 1969-1976
St. Thecla, Pembroke; 1976-1977
St. Ann, Wayland; 1977-1980
St. Linus, Natick; 1980-1982
Our Lady of the Presentation, Brighton; 1982-1988

On March 15, 1988, he was appointed the fifth and last Pastor of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish in Watertown. The parish was suppressed on July 4, 1999.

On November 15, 1999, he was appointed the fourth pastor of St. Albert the Great Parish in Weymouth. He was granted senior priest/retirement status on March 1, 2002.

After retiring, he accepted the offer of the Archdiocese of the Military Services to serve as a contract chaplain for sixteen hours a week at the West Roxbury VA Hospital. He has been privileged over the past sixteen years to administer the Sacrament of the Sick to just over 20,250 veterans of our country during his “retirement” in service at the West Roxbury VA Hospital where he has served as Chaplain.

Fr. Nichols has a brother a priest, Rev. Henry P. Nichols, ordained in May, 1970 and a sister in religious life, Sister Peggy Nichols, CSJ. His other brother and sister were called to the vocation of marriage.

For the past fifty-one years Father Nichols has enjoyed a never-ending immersion in all things Irish: history, culture, travel, literature, church and people. Both of his maternal grand-parents came to Massachusetts from Co. Clare in Ireland and most of his paternal great-grandparents came from Co. Cavan in Ireland to America. He is proud to hold dual citizenship in both America and in Ireland.

After living for the past sixteen years on Goat Island in Newport, Rhode Island and serving on the Executive Committee of the Newport Music Festival, he will leave his residence “by the side of the sea” to return to Boston shortly after Easter and take up residence at Regina Cleri where he looks forward to real retirement in the future and happy days in the company of his brother Priests in that Residence provided for them through the kindness of Cardinal Cushing who ordained them fifty-six years ago!

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