

Rev. James P. O'Brien

Father O'Brien grew up in Arlington, the son of James P. and Catherine (Finlan) O'Brien. He came from a family of two sons. He was a 1953 graduate of Matignon High School in Cambridge.

He prepared for the priesthood at St. Philip Neri School for Delayed Vocations and St. John Seminary. He was ordained on February 2, 1962 at the Cathedral by Cardinal Cushing. He offered his first Mass on February 11 at St. Agnes Church in Arlington.

His assignments included:

Our Lady of the Assumption, Lynnfield; 1962-1963

St. Margaret, Dorchester; 1963-1970

In 1967, he became a faithful friar of the Bishop Cheverus General Assembly and was chaplain to the Knights of Columbus, council no. 116.

In 1970, he was appointed secretary of the Metropolitan Tribunal and thereafter, served as technical assistant at St. Anthony Parish in Allston and St. Peter's in Cambridge.

In May of 1975, he completed a Masters degree in parish administration at Catholic University of America.

He died on November 28, 1975 at St. Elizabeth Hospital. He was 41. Cardinal Medeiros presided at his funeral Mass on Tuesday, December 2. The eulogy was pronounced by his classmate, Rev. John E. Farrell. He was laid to rest at St. Paul Cemetery in Arlington.