

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 4, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185

MANCHESTER PARISH UNDERGOING MAJOR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

(Manchester) “Hola, padre!” shouts a worker from scaffolding that runs along the church’s southern eave.

“Como estas,” says Fr. Joseph Gurdak, O.F.M. Cap., pastor of St. Anne-St. Augustin Parish. He is reviewing the exterior refurbishments to the church’s copper trim, slate roof, and brick façade that have gone on since October. Last spring, St. Anne-St. Augustin launched a \$235,000 capital campaign to keep the church in good condition for decades to come. It has so far raised all but \$50,000 of the funding it needs. Though work has now paused until the snows thaw in the spring, the parish is still receiving contributions.

“Some of the men working here are parishioners as well,” says Fr. Joe. “I tell them to take care. This is their church they’re restoring.”

Built in 1871, St. Augustine Church is the oldest French Canadian Catholic community in New Hampshire, though now it has grown to embrace a much broader number of cultures. The parish ministers French, English, Spanish, and Vietnamese speakers. Some parishioners were born in Africa, some grew up just down the street. When the capital campaign was first launched earlier this spring, Fr. Joe needed to convince each community of the need. “It had to be done,” he says. “It was now or the church would have to go. This gives our parish a lift in spirit. If you have a nice church, it lifts you up also.”

The renovations taking place now are the first major improvements made to the church since the 19th century. They include replacing tons of copper, slate, grouting, and brick. The church’s iconic copper tower is expected to be refurbished this spring with bronze.

“Some folks said we should just take the copper off the tower and leave it bare, but that would have ruined the original architecture,” says Fr. Joe.

The church is a multi-lingual center for many Manchester residents. Alcoholics Anonymous hosts regular meetings in English and Spanish. The Sisters of Mercy teach English as a Second Language courses. There is also a multi-lingual after school program where students can get a head start on homework.

“There’s always someone using the church, despite the repairs” says Fr. Joe. “Sometimes, even during Mass, we’ll hear the bang bang of hammers on the roof. I just think of how they’re ensuring a new generation gets to continue worshiping here.”

Those interested in supporting the renewal effort should contact Fr. Joseph Gurdak at 603-623-8809.

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The Diocese of Manchester is the Roman Catholic Church of New Hampshire, serving the needs of more than 300,000 Catholics. For more information, please visit www.catholicnh.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 11, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185

PARISHIONERS GIVE GENEROUSLY TO CLERGY RETIREMENT FUND

(MANCHESTER, NH) Bishop John B. McCormack and the lay and clergy trustees of the diocesan Priest Retirement Trust Fund are pleased to announce that the second annual collection in the Diocese of Manchester to support diocesan retired priests has raised \$293,284 since it was held in parishes the weekend of September 26, 2009. This compares to \$304,681 raised through the same period a year ago. Both years' collections are among the most successful in diocesan history.

The money collected will be used exclusively to help fund retirement stipends and benefits for priests. Currently, 67 retired priests are supported by the trust fund. Each retired diocesan priest receives a monthly stipend as well as Medicare supplemental insurance and other insurance benefits. The trust fund is also funded by an assessment to each parish in the diocese.

Bishop McCormack said, "Given the state of our local economy, and the fact that there are many parishioners unemployed or underemployed, the success of this year's collection speaks loudly to the deep giving spirit of New Hampshire Catholics. The clergy and laity continue to offer strong support for our beloved retired priests. I am truly grateful."

Most priests retire between the ages of 70 to 75. However, many continue to assist pastors in ministering to the pastoral and spiritual needs of parishioners, even after retirement.

This annual diocesan collection was launched to respond to the increasing challenges placed upon the existing retirement benefit program. In 2007, Bishop McCormack accepted the unanimous recommendation of the diocesan Finance and Pastoral Councils, as well as that of the Presbyteral Council, to segregate the funds previously collected through assessments and gifts to support retired priests, into the diocesan Priests Retirement Trust Fund. The Trust Fund is administered by Bishop McCormack and a group of laity and priests who serves as trustees. Persons interested in making a donation to the diocesan Priest Retirement Trust Fund may contact Patrick McGee at pmcgee@rcbm.org or (603) 669-3100.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 12, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185

STATEMENT REGARDING CHARGES AGAINST SCHOOL EMPLOYEE

(MANCHESTER, NH) The Superintendent of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Manchester, Mary Moran, today released the following statement regarding a criminal charge brought against a former employee of St. Joseph Regional School in Salem, NH.

On January 19, 2009, in accordance with diocesan policy, the principal of St. Joseph Regional Catholic School in Salem, notified the Superintendent of Schools about discrepancies in the school's financial records. After a preliminary review by the Diocese, the bookkeeper of the school, Elizabeth Kishbaugh, was placed on an administrative leave of absence. Ms. Kishbaugh's employment was then terminated on January 26, 2009, and a report was made to the New Hampshire Attorney General's office.

The Diocese of Manchester has cooperated fully with civil authorities throughout the investigation.

On January 5, 2010, the Attorney General's office informed church officials that its investigation was complete and that the former employee of St. Joseph Regional School, Ms. Kishbaugh, has been charged with a criminal offense. The Diocese will continue to cooperate fully with civil authorities in this matter.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 13, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185

BISHOP McCORMACK CALLS FOR SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE OF HAITI

(MANCHESTER, NH) Bishop John B. McCormack is calling for New Hampshire parishes to hold a special collection on January 23-24, 2010 to support Haiti following yesterday's earthquake.

"This earthquake is devastating to the people of Haiti," said Bishop McCormack. "I know our first reaction is, 'How can we help?' We offer our prayers and our material support. Although we are still unsure of the extent of the loss of human life following this disaster in Haiti, we do know the damage is great and our support is needed. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and was still recovering from a previous earthquake last year. This disaster could not have happened at a worse time. It is our responsibility, as people of faith, to offer whatever aid we can to our brothers and sisters in need. As Catholics we are further saddened to learn of the death of Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot. He and many other members of the Church have been killed and injured. I ask for special prayers for them and their families."

The special free will collection will benefit the efforts of the Catholic Church's international disaster relief program, Catholic Relief Services. All monies collected will be sent to CRS. By visiting www.crs.org, supporters can learn how to help support CRS's ongoing work in Haiti.

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Announcement: Msgr. Francis L. Curran Called to His Rest

On January 19, 2010, Reverend Monsignor Francis L. Curran was called to his rest and to the glory of the Resurrection promised by the Lord. He was 100 years old.

Monsignor Curran was born on May 31, 1909 in Norwood, Massachusetts and was ordained a priest on April 2, 1938 by the Most Reverend John B. Peterson, fourth Bishop of Manchester, at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Manchester. Monsignor Curran studied at Boston College, and then he completed his ecclesiastical studies at Saint Mary Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland.

Monsignor Curran was assigned as associate pastor of Saint Kieran Parish in Berlin in 1938 and then as associate pastor of Saint Michael Parish in Exeter in November, 1942. From 1948-1955, Monsignor Curran served as a teacher of Industrial Relations & Collective Bargaining at Saint Anselm College, Manchester. During this period of time he resided at Saint Joseph Cathedral offering assistance to the pastor.

In November, 1955, Bishop Brady appointed Monsignor Curran as pastor of Saint Margaret Mary Parish in Keene. In June 1963, Bishop Primeau appointed Monsignor Curran pastor of Our Lady of the Lakes Parish in Lakeport and in August 1967 as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Portsmouth. In June 1975, Bishop Gendron appointed Monsignor Curran as pastor of Saint Pius X Parish in Manchester where he served until his retirement in 1988.

Additional ministry during his lifetime included studies at Catholic University, Washington, DC and Boston College, Boston, MA. He served as Civilian Conservation Corps Contract Chaplain; Civil Defense Religious Committee; Diocesan Director of the Labor Institute (Exeter); Chairman of the General Arbitration Board of General Transport Industry for the State of New Hampshire; Assistant Director of New Hampshire Catholic Charities and Diocesan Chaplain of the Catholic Daughters of America. Monsignor Curran received the Prelate of Honor in May of 1989.

On Sunday, January 24, 2010, a wake will be held at Durning, Bykowski & Young Funeral Home, 285 Manchester Street, Manchester, New Hampshire from 2:00-4:00 p.m. On Monday, January 25, 2010 Monsignor Curran will lie in state in Saint Pius X Church from 9:00-9:45 a.m. The Most Reverend John B. McCormack, Bishop of Manchester, will preside at a Mass of Christian Burial at Saint Pius X Parish at 10:00 a.m. The Rite of Committal will be celebrated immediately after the Mass at Saint Joseph Cemetery in Bedford, New Hampshire. The Durning, Bykowski & Young Funeral Home at 285 Manchester Street in Manchester, New Hampshire has care of the arrangements.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 25, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185

DEATH PENALTY OPPONENT TO SPEAK TO CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

Juan Melendez, death penalty opponent and exonerated death row inmate, will be speaking to Catholic school students and parishioners during a visit to New Hampshire as part of a diocesan initiative to educate Catholics on the immorality of the death penalty.

Mr. Melendez was on death row in Florida for almost 18 years before he was exonerated in 2002. He is one of 119 former death row inmates who have been exonerated because of innocence since 1973.

Juan Melendez will be speaking at Trinity High School on Thursday, February 4, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. Students studying social justice from Trinity, Bishop Brady High School in Concord, St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Derry, and Mount Royal Academy in Sunapee will be in attendance. Mr. Melendez will speak at Trinity for about 50 minutes, followed by 15-20 minutes for questions and answers. In his talk with students he is expected to share his personal story of human resilience, courage, faith, and hope, and also encourage students to become involved as advocates for a society that ensures justice for all people.

Mr. Melendez is also scheduled to speak at St. Theresa Parish in Henniker on Friday, February 5, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Melendez will also appear at area colleges and before the Death Penalty Study Commission of New Hampshire State Legislature, which is reviewing current state capital punishment law.

Media interested in speaking with Juan Melendez on his story or on the death penalty should contact Arnie Alpert at 224-2407 or aalpert@afsc.org.

For more information about Catholic teaching and upcoming parish programs on the death penalty, visit www.catholicnh.org/public-issues

For more information on Juan Melendez, visit <http://www.voicesunited4justice.com/index.htm>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 8, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185

NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLICS GIVE MORE THAN \$260,000 IN HAITI AID

Catholics throughout New Hampshire have donated \$264,873 to support Catholic Relief Services' continuing work in Haiti.

Diocesan parishes took a second collection on January 23-24, 2010, eleven days after the earthquake struck the country. All contributions are being sent directly to Catholic Relief Services (CRS), which continues to provide emergency medical aid, food and clean water for Haitians affected by the earthquake. To date, CRS has provided food to more than 100,000 people in Port-au-Prince, many of whom are gathered at the city's largest camp run by CRS.

Bishop McCormack said, "I am so deeply moved by this tremendous outpouring of care from New Hampshire Catholics for the people of Haiti. Not only am I moved but I am also grateful. Yet the need remains, and the victims of this tragedy continue to rely on our prayers and our generosity."

In addition to the special collection held in parishes, many Catholic schools also held collections of their own, totaling in the tens-of-thousands of dollars.

Some New Hampshire Parishes were particularly generous in giving for Haiti.

Nashua's Parish of the Resurrection collected more than \$20,000, with much of the funds raised in a separate collection to benefit a sister parish, Our Lady of Grace in Hinche, Haiti.

Other parishes that were particularly generous in their giving to CRS were:

Immaculate Conception in Nashua	\$22,000
St Charles in Meredith	\$16,544
St Matthew in Windham	\$16,422
Corpus Christi in Portsmouth	\$15,788

For more information and updates on CRS's activities in Haiti, visit www.crs.org.

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Announcement: Msgr. Thomas J. Hannigan Called to His Rest

On February 6, 2010, the Reverend Monsignor Thomas J. Hannigan was called to his rest and to the glory of the Resurrection promised by the Lord. He was 85 years old.

Monsignor Hannigan was born on July 20, 1924 in Concord, New Hampshire and was ordained a priest on June 11, 1949 by the Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady, D.D, fifth Bishop of Manchester, at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Manchester. Monsignor Hannigan studied at Saint Anselm College, Manchester; Saint Paul's Seminary of the University of Ottawa, P.Q., Canada; then he completed his ecclesiastical studies at the Grand Seminary, Montreal, P.Q., Canada.

Monsignor Hannigan was assigned as associate pastor of Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish in Derry in June, 1949 and then as associate pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Lebanon in February, 1961. In September, 1963, Monsignor Hannigan was assigned as associate pastor of Saint Anne Parish in Manchester while also serving as Diocesan Assistant Director of the Holy Name Society.

In June of 1966, Bishop Primeau appointed Monsignor Hannigan pastor of Saint Denis Parish in Hanover. In April 1971 Bishop Gendron appointed Monsignor Hannigan pastor of Saint Catherine Parish in Manchester where he served until his retirement in March of 2007.

During his retirement, Monsignor Hannigan remained involved in parish ministry as his health permitted and he continued to live at Saint Catherine Parish. Monsignor Hannigan received the Prelate of Honor in December of 1970; served as Dean of the Manchester East Deanery for several terms, was a Diocesan Consultor, Member of the Council of Priests and served on many other diocesan committees and boards.

On Wednesday, February 10, 2010, the wake will be held from Saint Catherine of Siena Church, 207 Hemlock Street, Manchester, NH, beginning with the Rite of Reception of the Body at 1:00 p.m. Monsignor Hannigan will lie in state in the church until 7:00 p.m., concluding with Solemn Vespers. On Thursday morning, Monsignor Hannigan will lie in the state in the church from 8:30-9:45 a.m. The Most Reverend Francis J. Christian, Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester, will preside at a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. Following the Mass, there will be a reception in the Church Hall. After the reception, the Rite of Committal will be celebrated that afternoon at Calvary Cemetery, 207 N. State Street, Concord, New Hampshire. The Lambert Funeral Home at 1799 Elm Street in Manchester, New Hampshire has care of the arrangements.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 23, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185

**BISHOP McCORMACK TO HOST DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO
ROME FOR CANONIZATION OF BROTHER ANDRE BESSETTE**

Bishop John B. McCormack is inviting New Hampshire Catholics to join him on a pilgrimage to Rome and other Italian holy sites from October 15-25 in celebration of the canonization of Blessed Brother André Bessette.

Pope Benedict XVI recently announced that Blessed Brother André will be formally declared a saint at a ceremony in Saint Peter's Square on October 17, 2010.

The pilgrimage will be organized by Canterbury Tours of Bedford, NH. It will also include visits to other Italian holy sites in Rome, Assisi, and Siena.

Rooted in his devotion to St. Joseph, and motivated by his compassion, Brother André Bessette dedicated his life to comforting those in greatest need. During his lifetime he became popularly known for encouraging the sick and infirm to pray to St. Joseph to intervene on their behalf. Many claimed they were cured thanks to these prayers. Brother André died in 1937, at the age of 91.

Many New Hampshire Catholics, particularly those of French Canadian descent have taken pilgrimages to Saint Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, a shrine built under the guidance of Brother André beginning in 1904 and continuing after his death until its completion in 1967. Today, it is the most popular shrine to St. Joseph in the world.

Bishop McCormack said, "Brother André was a holy man whose love of God and devotion to St. Joseph, our own diocese's patron saint, continues to be an inspiration to millions of people. In reflecting on him, Pope John Paul II said, 'In each age the Holy Spirit raises up such humble witnesses of the Gospel.' Brother André was a man of his age, who carried forward Christ's message of love."

Those interested in attending the pilgrimage may contact Canterbury Tours at (800) 653-0017 or Fr. Jason Jalbert at (603) 669-3100 or jjalbert@rcbm.org.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 3, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185

**DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER LAUNCHES NEW
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

The Diocese of Manchester has launched a new online calendar at www.catholicnh.org that gives New Hampshire's Catholics an opportunity to learn about events taking place throughout the diocese and provides parishes, schools, and institutions a common forum to promote their activities to a statewide audience.

The new calendar was created in response to great demand from Catholic parishes and schools to promote their activities to a wider audience, and is intended to promote community among the New Hampshire faithful.

Events are color-coded by type, including Worship events such as special Masses, Faith Formation events, and Socials. Any Catholic organization can submit an event for approval by visiting www.catholicnh.org and clicking on "Calendar."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 17, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185

MEAT OR NO MEAT THIS FRIDAY, MARCH 19?

What do you do when a solemnity falls on a Friday in Lent?

During the Lenten season, Friday is a day of abstinence for Catholics, traditionally observed by not eating meat. But you may be understandably confused to see meat served this Friday at some parish events or in the cafeterias of some New Hampshire Catholic schools and colleges.

Why is this Friday different?

To begin with, this Friday the Church celebrates the Feast of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin, a feast day that takes place every year on March 19. St. Joseph also happens to be one of the Diocese of Manchester's patron saints. Occasionally, the Feast of St. Joseph falls on a Friday in Lent. It last occurred in 2004 and it will not happen again until 2021. When this feast day falls on a Friday, parishioners are automatically dispensed, or excused, from Lenten abstinence under Canon Law.

The reason for this is that the Feast of St. Joseph is known in the Church as a solemnity. Solemnities are the principal holy days of the Church. In some cases, such as with Christmas, solemnities are significant enough that all Catholics are obligated to attend Mass, even on a weekday. Though the Feast of St. Joseph is not of this order, it does carry great importance in the Church and its presence on a Friday relieves Catholics of the obligations of Lenten abstinence.

What may add to the confusion is the other feast day which falls only two days before St. Joseph, the Feast of St. Patrick, who is the other patron saint of the Diocese of Manchester.

The Feast of St. Patrick is not a solemnity of the Church and so, when it falls on a Friday, Irish-spirited Catholics may have to forego their corned beef and cabbage. There is no automatic dispensation. However, it has happened in the past that a bishop may grant dispensation from this day of abstinence in special circumstances, such as in recognition of the saint's importance as a patron of the diocese. Only a bishop can grant a dispensation. Catholics will need to wait some time for this quirk of the calendar to come around again: St. Patrick's Day will not fall on a Friday until 2017.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 24, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185

**BISHOP MCCORMACK CALLS FOR EFFORT TO PLAN FUTURE OF CATHOLIC
EDUCATION IN MANCHESTER**

Initial steps call for relocation of junior high school and creation of task force

(MANCHESTER, NH) A special task force will develop a plan to ensure the success of Catholic schools in Manchester. Bishop John B. McCormack released a statement regarding Manchester Catholic schools that “envisions a system built on leadership of the bishop and pastors with the assistance and cooperation of the staff of the Catholic School Office and the Catholic schools and with the involvement of parents and teachers.”

A first step in this process is the relocation of St. Joseph Regional Junior High School onto the campus of St. Anthony School in Manchester. The relocation will be effective in September with the start of the 2010-11 school year. St. Joseph will remain a junior high, but will share facilities with the Pre-K through 6 St. Anthony School. Each school will have its own leadership, faculty, and curriculum.

Bishop McCormack said “vibrant Catholic schools are part of the Church’s mission to build the kingdom of God on Earth. Manchester is blessed with four Catholic elementary schools, a junior high school and a high school. The challenge is how to ensure that we continue to have strong, vibrant and thriving schools that constitute a system of Catholic education pre-K through grade twelve.”

Manchester’s other elementary schools and Trinity High School will be involved in the planning effort but will not face any changes this year.

The Diocesan School Office is holding meetings with the parents, faculty and staff of both schools throughout the week of March 22 to inform them of the decision and to answer questions.

“We made a decision to relocate St. Joseph Regional Junior High for several reasons,” said Mary Moran, superintendent of Catholic schools. “We believe this step is good for all children in our schools and good for Catholic education. We want to maintain our junior high school with its focus on the education and development of adolescent learners. This relocation will preserve this aspect of our Catholic education process while a longer term plan is developed. It also affords St. Anthony School the opportunity to share resources and operating costs, further promoting the vibrancy of Catholic education in Manchester.

“In addition, St. Joseph faced the fact that it would have to invest close to \$180,000 to meet fire and life safety code requirements. We put the safety of our children ahead of all concerns and in good conscience could not delay doing something about these essential needs. In consultation with the Bishop's office, the Diocesan Catholic School Office does not feel it can justify the investment of that amount of capital into the existing school, while undertaking an extensive planning process. By relocating St. Joseph Regional Junior High School to the St. Anthony School campus, we can accommodate all the needs of the students, offer a safe and exciting environment with excellent physical facilities, and give everyone the time we need to complete a thorough and forward looking plan.”

Moran said the entire St. Joseph Regional Junior High School family, both current and alumni, are “most grateful for the support of St. Joseph Cathedral Parish. Its pastors and parishioners have been graceful hosts for almost 40 years and we will forever remain in their debt.”

Rev. Richard Dion, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Manchester said, "As the Church has always welcomed the pilgrim, I pray that our parish school will continue to reflect this tradition. Our prayer here is that all peoples young and old be welcomed to celebrate wisdom fostered and found in Jesus who raises us up in faith, hope and love."

The formation of the task force is an extension of work done by Charting the Future for Manchester Schools, which is a group formed from the Diocesan School Board, members from the community, and the superintendent and assistant superintendent of Catholic Schools. This group compiled extensive research and trends on all Manchester schools, information which will form a baseline for the new task force to use to develop an accurate picture of the current status of the schools.

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Announcement: Fr. Nicholas P. Rogers Called to His Rest

On April 5, 2010, the Reverend Nicholas P. Rogers was called to his rest and to the glory of the Resurrection promised by the Lord. He was 83 years old.

Father Rogers was born on July 19, 1926 in Buffalo, New York and was ordained a priest on June 4, 1955 by the Most Reverend Joseph A. Burke, D.D., Bishop of Buffalo, at Saint Joseph's New Cathedral in Buffalo, New York. Father Rogers studied at Canisius College, Buffalo, New York and then he completed his ecclesiastical studies at the Seminary of Our Lady of the Angels, Niagara, New York.

Father Rogers was assigned as associate pastor at Camp Fatima, Gilmanton Iron Works on June 10, 1955; of Saint Denis Parish Hanover/Town in September 1955; and then as associate pastor of Saint Michael Parish in Exeter in January, 1956. In June 1958, Father Rogers was assigned to summer ministry at Saint Agnes Parish in Ashland and then in November 1958 as associate pastor of Saint Patrick Parish in Nashua; in June 1965 he was assigned as associate pastor of Saint Margaret Mary Parish, Keene; and in September 1967 to Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish, Derry.

In June 1970, Bishop Ernest J. Primeau, D.D., S.T.D., appointed Father Rogers as founding pastor of the Parish of the Resurrection in Nashua. In June 1987, Bishop Odore J. Gendron, D.D., appointed Father Rogers pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Somersworth and in September 1992 Bishop Leo E. O'Neil, D.D. appointed him as pastor of Saint Patrick Parish in Manchester where he served until his retirement in January 2007.

Father Rogers also served as Chaplain to the Nashua Chapter of N.H. Catholic Nurses; Chaplain, Court Thomas Aquinas of the Catholic Daughters of America, Derry and Chaplain to the Nashua Fire Department while he served as pastor in Nashua. He served as staff to the Diocesan Pre-Cana and Cana Conferences and was a member of the Council of Priests for the Manchester West Deanery for three years while he served as pastor of Saint Patrick Parish, Manchester.

During his retirement, Father Rogers remained actively engaged in parish ministry at Saint John the Baptist Parish, Suncook and Holy Rosary Parish, Hooksett.

On Thursday, April 8, 2010, a wake will be held from Parish of the Resurrection, 449 Broad Street, Nashua, N.H. from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. The Rite of Reception of the Body will take place at 4:00 p.m. Father Rogers will lie in state in the church until 7:00 p.m., concluding with Solemn Vespers. The Most Reverend John B. McCormack, Bishop of Manchester, will preside at a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m. on April 9, 2010. The Rite of Committal will be celebrated following the Mass at Saint Patrick Cemetery in Nashua, New Hampshire. The Phaneuf Funeral Home, Manchester, New Hampshire has care of the arrangements.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185

SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL BEGINS RENOVATIONS

(MANCHESTER) Bishop John B. McCormack has announced major repairs to Saint Joseph Cathedral, which will include replacing the 150 year-old building's 27,000 square foot roof.

Staging is currently being set up around the cathedral for roof and brickwork repair. Repairs are expected to continue until early September and cost in excess of \$1 million. The new roof will be a composite slate material, and will reflect the appearance of the cathedral's original architectural design when it was completed in 1869.

Bishop McCormack said, "As our mother church, we all want to be able to look to Saint Joseph Cathedral with pride as a shining example of a beautiful house of worship. Thus, it is my intention to begin a process to repair, renovate and restore the cathedral. Fr. Cooper, his staff and parishioners have worked hard to keep the building in attractive and good condition. Yet the parish's and the diocese's ability to continue using it as it is, is becoming almost impossible. Deteriorating masonry and roof shingles are causing significant water damage and now pose safety problems for all concerned."

Plans to repair the exterior of the cathedral began in 2008 with a Request for Proposals. In 2009, Criterium Engineers provided the diocese with an assessment for the work and plans were made for repairs to start in the spring of 2010.

Bishop McCormack said a main concern is to repair the roof and re-point the brickwork exterior. "Although the new roof will greatly enhance the beauty of the cathedral, its repair goes far beyond cosmetic appearance. Its repair is critical to the future of the building. The new roof and repaired brickwork will prevent water and moisture from continuing to invade the structure. Already, steps are planned to address areas where damage has occurred within the cathedral. Before doing so we need to have a secure exterior."

Roof repairs are being made by the Melanson Company. Brickwork is being done by Northeast Masonry.

Both Saint Joseph Cathedral Parish and the Diocese of Manchester are contributing funds to the repairs. Also, the diocese is planning to raise funds necessary to complete the exterior repairs. Bishop McCormack said additional fundraising efforts in the future will be needed to help restore the interior of the cathedral. Those interested in supporting the renovation of the cathedral should contact Patrick McGee in the Office of Development at 669-3100 or pmcgee@rcbm.org.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 5, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185

BISHOP MCCORMACK TO UNDERGO BACK SURGERY

(Manchester) Bishop Francis J. Christian, auxiliary bishop for the Diocese of Manchester, today made the following statement: “Bishop John B. McCormack will undergo surgery at Catholic Medical Center today to alleviate some back problems. Dr. Thomas Kleeman of the New Hampshire NeuroSpine Institute and Catholic Medical Center will perform the operation at Catholic Medical Center. The bishop is expected to return to some of his pastoral duties in the coming weeks. Please keep Bishop McCormack in your prayers as he undergoes this procedure.”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 14, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185

BISHOP FRANCIS CHRISTIAN TESTIFIES AGAINST DEATH PENALTY

(Concord) The following testimony was submitted today to the Commission to Study the Death Penalty In New Hampshire by the Most Reverend Francis J. Christian, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Manchester.

May 14, 2010

Hon. Walter L. Murphy, Chair
Commission to Study the Death Penalty
In New Hampshire
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Judge Murphy and Members of the Commission:

As Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester, and on behalf of Bishop John B. McCormack, I write to offer some reflections as New Hampshire considers the status of the death penalty. I especially commend the New Hampshire Legislature for broadening the scope of the discussion to include a careful examination of the issue within a moral context.

Over the centuries, the Catholic Church's own position on the death penalty has certainly evolved. Looking back to the Hebrew Scriptures, which have an organic connection with Christian faith, we see that the death penalty was acceptable, indeed mandated for certain crimes, some of which would not be regarded as capital crimes in our society. As the Christian moral tradition developed, some authorities cited these Scriptures to support the Church's endorsement of the death penalty. Without doubt, Church history includes instances of the Church's acquiescence in the execution of people.

These biblical texts and classical theological rationales for the death penalty have always stood in painful tension with the practice and preaching of Jesus of Nazareth. For sure, the Gospels and other New Testament texts never express an explicit position on capital punishment. However, the actual life of Jesus is a consistent witness to non-violence, unlimited forgiveness, and absolute respect for all human beings, friend and foe alike. As Christians, we regard the Person of Jesus, rather than texts or theories, as the basic, binding, and ultimate moral norm.

Many people of good will, of course, do not regard Jesus of Nazareth as "ultimate moral norm." Nevertheless, I suggest that his message of reconciliation and rejection of all forms of violence have an essential coherence with a powerful, positive, and increasingly universal moral principle: the intrinsic value of every human person. The recognition of this value precludes all forms of unjustifiable killing, including abortion, euthanasia, and war crimes against civilians. I would like to suggest today that this value be extended to include the execution of even those who commit capital crimes. To execute such people when society can punish them and protect itself by other means, contradicts and destroys the truth of the intrinsic value of every person.

Looking backward over the vastness of human history, we must acknowledge that the awareness of the intrinsic value of every human person is relatively new. For much of recorded history, we see widespread acceptance of practices that violated this principle. History is filled with instances of indiscriminate killing in war, various forms of imperialism, genocide, marital systems that treated women as impersonal property, and the most dehumanizing institution of our own nation's history -- slavery. All of these practices, which have unfortunately existed within ostensibly Christian societies, denied the intrinsic value of some human persons because of their race, economic status, ethnicity, or religion.

Over the past centuries, humanity has tended increasingly to acknowledge the intrinsic value of every human person. Even much secular thought, notably the ideas flowing from the Enlightenment, has emphasized the rights and worth of every human person. For sure, this development has not always been smooth and uninterrupted. Horrors like the Holocaust, genocidal wars, and Stalin's Gulag, have obviously denied the value of the human person. But, by and large, the moral sensibility of humanity has become ever more appreciative -- and protective -- of the value of every human person.

I suggest that the death penalty is the last frontier of this historical movement that strongly accents the intrinsic value of every human person. At least for the past four centuries, humanity has lifted women, slaves, and civilians trapped in war zones from the class of "human objects" to the protected status of human beings who enjoy the inviolable right to life. This same right to life must now be extended to men and women convicted of capital crimes.

By no means does this assertion of the right to life of criminals dissolve the distinction between the innocent and guilty. Nor does it minimize the requirement that justice be done through proportionate punishments. Indeed, the abolition of the death penalty does not in the least jeopardize the state's ability to protect people from dangerous criminals. Instead, the state's refusal to kill capital offenders is not a sign of weakness but of confident moral rectitude.

Our state motto, "Live Free or Die," succinctly asserts that living with freedom to do what is morally good trumps the mere preservation of physical existence. "Live Free or Die" should never become "Live Free or Kill." We should never accept this second motto because it means that killing others is sometimes necessary to preserve our freedom and safety. There is a great moral peril here: When any state engages in killing, even in the case of the most heinous criminals, the executed offender actually succeeds in killing yet another victim -- the state's own moral goodness, which is always enhanced by its refusal to execute anyone because of its absolute respect for the intrinsic value of the human person. To put it another way, the state that unnecessarily uses -- or even legalizes -- capital punishment unwittingly adopts the moral calculus of the killer, who regards killing as an acceptable, even necessary, means to an end.

As we grapple with the legality of the death penalty, New Hampshire stands at a moral crossroads. If we embrace the death penalty, we chose an essentially utilitarian form of morality which grounds moral uprightness in efficiency and popular sentiment. By contrast, if we voluntarily relinquish the state's legal right to execute capital offenders, we move beyond the merely efficient and popular toward a civil ethic that courageously seeks moral goodness by absolutely respecting the intrinsic value of every human person from conception to natural death.

I, Bishop McCormack, and other Roman Catholic bishops of the United States have called for an end of the use of the death penalty in our land because:

- The sanction of death, when it is not necessary to protect society, violates respect for human life and dignity;

- State-sanctioned killing in our names diminishes all of us;
- Its application is deeply flawed and can be irreversibly wrong, is prone to errors, and is biased by factors such as race, the quality of legal representation, and where the crime was committed; and
- We have other ways to punish criminals and protect society.

A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (2005).

Having said all of this, I know that good people, including some Catholics and other Christians, will disagree with all or parts of my analysis and the call for the end of the use of capital punishment. I especially understand and sympathize with people who have lost loved ones through the violence of brutal murderers.

However, because suffering often generates unexpected reservoirs of compassion and wisdom, I am hopeful that dialogue and reflection will guide us all to decision that truly advances genuine moral goodness in New Hampshire.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my reflections to you, and thank you for your service to the people of the State of New Hampshire.

Sincerely in our Lord,

Most Rev. Francis J. Christian, DD, Ph.D.
Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester

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The Diocese of Manchester is the Roman Catholic Church of New Hampshire, serving the needs of more than 300,000 Catholics. For more information, please visit www.catholicnh.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 26, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185

BISHOP MCCORMACK TO ORDAIN ONE TO THE TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE

(MANCHESTER, NH) Bishop John B. McCormack will ordain Mr. Kyle Stanton to the transitional diaconate on Saturday, May 29 at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral in Manchester.

Bishop McCormack said, “Our diocese is grateful to God for Kyle, and for men such as him, who have given themselves heart and soul to discerning their Christian vocation. It is a gift to our local Church that Kyle has persevered through many years of preparation for this significant occasion. Over the years I have come to know Kyle to be a man who aspires to be a true servant of the Lord. He is generous and joyous. I am also grateful to Kyle’s family and parish for supporting his vocation. Men like Kyle remind me that basically it is in the family and in the parish that priestly and religious vocations are found and encouraged. May we be blessed with many more fine vocations.”

The diaconate is the first of three ranks of ordained ministry in the Catholic Church, which also include priesthood and the episcopacy, or ministry of a bishop. Men studying for the priesthood are ordained as transitional deacons prior to beginning their final year of study before ordination to the priesthood.

Mr. Kyle Stanton, 27, is a native of Epping, NH where he grew up as a parishioner of St. Joseph Parish and then, after his family moved to Salem, as a parishioner of St. Joseph, Salem. His current parish is St. Francis of Assisi in Litchfield, NH. He will be entering his sixth and final year of seminary formation in the fall at St. John’s Seminary in Brighton, MA. Mr. Stanton graduated from Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio in 2007 with a Bachelor of Theology degree and a minor in philosophy. Mr. Stanton is the son of Brian and Patricia Stanton. He has two brothers, Brian Jr. and Nathan. He will have a pastoral assignment this summer at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Bedford.

Mr. Stanton said, “A transitional deacon is ordained to serve, and he receives the character – a gift from God – to serve the Church, the bishop, the pastors and the laity with greater charity. The charism of the deacon is to preach and to assist the priest in the sacramental life of the Church, so really I look forward to preaching and conferring the sacraments.”

The Diocese of Manchester currently has nine men preparing for the priesthood at seminaries in Baltimore, Maryland; Brighton, Massachusetts; and Steubenville, Ohio.

Any man who believes that God may be calling him to serve the Church as a priest is encouraged to contact the diocesan director of vocations, Fr. Jason Jalbert, who works with men discerning vocations. Fr. Jalbert can be reached at jjalbert@rcbm.org or 603-669-3100. Information on vocations and formation is available on the diocesan vocations Web site, www.liveinblackandwhite.com.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 9, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185

PARABLE MAGAZINE WINS NATIONAL AWARDS

Parable Magazine, the magazine of the Diocese of Manchester, was honored this week with three national awards by the Catholic Press Association. The awards were presented at the CPA's annual Catholic Press Awards in New Orleans on Friday, June 4, 2010.

1st place Best Personality Profile (freelance): "Living the Fundamentals," Gary Bouchard
A profile in the Nov/Dec 2009 issue of NBA basketball player Matt Bonner that explores his family, his life and his faith. The judges said, "An inspiring story that is full of details and emotion. Great writing and a clear first place winner."

1st place Best Illustration: 125th Anniversary Issue Cover, Cameron Bennett
Created for the special 125th Anniversary Issue, the cover shows faces and places from throughout New Hampshire's Catholic past. The judges said, "The illustration is beautifully drawn and provides multiple evocative snapshots of New Hampshire's church history."

2nd place Best Personality Profile (freelance): "Compassion Behind Prison Walls," Anne Botteri
A profile in the May/June 2009 issue of Joanne Fortier, warden of the New Hampshire State Prison for Women. The judges said, "Touching and clearly written. A good story."

To see the winners, visit www.parablemag.com. *Parable Magazine* tells the stories of the Catholic faithful in New Hampshire, and provides news on events and issues of the day, as well as answers to common questions about the Catholic faith. *Parable Magazine* reaches over 56,000 households in New Hampshire, and is available via parish subscription.

The awards program was judged by the American Press Institute. For more information about the Catholic Press Association, visit www.catholicpress.org.

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Announcement: Msgr. John E. Molan, P.A. Called to His Rest

On June 13, 2010, the Reverend Monsignor John E. Molan, P.A. was called to his rest and to the glory of the Resurrection promised by the Lord. He was 83 years old.

Monsignor Molan was born on April 24, 1927 in Manchester, New Hampshire and was ordained a priest on May 30, 1953 by the Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady, D.D., the Fifth Bishop of Manchester at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Manchester. Monsignor Molan studied at Saint Anselm College, Manchester, NH and then he completed his ecclesiastical studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, MD. He also earned a post-graduate degree in Social Work from Boston College, Boston, MA.

Monsignor Molan was assigned as associate pastor of Saint Joseph Cathedral in Manchester in June, 1953. He was named Assistant Diocesan Director of New Hampshire Catholic Charities in October of 1958. In 1963 he was appointed Director of New Hampshire Catholic Charities, where he served in that capacity until 1976. During this time he also served as Diocesan Coordinator of Health Affairs.

In July 1975, Bishop Odore Gendron appointed Monsignor Molan as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Portsmouth. In January 1983, he was appointed pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Manchester where he served until he was assigned to the Diocesan Administration Building full time in June of 1984. He was named Director of Plant Operations in December of 1984 and in October of 1985 he was appointed Vicar General. Monsignor Molan was appointed Co-Secretary for Temporalities in 1986, a position he held until his retirement in August of 1998. He served on many boards and committees at the Diocese. He served continually on the Presbyteral Council from 1980 to the present. He served on the Diocesan Budget Committee, Diocesan Building & Real Estate Board, Diocesan Finance Council and as a Diocesan Consultor for over 30 years. He served as Dean of the Dover Deanery from 1979-1983. He served as Chaplain at Saint Patrick Home in Manchester.

Among his extra-Diocesan activities, Monsignor Molan served as Chaplain to the N.H. National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve; Member, National Association of Social Workers; Board of Directors, Sacred Heart Hospital; Lecturer, Boston College School of Social Work; Chairman, State Advisory Consultor on Day Care; Diocesan Director, St. Vincent de Paul Society; Council Member, N.H. State Council on Aging; Trustee, Catholic Hospital Health Association; President, Board of Trustees, St. Joseph Hospital, Nashua; Board of Trustees, Catholic Medical Center, Manchester; Founding Chairman of Board of Pope John XXIII Medical Moral Center; Board Member and Secretary of the Board, Manchester Mental Health Center; Board of Directors, Cathedral Credit Union, Manchester; Assistant General Chairperson, Ordination to the Office of Bishop for Bishop Francis J. Christian. He received the Catholic Leadership Award from the St. Anselm College Alumni Association at Saint Anselm College, Manchester in September of 2001.

His ecclesiastical honors included appointment as Papal Assistant in March, 1965; the Prelate of Honor in February 1970; Protonotary Apostolic in May, 1986. He was appointed a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre in June of 1987.

During his retirement, Monsignor Molan remained actively engaged in parish ministry, serving as pastor at Saint Patrick Parish, Manchester and providing regular ministry at Saint Pius X Parish, Manchester.

He is survived by his sister, Katherine DeCorte of Fairview, Pennsylvania.

On Wednesday June 16, 2010, the Rite of Reception of the Body will take place at St. Pius X Church, 575 Candia Road, Manchester, NH at 3:00 p.m.. Monsignor Molan will lie in state in St. Pius X Church until 7:00 p.m., concluding with Solemn Vespers at 7:00 p.m.. On Thursday, June 17th, Monsignor Molan will lie in state at St. Joseph Cathedral, 145 Lowell St., Manchester, NH from 9:00 a.m. till 9:45 a.m. The Most Reverend John B. McCormack, Bishop of Manchester, will preside at a Mass of Christian Burial at Saint Joseph Cathedral on Thursday, June 17th at 10:00 a.m. The Rite of Committal will be celebrated immediately following the Mass of Christian Burial at Saint Joseph Cemetery, 448 Donald St. in Bedford, New Hampshire. The Connor Healy Funeral Home at 537 Union Street in Manchester, New Hampshire has care of the arrangements.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 7, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185

NEW PERMANENT DEACON CLASS

Very Rev. Dennis Audet, V.F., Secretary for Ministry Formation, has announced that the following men have been accepted by Bishop McCormack for Permanent Deacon Formation for the Diocese of Manchester:

Geoffrey Ashman, Manchester, NH
John Castelot, Manchester, NH
Mark DeRosch, Bedford, NH
Christopher Paul, Manchester, NH
Doug Rogers, Litchfield, NH
Michael Royce, Manchester, NH
Stephen Labrie, Sanbornville, NH
Thomas Matzke, Franklin, NH
Dr. Donald Ayers, Derry, NH
Eric Lambert, Kingston, NH
Thomas Lavallee, Derry, NH
Wayne Bolduc, Stoddard, NH
Dennis Marquis, Stoddard, NH
David Romano, Swanzey, NH
Kenneth Swymer, Keene, NH
William Lavallee, Concord, NH
Jay Cormier, Londonderry, NH
Richard Desmarais, Nashua, NH
Christopher Everhart, Hudson, NH
Robert Marston, Dover, NH
Dr. James Wilton, Portsmouth, NH
Michael Couture, Berlin, NH
Michael Johnson, Berlin, NH
Stephen Noyes, Bethlehem, NH
Kenneth Czechowicz, Claremont, NH

These men will begin a four-year formation process beginning in September.

Announcement: Fr. Rodrigue J. Gallant Called to His Rest

On July 13, 2010, the Reverend Rodrigue J. Gallant was called to his rest and to the glory of the Resurrection promised by the Lord. He was 90 years old.

Father Gallant was born on May 2, 1920 in Berlin, New Hampshire and was ordained a priest on May 31, 1947 by the Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady, D.D., fifth Bishop of Manchester, at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Manchester. Father Gallant studied at Saint Charles College, Sherbrook, P.Q., Canada and then completed his ecclesiastical studies at Saint Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland.

Father Gallant was assigned as associate pastor of Sainte Marie Parish in Manchester in June of 1947 and then as associate pastor of Saint Anne Parish in Berlin in September, 1952. In July, 1955, Father Gallant was assigned as associate pastor of Saint Aloysius Parish in Nashua and then in June, 1962 as associate pastor of Saint John the Baptist Parish in Manchester.

In September 1963, Bishop Primeau appointed Father Gallant as pastor of Saint Brendan Parish in Colebrook. In September, 1967 Bishop Primeau appointed Father Gallant pastor of Saint Anne Parish in Berlin and in April, 1970 as pastor of Saint Leo Parish in Gonic. In June, 1975, Bishop Gendron appointed Father Gallant as pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Belmont where he served until September of 1987, when failing health demanded that he resign. In October 1989, Father Gallant served as temporary administrator of Saint Anne Parish, Berlin where he served faithfully until May of 1990 when he formally retired.

During his retirement, Father Gallant remained actively engaged in parish ministry helping the pastor of Saint Joseph Parish, Belmont when his health permitted him to do so.

During his time in the Lakes Region, Father Rod was instrumental in organizing the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Laconia, and was always concerned with the relief of poverty and suffering wherever he found people in need.

On Sunday, July 18, 2010, the Rite of Reception of the Body will take place at Saint Joseph Church in Belmont at 3:00 p.m. Father Gallant will lie in state in the church until 6:00 p.m., concluding with Solemn Vespers. On Monday, June 19, 2010, Father Gallant will lie in state at Saint Joseph Church, Belmont from 10:00 a.m. till 10:45 a.m. The Most Reverend Francis J. Christian, Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester, will preside at a Mass of Christian Burial at Saint Joseph Church on Monday, July 19, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. The Rite of Committal will take place at a later date at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cates Hill in Berlin, New Hampshire. The Bennett Funeral Home at 209 Main Street, Concord, New Hampshire has care of the arrangements.

Announcement: Msgr. Fernand L. Pichette Called to His Rest

On July 17, 2010, the Reverend Monsignor Fernand L. Pichette was called to his rest and to the glory of the Resurrection promised by the Lord. He was 78 years old.

Monsignor Pichette was born on April 18, 1932 in Manchester, New Hampshire and was ordained a priest on May 31, 1958 by Bishop Matthew F. Brady, D.D., fifth Bishop of Manchester, at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Manchester. Monsignor Pichette studied at Saint Francis College, Biddeford, Maine and then he completed his ecclesiastical studies at Saint Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, MD.

Monsignor Pichette served as Chaplain to Mt. Carmel Home and the Veteran's Administration Hospital from June – August, 1958. He was then assigned as associate pastor of Saint Anthony Parish in Sanbornville in August, 1958; Saint Martin Parish, Somersworth in October, 1958; Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Nashua in June, 1963; and Sacred Heart Parish, Laconia in September, 1967. In June, 1971 Monsignor Pichette was named Temporary Administrator of Saint Mary Parish, Claremont where he served until November of that year.

In May, 1973, Bishop Ernest J. Primeau, D.D., S.T.D. appointed Monsignor Pichette pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Lebanon. In June, 1979, Bishop Odore J. Gendron, D.D. appointed Monsignor Pichette Episcopal Vicar for Christian Formation for the Diocese of Manchester. During his tenure he resided at Saint Anthony Parish, Manchester. In 1986 he was appointed Secretary for Ministries. Bishop Gendron appointed Monsignor Pichette pastor of Saint Charles Parish in Meredith in December of 1986 where he served until he retired in 1999.

On May 10, 1986 Monsignor Pichette was awarded the Prelate of Honor. He served as a Diocesan Consultor and on the Presbyteral Council for a number of years. He also served on the Diocesan Vocation Board.

During his retirement, Monsignor Pichette remained actively engaged in parish ministry especially at Saint Elizabeth Seton Parish.

On Wednesday, July 21, 2010, the Rite of Reception of the Body will take place at Saint Elizabeth Seton Church, 190 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH at 3:30 p.m. Monsignor Pichette will lie in state in the church until 7:00 p.m., concluding with Evening Prayer. The Most Reverend Francis J. Christian, Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester, will preside at a Mass of Christian Burial at Saint Elizabeth Seton Church on Thursday, July 22, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. The Rite of Committal will be celebrated immediately after the Mass at Mount Calvary Cemetery, 474 Goffstown Road, Manchester, New Hampshire. The Lambert Funeral Home in Manchester, New Hampshire has care of the arrangements.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 23, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
KEVIN DONOVAN
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185

CARDINAL O'MALLEY TO SERVE AS HOMILIST FOR N.H. ANNUAL RED MASS
Catholic Lawyers Guild to Present St. Thomas More Award

MANCHESTER – Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Boston, will serve as the principal celebrant and homilist for the annual New Hampshire Red Mass. The Most Rev. John B. McCormack will be the principal concelebrant at the Mass. The Red Mass will take place at St. Joseph Cathedral in Manchester.

Each year, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester invites women and men associated with the study and administration of justice in New Hampshire and their families to a special celebration. This annual event, called the Red Mass, is an opportunity for lawyers, judges, legislators, and law enforcement personnel of all religious traditions to gather each year to celebrate their common love for justice.

Prior to serving as the Archbishop of Boston, Cardinal O'Malley served as bishop of the dioceses of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, Fall River, Massachusetts, and Palm Beach, Florida. He has a master's degree in religious education and a Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese literature from the Catholic University of America (where he later taught). He founded Centro Católico Hispano (Hispanic Catholic Center) in Washington, DC, an organization which provided educational, medical, and legal help to immigrants.

Cardinal O'Malley will also make a brief address at the fifth annual Red Mass Dinner to be held at Fratello's Restaurant in Manchester on Thursday, October 14, 2010. The dinner, sponsored by the Catholic Lawyers Guild of New Hampshire and the Diocese of Manchester, will immediately follow the celebration of the Red Mass. It is intended to extend the opportunity for fellowship among people of all faiths who are members of the judicial, legal, law enforcement, and legislative communities.

The Red Mass Dinner will also feature the fifth presentation of the St. Thomas More Award by the Catholic Lawyers Guild of New Hampshire. The St. Thomas More Award is given to a lawyer or judge who is a practicing Catholic and who embodies the spirit of St. Thomas More in his or her courage, dedication, integrity, civility, and compassion toward others. Prior recipients of the award are the late Honorable Martin F. Loughlin, Attorney Peter Loughlin, Attorney Peter McDonough, and Attorney Margaret Ann Moran.

Details:

Red Mass
October 14, 2010
5:15 pm
St. Joseph Cathedral
Corner of Pine and Lowell Streets
Manchester, New Hampshire
No charge

Red Mass Dinner
October 14, 2010
6:30 pm
Fratello's Restaurant
155 Dow Street
Manchester, New Hampshire
\$25 per ticket

For tickets and further information, please email Attorney Bob Carey at redmass@orr-reno.com, or visit www.nhclg.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 7, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
KEVIN DONOVAN
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185

**HONORABLE GERARD J. BOYLE TO BE HONORED WITH
ST. THOMAS MORE AWARD**

(MANCHESTER, NH) The Catholic Lawyers Guild of New Hampshire has announced that New Hampshire District Court Judge Gerard J. Boyle of Plymouth, New Hampshire, will receive the 2010 St. Thomas More Award. The Catholic Lawyers Guild will honor Judge Boyle on October 14, 2010, at a dinner following the annual Red Mass.

The annual Red Mass is an opportunity for lawyers, judges, legislators, and law enforcement personnel of all religious traditions to join each year to celebrate their common love of justice. This year, the Red Mass will be celebrated by Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley, OFM Cap., Archbishop of Boston. Bishop John B. McCormack, Bishop of Manchester, will be the principal concelebrant. Both Cardinal O'Malley and Bishop McCormack will attend the Catholic Lawyers Guild Dinner.

The St. Thomas More Award is given to a lawyer or judge who is a practicing Catholic and who embodies the spirit of St. Thomas More in his or her courage, dedication, integrity, civility, and compassion toward others. Judge Boyle is the fifth recipient of the award. Prior recipients are the late Honorable Martin F. Loughlin, Attorney Peter J. Loughlin, Attorney Peter McDonough, and Attorney Margaret-Ann Moran.

Judge Boyle graduated from Arlington Catholic High School, Boston College, and Suffolk University Law School. Judge Boyle is a colonel in the United States Marine Corps who retired after 13 years of active duty and 18 years in the Marine Corps Reserve. Among other military awards, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by the President of the United States for his work during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, as well as the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal by the Secretary for the Navy. He has served as the Senior Military Aide de Camp to both Governor Shaheen and Governor Benson.

Judge Boyle practiced law in Plymouth, New Hampshire before he was appointed to the bench in 2004. He has had a long history of volunteering service to the bar and legal community. In 1999, he was awarded the Vickie M. Bunnell Award by the Bar Association for his exceptional community service.

Judge Boyle has been involved in scouting since he joined the Cub Scouts more than 50 years ago, and he currently serves as the President of the Daniel Webster Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He has earned both the Parvuli Dei Award and the Ad Altare Dei Award, the Boy Scouts' highest awards for Catholic Scouts, and in 2007, he was awarded the Silver Beaver Award by the Daniel Webster Council, the council's highest award for volunteer service.

In addition to his work with the Boy Scouts, he has volunteered in many other community organizations, including the Plymouth Pop Warner Football program, the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services Foundation, and the Town of Plymouth's Search Committee and Selection Board for the Town Administrator and Fire Chief positions, and he was appointed by the governor to serve as the first chairman of the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men. He has also been very active in his parish, Holy Trinity Parish in Plymouth, where he has served as Eucharistic minister, lector, religious education instructor, finance committee member, and member of the pastoral council. He is a charter member and past Grand Knight of the Holy Family Council, Knights of Columbus.

Judge Boyle and his wife Barbara have been married for 31 years and have three children: Bridgid, Brianna, and Sean.

"Judge Boyle truly embodies all of the qualities and values of St. Thomas More, Patron Saint of Lawyers," said Attorney Charles Holoubek, President of the Catholic Lawyers Guild. "His commitment to the Catholic Church and his personal faith are matters in which he takes public pride. He has served his country and the state in numerous ways and has given selflessly of his time for the greater good of the community through his involvement in a number of charitable organizations. He demonstrates the very highest standards of integrity and adherence to the rule of law."

The Red Mass will be held on October 14, 2010, at St. Joseph Cathedral in Manchester, NH at 5:15 p.m. The Red Mass Dinner will follow the Red Mass at the Fratello's Restaurant in Manchester, New Hampshire following the Mass. Tickets to the Dinner are \$25 and are available from Attorney Bob Carey, 223-9181 or redmass@orr-reno.com. For more information, visit www.nhclg.org.

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Announcement: Fr. Louis A. Soucey Called to His Rest

On September 5, 2010, the Reverend Louis A. Soucey was called to his rest and to the glory of the Resurrection promised by the Lord. He was 92 years old.

Father Soucey was born on April 11, 1918 in St. Elethere, Quebec, Canada and was ordained a priest on February 9, 1974 by the Most Reverend Ernest J. Primeau, S.T.D., sixth Bishop of Manchester, at Saint Cecilia Church in Wolfeboro. Father Soucey studied at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, Boston, MA and then later in life completed his ecclesiastical studies at Pope John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, MA.

Father Soucey was assigned as associate pastor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish in Hampton in February of 1974 and then as associate pastor of Saint Patrick Parish in Milford in March of 1974. From December, 1975 to January of 1976 Father Soucey served as Administrator of Saint Patrick, Milford. In June of 1980 he was assigned as associate pastor of Our Lady of the Mountains Parish, North Conway until his retirement in 1990. He continued to serve as a senior priest there until he assumed residence at Bishop Peterson Residence in Manchester in 2005.

On Thursday, September 9, 2010 the Rite of Reception of the Body will take place at Our Lady of the Mountains Church, 2905 White Mountain Highway in North Conway at 3:00 p.m. Father Soucey will lie in state in the church until 6:00 p.m., concluding with Evening Prayer. On Friday, September 10, 2010 Father Soucey will lie in state at Our Lady of the Mountains Church in North Conway, N.H. from 10:00 a.m. till 10:45 a.m. The Most Reverend John B. McCormack, Bishop of Manchester, will preside at a Mass of Christian Burial on September 10, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. The Rite of Committal will be celebrated later that day at Lakeview Cemetery in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. The Furber and White Funeral Home of North Conway, New Hampshire has care of the arrangements.

Announcement: Fr. William E. Babineau Called to His Rest

On September 12, 2010, the Reverend William E. Babineau was called to his rest and to the glory of the Resurrection promised by the Lord. He was 74 years old.

Father Babineau was born on May 3, 1936 in Mexico, Maine and was ordained a priest on July 2, 1968 by the Most Reverend Paul Rausch, D.D., Bishop of Innsbruck, Austria. Father Babineau studied at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester and Weston College, an affiliate of Boston College, Boston, MA. He completed his ecclesiastical studies at Innsbruck Theologate Seminary in Innsbruck, Austria after having first attended St. Andrew-on-Hudson, Seminary, Poughkeepsie, NY. Father Babineau was a Jesuit priest for a number of years before he was laicized and then returned to ministry and was incardinated into the Diocese of Manchester on February 26, 1993.

Father Babineau was assigned as associate pastor of Saint Catherine Parish in Manchester in June 1993.

In June 1994, Bishop Leo E. O'Neil appointed Father Babineau as Administrator of Guardian Angel Parish in Berlin. In May 1998, Bishop O'Neil appointed Father Babineau Administrator of Saint Anne Parish in Berlin and in June 1999 Bishop John B. McCormack appointed him pastor of Saint Paul Parish in Franklin where he served faithfully until his retirement in July 2004.

On Sunday, September 19, 2010, the Rite of Reception of the Body will take place at Saint Peter Church, 567 Manchester Road in Auburn, NH from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m., concluding with Evening Prayer. On Monday, September 20, 2010, Father Babineau will lie in state at the church from 9:00 a.m. till 9:45 a.m. The Most Reverend John B. McCormack, Bishop of Manchester, will preside at a Mass of Christian Burial on Monday, September 20, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. The Rite of Committal will be celebrated after the Mass at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Manchester, New Hampshire. The J.N. Boufford & Sons Funeral Home in Manchester, New Hampshire has care of the arrangements.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 15, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
KEVIN DONOVAN
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185

**BISHOP MCCORMACK TO BLESS CATHEDRAL CROSS
BEFORE ELEVATION TO STEEPLE TOP**

(Manchester) Bishop John B. McCormack will be blessing a recently re-gilded cross at St. Joseph Cathedral on Thursday, September 16 at 11 a.m. at the corner of Pine and Lowell Streets. Following the blessing, the cross will be lifted to the top of the steeple and remounted as the highest point on the cathedral.

This marks the latest point of progress in the continuing restoration to the cathedral's roof. A total of 13 crosses from the roof were removed during repairs and re-gilded with gold leaf. The cross to be blessed tomorrow is the last to be remounted.

The cathedral restorations, which began in April, include the replacement of the building's entire 27,000 square foot roof with new composite slate shingles that reflect the appearance of the cathedral's original architectural design when it was completed in 1869. Final work on the roof is wrapping up this month with brick re-pointing, painting, and removal of the scaffolding around the steeple. The new roof is part of an extensive plan to repair, renovate and restore the cathedral to honor its traditional beauty.

Bishop McCormack is to celebrate the completion of this phase of work in the restoration of the cathedral with a Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 7 at 10:30 a.m.

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The Diocese of Manchester is the Roman Catholic Church of New Hampshire, serving the needs of more than 300,000 Catholics. For more information, please visit www.catholicnh.org.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2010**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
KEVIN DONOVAN
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
603-669-3100, EXT. 185**

**POPE BENEDICT XVI NAMES REV. EDWARD J. ARSENAULT
CHAPLAIN OF HIS HOLINESS**

(MANCHESTER, NH) His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI named Reverend Edward J. Arsenault a Chaplain of His Holiness and given him the title “Reverend Monsignor” on August 6, 2010.

Msgr. Arsenault is currently the President and CEO of Saint Luke Institute in Silver Spring, MD, the largest treatment facility for priests and religious in the English-speaking world. He is also Chair and CEO of St. Luke’s Centre, Manchester, England, which serves England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

Prior to his appointment to Saint Luke Institute on October 20, 2009, Msgr. Arsenault served as Moderator of the Curia for the Diocese of Manchester. He had also served as Chancellor, Cabinet Secretary for Administration and Bishop’s Delegate for Ministerial Conduct. He was pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Manchester and Administrator of St. Anne Parish in Manchester. He also provided regular pastoral assistance in parishes through the diocese during his service in the diocesan administration. He is currently also serving as associate rector of St. Patrick Church in Hampton Beach.

Msgr. Arsenault was nominated for this honor by the Most Reverend John B. McCormack, Bishop of Manchester. Bishop McCormack said he did so to recognize “Fr. Arsenault’s service to the Church in New Hampshire and now as president and CEO of Saint Luke Institute. I am gratified that our Holy Father has concurred and bestowed this honor on Fr. Arsenault. I am sure I reflect the sentiments of the priests, religious and laity of our diocese in expressing our gratitude for his service here and our happiness on his being named a monsignor.”

Msgr. Arsenault received his Bachelor of Arts in History and Philosophy from Merrimack College, Andover, MA. He holds a Master of Science in Finance from Bentley University, Waltham, MA, a Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Theology from Mount Saint Mary’s University and Seminary, Emmitsburg, MD. He also has a Pontifical License in Sacred Theology (STL) from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology.

The title of “Monsignor” is a title of distinction given by the Pope to priests in the Roman Catholic Church as part of a papal honor recognizing the priest’s service to the Church. The diocesan bishop nominates candidates for the honor and submits the names, biographies and information to the Holy See. The Holy Father then, if he wishes, confers the honor on the priest. Once decided by the Pope, the Vatican Secretariat of State issues a diploma designating the new title and rank and recognizing the newly-made monsignor’s service to the Church.

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Announcement: Fr. Andre L. Bedard Called To His Rest

On October 31, 2010, the Reverend Andre L. Bedard was called to his rest and to the glory of the Resurrection promised by the Lord. He was 80 years old.

Father Bedard was born on May 13, 1930 in Goffstown, New Hampshire and was ordained a priest on February 2, 1957 by the Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady D.D., Fifth Bishop of Manchester, at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Manchester. Father Bedard studied at Saint Anselm College, Manchester and then he completed his ecclesiastical studies at Saint John Seminary in Brighton, MA.

Father Bedard was assigned as temporary associate pastor of Saint Timothy Parish in Bristol in February, 1957 and then as associate pastor of Saint Augustine Parish in Manchester in March, 1957. In February, 1963, Father Bedard was assigned as associate pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Laconia and then in September, 1963 as associate pastor of Infant Jesus Parish in Nashua. In September, 1966, he was assigned as associate pastor at Saint Anthony of Padua Parish, Manchester and later that month he was assigned to temporary ministry at Saint Timothy Parish, Bristol. In January, 1967 Father Bedard was assigned to Sacred Heart Parish, Manchester and in June, 1967 he returned to Saint Timothy Parish, Bristol until September, 1967, when he returned to Sacred Heart Parish, Manchester. In June, 1969, Father Bedard was appointed Diocesan Assistant Youth Director and served as associate pastor at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Manchester. In June, 1970, he was assigned to ministry at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Manchester, while still retaining his position as Diocesan Youth Director. In November of 1970, he was assigned to ministry at Saint Anthony of Padua Parish, Manchester as well as Youth Ministry Director.

In January, 1972, Most Reverend Ernest J. Primeau, D.D., S.T.D. appointed Father Bedard as temporary administrator of Saint Mary Parish, Hillsborough and in April, 1972 temporary administrator of Saint Mary Parish, Rollinsford. In August of 1972, he became pastor of Saint Mary Parish in Rollinsford. In May, 1975, Bishop Odore J. Gendron, D.D. appointed Father Bedard pastor of Saint Paul Parish in Franklin and in September, 1976 as pastor of Our Lady of the Mountains Parish in North Conway. In June, 1981, Bishop Gendron appointed Father Bedard as pastor of Saint Paul Parish in Candia. In December, 1981 Father Bedard resigned his pastorate in Candia. In January, 1982, he became pastor of Saint Margaret Mary Parish in Keene. In June, 1993 Bishop Leo E. O'Neil appointed him pastor of Saint John the Baptist Parish, Suncook. In June, 1994 he became pastor of Saint Patrick Parish, Bennington, where he served faithfully until his retirement in June, 2000.

Father Bedard's other assignments included Diocesan Director of Boy Scouts from November, 1960 – June 1975; Diocesan Staff, Pre-Cana/Cana Conference; Chaplain, Diocesan Camps; Chaplain, Court Annie Nesmith #850, CDA, Franklin, 3 yrs., June, 1975. He also served as Manchester Catholic Chaplain f/Civil Defense and Chaplain at Camp Carpenter, Manchester. He attended the Institution for continuing Theological Education at Casa Santa Maria, Rome, Italy for the Spring 1984 session.

During his retirement, Father Bedard remained actively engaged in parish ministry.

On Wednesday, November 3, 2010, the Rite of Reception of the Body will take place at Blessed John XXIII Parish, Infant Jesus Church, 121 Allds Street in Nashua. Father Bedard will lie in state in the church from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., concluding with Evening Prayer. On Thursday, November 4, 2010, Father Bedard will lie in state from 10:00 a.m. till 10:45 a.m. The Most Reverend Francis J. Christian, Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester, will preside at a Mass of Christian Burial at Infant Jesus Church on November 4, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. The Rite of Committal will be celebrated at Our Lady of the Mountains Cemetery on Friday in North Conway, New Hampshire at the convenience of the family. The Lambert Funeral Home in Manchester, New Hampshire has care of the arrangements.

Announcement: Fr. Francis J. O'Connor Called To His Rest

On December 1, 2010, the Reverend Francis J. O'Connor was called to his rest and to the glory of the Resurrection promised by the Lord. He was 95 years old.

Father O'Connor was born on August 3, 1915 in Lawrence, Massachusetts and was ordained a priest on May 30, 1953 by the Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady, fifth Bishop of Manchester, at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Manchester. Father O'Connor studied at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, MD.

Father O'Connor was assigned as associate pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Portsmouth in June 1953 and then as associate pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, Somersworth in December of 1953. In June 1955, Father O'Connor was assigned as associate pastor of Saint Mary Parish in Newmarket. In August 1958 he served as chaplain at Mount Carmel Home and the Veteran's Administration Hospital, Manchester. He later served as associate pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Dover; All Saints Parish, Lancaster and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Manchester;

In February, 1969, Bishop Ernest J. Primeau appointed Father O'Connor as Pastor of Saint Joseph Parish, North Walpole. In 1971, he served as chaplain at Moore General Hospital, Grasmere; Hillsborough County Home; Hillsborough County Jail and Villa Augustina, all in Goffstown. In October 1969, he was named Associate Pastor of Saint Matthew Parish, Windham. Father O'Connor retired from active ministry in July of 1980.

On Friday, December 3, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. the Rite of Reception of the Body will take place at Saint Monica Church, 214 Lawrence Street, Methuen, MA. Father O'Connor will lie in state in the church from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. The Most Reverend John B. McCormack, Bishop of Manchester, will preside at a Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, December 4, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. The Rite of Committal will be celebrated immediately after the funeral liturgy at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Lawrence, Massachusetts. The Kenneth H. Pollard Funeral Home of Methuen, Massachusetts has care of the arrangements.

Announcement: Fr. Raymond S. Desjardins Called To His Rest

On December 7, 2010, the Reverend Raymond S. Desjardins was called to his rest and to the glory of the Resurrection promised by the Lord. He was 93 years old.

Father Desjardins was born on September 12, 1917 in Somersworth, New Hampshire and was ordained a priest on May 30, 1942 by Bishop John B. Peterson, fourth Bishop of Manchester, at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Manchester. Father Desjardins studied at the University of Montreal and Saint Charles Seminary, Sherbrooke, PQ, Canada, and then he completed his ecclesiastical studies at Saint Mary Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland.

Father Desjardins was assigned as associate pastor of Saint Charles Parish in Dover in June, 1942 and then as associate pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Berlin in March, 1945. In May, 1946, Father Desjardins was assigned as associate pastor of Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Nashua.

In September 1958, Bishop Brady appointed Father Desjardins as founding pastor of Saint Catherine Parish in Lisbon with Our Lady of the Snows Mission. In September 1967, Bishop Primeau appointed Father Desjardins pastor of Saint Theresa Parish in Manchester and in 1972 as pastor of Saint Aloysius de Gonzaga Parish in Nashua where he served until his resignation in June of 1985 in order to serve as Chaplain at Saint Charles Home in Rochester. He retired from active ministry in February of 1987.

On Thursday, December 9, 2010, the Rite of Reception of the Body will take place at Saint Martin Church of Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish, 120 Maple Street, Somersworth at 3:00 p.m. Father Desjardins will lie in state in the church until 7:00 p.m., concluding with Evening Prayer. At 10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 10, 2010, the Most Reverend John B. McCormack, Bishop of Manchester, will preside at a Mass of Christian Burial. The Rite of Committal will be celebrated after the Mass at Mt. Calvaire Cemetery in Somersworth, New Hampshire. The Bernier-Gelinas Funeral Home at 49 South Street in Somersworth, New Hampshire has care of the arrangements.