

DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG

Office of the Chancellor

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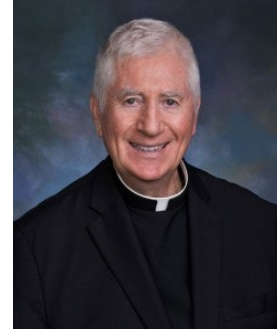
MEMORANDUM

TO: Priests and Parishes in the Diocese,
Pastoral Center, Bethany Center,
Calvary Catholic Cemetery, and Spirit FM Staff

FROM: Deacon Rick Wells, J.C.L., Chancellor for Canonical
Affairs *RW*

RE: Death of Rev. Msgr. Austin M. Mullen

DATE: December 13, 2022



The Chancellor's Office learned that **Monsignor Austin Michael Mullen, 81**, a retired priest of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, passed away in the Lord early Monday morning, December 12, 2022, while in Hospice care at Melech Hospice House, in Temple Terrace.

Monsignor Mullen was born Michael and Katie (Coffey) Mullen on August 27, 1941, in Mountnugent, County Cavan, Ireland. Following graduation from seminary studies at All Hallows College, in Dublin, he was ordained to the priesthood on June 20, 1965 for the Diocese of St. Augustine and was incardinated into the Diocese of St. Petersburg upon its establishment in 1968.

Upon arriving in Florida shortly after ordination, Monsignor Mullen took up his first assignment as Parochial Vicar of San Jose Parish, in Jacksonville (1965-1967), while also serving on the faculty of Bishop Kenny High School, Jacksonville. This was followed by brief assignments as Parochial Vicar of St. Joseph Parish, Union Park (August-September 1967), during which he also assisted Archbishop Joseph Hurley as his secretary), Good Shepherd Parish, Tampa (1967-1968), while also on the faculty of Tampa Catholic High School, and Incarnation Parish, Sarasota (1968-1970, also serving on the teaching staff of Cardinal Mooney High School, Sarasota. He was then assigned as Chaplain of the Catholic Student Center at the University of South Florida (1970-1973), while simultaneously serving as Parochial Vicar of Corpus Christi Parish, Temple Terrace.

In June 1973, Monsignor Mullen would be appointed as Pastor of St. Paul Parish, Tampa, serving the rapidly growing Carrollwood area for the next 23 years. In 1996, Bishop Robert Lynch appointed Monsignor Mullen as the founding Pastor of the newly established St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, to provide pastoral ministry to those living in the quickly expanding New Tampa area for the next seven years. Following a brief assignment as Parochial Vicar of Prince of Peace Parish, Sun City Center (2003-2004), Monsignor Mullen headed north to Citrus County, where he served as Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish, in Beverly Hills until his retirement on July 1, 2011.

In the years following his retirement, Monsignor Mullen moved to John Knox Village Retirement Center (currently Concordia Village of Tampa), where he offered Masses, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, and other pastoral services to the residents until this past spring. While he intended to relocate to the new John XXIII Retirement Center, in Lutz after its opening in October, he suffered a fall resulting in a hospitalization from which he never recovered.

In addition to his parish assignments, Monsignor Mullen was charged with coordination of all Campus Ministry for the Diocese of St. Petersburg during his term at the Catholic Student Center (1970-1973). He was also a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission (1977-1980), Diocesan Coordinator of Parish Councils, Vicar Forane (Dean) of the West Hillsborough Deanery (1987-1996), and member of the Incardination Committee (1998-2001).

In August 2008, upon nomination by Bishop Lynch, Pope Benedict XVI bestowed the ecclesial honor of Chaplain of His Holiness upon Monsignor Mullen, granting him the title of “Monsignor,” along with five other recipients. In 2016, he was honored by his brother priests as recipient of the Father Luis de Cancer Award for Distinguished Priestly Service in the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

Monsignor Mullen is predeceased by his parents and his siblings, Reverend Kevin Mullen, Nuala Mullen, Maura Mullen McCleary, and Deirdre Mullen O’Connell. He is survived by his brother, Jerome Mullen, two nieces, three nephews, three grandnieces, and two grandnephews.

All funeral services will be held at **St. Paul Catholic Church, 12708 N. Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa** and are as follows:

Visitation: Friday, December 16, 2022, 1:00 p.m.

Funeral Mass: Friday, December 16, 2022, 2:00 p.m.
Bishop Gregory Parkes will be the main celebrant,
with Monsignor Brendan Muldoon as homilist

Clergy wishing to vest are encouraged to bring an alb and white stole. A reception will follow the Funeral Mass in the Parish Center.

Burial will take place at a later date in the Mullen family plot at Ballinacree Church Cemetery, County Meath, Ireland.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the Family of Rev. Msgr. Austin Mullen, c/o Office of the Chancellor, Diocese of St. Petersburg, P.O. Box 40200, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0200.

Please keep Monsignor Mullen’s family members and loved ones in your kind thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Well done, good and faithful servant [...] Come, share your master’s joy” (Matthew 25:21).