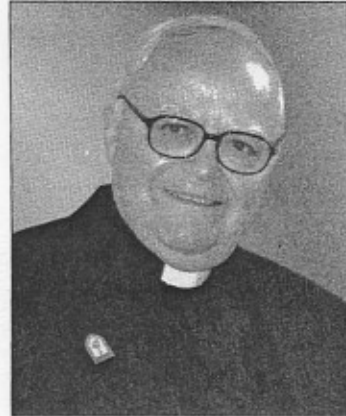


FATHER DOMINICK F. CUTRONE - 50 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD

The journey that brought Fr. Cutrone to Gravesend Brooklyn started when he was born in Brooklyn, on January 24, 1930. His mother, a Brooklynite, and his father, a native of Palo Del Colle, Bari, Italy, met and married in Brooklyn in 1927. Here Fr. Cutrone, his sister, Mary, and brother, Frank attended public school. The call to become a priest came early in the 8th grade of PS 145 in Bushwick, Brooklyn. Encouraged by his parents, Lena and Vito Cutrone, led him to Holy Trinity H.S. & St. Johns College. After graduating in 1951 he went to the Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington, NY and was ordained with 32 other priests on June 4, 1955. On June 5, 1955 he celebrated his first Mass at St. Catherine of Genoa.



Father Dominick F. Cutrone

He began his priestly assignments at St. Bernadette, Dyker Heights (1955-1965), Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Williamsburg, (1965-1970), St. Finbar, Bensonhurst, (1970-1977). He was made Pastor of St. Agnes, downtown Brooklyn, (1977-1983), before coming to Our Lady of Grace, where he remained as Pastor until 2001.

Fr. Cutrone was involved in starting the Christmas Fairs, Friendship Sundays, devotion to Padre Pio. He encouraged the formation of the Teen Group, St. John the Baptist Society, and the Widowed Support Group. He appointed Sr. Jane as Pastoral Minister of the parish six months after he was assigned to the Parish. Of all his accomplishments as a priest, he is very proud to have established the "Perpetual Adoration Chapel", a chapel for people to pray before the Blessed Sacrament 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It began in October 1991 and continues till today. People from all over come to visit and pray to Our Lord. At that time it was the only Adoration Chapel in the Brooklyn Diocese.

Some important people in Father's life:

"Don" Gaetano from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel - a single person on SSI, who constantly reminded Father of people who were sick in hospitals and should be visited. He also told him never to visit anyone in the hospital without leaving something behind, whether it be a plant, flowers, a statue, a pair of rosaries—something. It would remind the sick person of the visit.

Father Paul Klohr - Pastor of St. Finbar was a very spiritual priest. He took me under his wing to teach me how to be a good pastor and administrator. He allowed me to make my own decisions as Dean of the school and running Parish fundraisers, such as Bazaars and Bingos.

Sister Jane Talbot - Our Lady of Grace Pastoral Minister, who showed me how to love all people especially the homeless, poor and the needy. Her food pantry program started from scratch. Her ability to help console the bereaved has been rewarding for over 20 years.

Since retirement at Our Lady of Grace, Father's greatest joy is visiting his Mom every day at St. Joachim St. Ann Residence in Coney Island. Of course, Mom knows every Monday is "Dom's day with the 'boys' to play golf and gin rummy".

The 'boys' are Father's close priest friends - Fathers Kneafsey, Brady, Pfeiffer, Donovan, Scanlon and Fitzgerald. Father continues his visits with Sister Jane to the sick especially when hospitalized. It's important for the sick and infirmed to see a familiar face from our parish. Father's philosophy is to live a balanced life. He tries to live life fully each day, taking time out for prayers, for work, and for recreation. Although his skiing days are over, he still finds time for golf, opera, classical music and gin rummy. His main theme for living is "Learn to laugh - be humorous and be able to laugh at yourself especially at your shortcomings".

Although officially retired, he still can be seen serving Mass, weddings, baptisms, and funerals. He still attends meetings of the RCIA and various organizations and clubs of the parish.