



Father Dominick F. Cutrone—40th Anniversary

If you see a man wearing a colorful beret and pedaling a bicycle through the streets of Gravesend, you will recognize him as the pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Father Dominick F. Cutrone.

The lifelong journey that brought Father to our streets 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. Father Cutrone and his brother and sister were raised and attended public school here.

Father continued his education at Holy Trinity H.S., St. John's College and Fordham University where he earned a BA and MS with a major in counseling and guidance. Father Cutrone's priestly calling was culminated at St. James Cathedral where he was ordained on June 4, 1955. He celebrated his first mass on June 5, 1955, at St. Catherine of Genoa. His first assignments were at St. Bernadette (1955-1965), Our Lady of Mt Carmel (1965-1970), St. Finbar (1970-1977) and as Pastor at St. Agnes (1977-1983). When Msgr. Sclafani retired in 1983, Father Cutrone was appointed by Bishop Mugavero to succeed him as Pastor of Our Lady of Grace.

As Pastor, Father Cutrone is responsible for the spiritual guidance of his parishioners and for the welfare of all the priests and religious under his wing. He has to administer the day-to-day operations of running the parish, its buildings, equipment, employees and all the fiscal responsibilities they entail.

Since 1988 Father has been an active member of Community Board #15. He is the only priest on the board together with four rabbis. The Gravesend Community is very important to him because it is family oriented and very stable.

Elected to the Presbyterial Council in 1992, Father and 21 other diocesan priests meet monthly with Bishop Daily to advise him about the problems of the parishes.

His personal feelings are best described by him: "I feel priesthood is service to people—all people young and old—therefore, I have encouraged children from young age to be brought to church on Sunday for mass—to learn about Jesus and His Love for us. People who are elderly and sick need us. Our staff visits as many people as possible whether sick at home or in a hospital. We also feed the hungry and supply cooked meals every Wednesday to the homeless living in cardboard huts under the Belt Parkway on Stillwell Avenue. It is important for people to know that we care about them." Father enjoys opera and classical music. On his free time he loves skiing, golf and biking.