

As reported in the Fall River Herald on December 18, 2014

Leonard M. Mullaney

Rev. Leonard M. Mullaney, age 78, of Fall River, passed away suddenly from cardiac arrest on Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at the Catholic Memorial Home in Fall River.

Father Mullaney is a native of Fall River and son of the late Joseph E. Mullaney and the late retired Judge Beatrice Hancock Mullaney. An alumnus of the former Msgr. James Coyle High School, Taunton, he prepared for the priesthood at Cardinal O'Connell Minor Seminary and at St. John's Seminary in Brighton. He was ordained a priest on February 2, 1962 by Bishop James L. Connolly.

Father Len was no ordinary priest. They used to call him "Father Quahog" at some parishes because of his love of quahogging. When he was a little kid, his mother frequently took Len and his siblings out for "competitive" quahogging. Len always came home the winner, with the most quahogs, in the least amount of time and it turned into a lifelong passion. Some even say that he used to shorten his sermons so he could catch low tide and bring home quahogs for his Sunday dinner.

Father Len was a motorcycle-riding priest-the equivalent of The Flying Nun. His passion for motorcycles started when he was young. As soon as he could, he bought a used motorcycle which was the first of many. Famously frugal, Father Len never bought a new motorcycle - he loved finding beaten-up bargain bikes he could bring back to life. He shared his love of motorcycles with many of his nephews much to the chagrin of their parents. It began with thrilling rides on the back of Len's bike and evolved into a series of mini-bikes Len would buy for his nephews. Len was never happier than when he was riding down a curvy road on his motorcycle with the breeze in his face and a bucket of fresh quahogs strapped to the seat behind him.

Father Len loved his parishioners, his parish work and his service to the community. In a family of five successful charismatic kids, Father Len stood out. He chose to enter the seminary after high school which thrilled his mother, a devout Catholic. He was close to his four siblings. Father Len particularly loved his nieces and nephews. The highlight of every vacation in Westport was 12 cousins climbing into his 1959 Woody and rambling over to Gray's for ice cream. Whenever anyone got out line, which was often, Len would quiet everyone down with a booming, "You are cruising for a bruising!"

He is survived by his brother Atty. Joseph E. Mullaney, Jr., of Orchid, FL; a sister Arline M. Angell and her husband William of Naples, FL and many nieces and nephews. He was also the brother of the late Vincent S. Mullaney and Margaret Mullaney Panos. Father Mullaney's funeral will be held on Thursday, December 18, 2014 at 10:45AM from the WARING-SULLIVAN HOME OF MEMORIAL TRIBUTE AT CHERRY PLACE 178 Winter St., Fall River followed by his funeral mass at 11:45AM in Holy Name Church 709 Hanover St., Fall River. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in his honor may be made to the Catholic Memorial Home 2446 Highland Ave., Fall River, MA 02720. Burial will take place in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Fall River. To send a tribute or for directions please visit: www.waring-sullivan.com.