



MEET OUR NEW PASTOR ROBERT JOHN SULLIVAN

The Reverend Robert J. Sullivan (Father Bob) is the fourth of five sons born to David J. Sullivan, Sr. of Shreveport, LA and Carole Louise Natter of Birmingham, AL, on July 25, 1964 in San Bernardino, CA. He grew up in Saint Francis Xavier parish in Birmingham. He attended grammar school at Saint Francis Xavier and then went to high school at John Carroll Catholic, where he graduated with an Advanced Studies diploma in 1982.

He attended Auburn University where he was president of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and served on the Executive Cabinet of the Student Government President and various University committees. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Economics) in 1986. After college he worked for Shaw Industries, Inc. of Dalton, GA. As a Territory Manager, he was responsible for the area that included most of Nebraska and western South Dakota.

In 1988 he entered the Seminary to begin studying for the priesthood. The first year was spent at the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri in Toronto, Canada. After finishing the requisite course work in philosophy, spirituality, and catechesis, he began coursework in Theology at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. He received a Master of Divinity as well as a Master of Arts in Theology (Church History) in 1993.

The Reverend Robert Sullivan was ordained to the priesthood of Jesus Christ on the 12th of June 1993 at the Cathedral of Saint Paul in Birmingham, AL. His first assignment was to Our Lady of Lourdes in Huffman, AL as the Associate Pastor. After two years at Our Lady of Lourdes (1993-95) he was assigned as Parochial Vicar of Saint Peter the Apostle in Hoover, AL (1995-98). In addition to pastoral responsibilities, he taught Theology (Church History, Catholic Social Teaching and Christology) for four years at John Carroll Catholic High School (1994-98).

His first assignment as pastor was to the Catholic Church in West Central Alabama (July 1998 – July 2001). His parish included the Counties of Greene, Hale, Marengo, Perry, and Sumter; with churches in Demopolis, Eutaw, Greensboro, and Livingston. While in Demopolis he served as the Chairman of the Board for Harriet's House, Inc. (a shelter for victims of Domestic Violence serving Clarke, Choctaw, Greene, Marengo, and Sumter Counties) from 1999-2001. He was then assigned as Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Anniston, AL (July 2001 – July 2007). His duties also included oversight of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Elementary School and High School. While in Anniston, he served on the Greater Alabama Council Boy Scouts of America Executive Board (East Service Area) and served on the Board of Children's Services of Calhoun County (2003-2006). He currently serves as the Pastor of Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Birmingham (July 2007 to present) and President of John Carroll Catholic High School (June 2016 to present).

He was appointed Director of Seminarians for the Diocese of Birmingham in October of 1998 and Vicar for Vocations in August of 2001 and served in that position until January of 2007. He served as a Diocesan Consultor (1999-2008; 2019 to present) and on the Diocesan Presbyteral Council (1999-2008 and 2013 to present). He served as the Chair of the Diocesan Presbyteral Council from 2005-2008 and 2014-2015 and Vice-Chair from 2016-2017. He served as the Vicar Forane (Dean) of the East Birmingham Deanery (2016-2020). He currently serves as the Chair of the Diocesan Deposit and Loan Committee. He also serves on the Priests' Personnel Board, the Diocesan Finance Council, the Diocesan Investment Committee and the Vocations Team.

He was commissioned as a Chaplain in the United States Naval Reserve in 1990 and was Honorably Discharged from the Navy as a Lieutenant on February 1, 2004. He currently serves as a Member of the Board of Trustees for Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg, MD. He is a Knight Commander of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and also a Third Degree Knight of Columbus. He currently serves as the Chaplain to the Saint Andrew Society of the Middle South. He is an Eagle Scout (along with his four brothers). Hobbies include golf, football, baseball, and fishing.