

The Beautiful Hands of a Priest

We need them in life's early morning,
We need them again at its close;
We feel their warm clasp of true friendship,
We seek it while tasting life's woes.
When we come to this world we are sinful,
The greatest as well as the least.
But a hand that makes us pure as angels
'Tis the beautiful hand of a priest.

At the altar each day we behold them,
And the hands of a king on his throne
Are not equal to them in their greatness
Their dignity stands all alone.
For there in the stillness of morning
'Ere the sun has emerged from the east,
There God rests between the pure fingers
Of the beautiful hands of a priest.

And when we are tempted to wander
To pathways of sin and of shame
'Tis the hand of a priest will absolve us,
Not once but again and again.
And when we are taking life's partner
Other hands may prepare us a feast
But the hand that will bless and unite us,
Is the beautiful hand of a priest.

God bless them and keep them all holy,
For the Host which their fingers caress,
What can a poor sinner do better
Than to ask Him to choose them to bless
When the death dews on our lids are falling,
May our courage and strength be increased,
By seeing raised o'er us in blessing
The beautiful hand of a priest.



The above was Father Nick's ordination card prayer.

Souvenir Program for Father Nicholas P. Smith's Final Mass as Pastor



St. Francis of Assisi Church
Wakefield, Rhode Island

June 26th, 2011
12:00 Noon

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

CLERGY

Celebrant: Father Nicholas P. Smith, Pastor
Con-celebrants: Father Joseph R. Upton, Assistant
Father Robert J. Randall, Senior Priest
Visiting Clergy:
Deacon: Deacon Paul O. Iacono, Pastoral Assistant

READERS OF THE WORD

Shaun Curry Parish Trustee
Joseph Matthews Parish Trustee

SERVERS

P. Anthony Smith, brother
John McCabe, parishioner
Anthony served Fr. Nick's First Mass at St. Peter's, Drogheda, Ireland on
June 21st, 1965. John was an altar boy at the Cathedral in Providence in 1965,
Fr. Nick's first assignment.

GIFT BEARERS

Kelli R. McNulty Parish Manager
Robert J. Kelly Maintenance
Barbette Cullen Director, Religious Education
Diane Castro Coordinator, Religious Education
Concetta M. Wilson Cook Supreme
William F. Harding Custodian, St. Romuald Chapel
Laurie A. Friel Cemetery Manager

CROSSBEARER

Stephen Battey

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Michelle Brousseau, Carmel Doyle, Jean McGair

USHERS / GREETERS

Jeffrey Coons, Ben Ha, Dana Hawkins, Margaret L. Hogan

MUSIC

Mimi Battey Director of Music

The Parish Choir of St. Francis of Assisi
Parish, with cantors Kerry Quirk, Mark
and Jennifer Castro

Gina Seraichyk Flute
Brian Bouchard Trumpet

Prelude: Jerusalem, My Destiny

Opening Hymn #467 Rain Down

Responsorial Psalm

Offertory #406 Lord of All Hopefulness

Communion #249 Soul of My Savior
#555 Abide With Me

Sending Forth #391 Now Thank We All Our God



Rev. Nicholas P. Smith

Ordained:

June 20th, 1965, All Hallows Seminary, Dublin

Assignments:

Assistant, Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, Providence	1965-1966
Assistant, St. Mary of the Bay, Warren	1966-1971
Chaplain, St. Joseph and Fatima Hospital	1971-1989
Pastor, St. Francis de Sales Church, North Kingstown	1989-1997
Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Wakefield	1997-2011



There will be an Open House parish reception
at Father Greenan Center from 1-4:00 today.