



Rev. Joseph Canavan

My name is Joseph Canavan, and I was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Boston on May 23, 1970. I have spent many years working with Hispanic and English populations in Woburn, Haverhill, Lynn, and Cambridge. For a couple of years, I also worked with Cambodian refugees in Lawrence and Lowell. In my last assignment I was the pastor of St. Mary's Parish in

Cambridge for 5 years. I asked for and was granted a year's leave of absence in 2004 and I moved in with my sister in Tupelo, MS and worked as a counselor in a state hospital.

Before I was able to return to Boston in 2005, my mother had at the age of 89, had a serious accident and she was forced to sell her house. She, too, moved to Mississippi since my sister and I were both living there. We moved to Florida in 2011. I had the blessing of taking care of her until her death at 103 in January 2020. I attempted to work part time as a priest in Mississippi and Florida, but I was told that wasn't possible until I returned to Boston and could participate in a four-month refresher course at Pope John XXIII Seminary. I was not willing to put my mother in a nursing home since I could and wanted to care for her, so I had to wait.

I did attend Pope John XXIII from January to May of this year. As you can imagine, my return was delayed for almost a year due to the pandemic. However, I am now here, I consider myself to be the luckiest priest in the Archdiocese. This community has endured many challenges but rather than succumb to them, you have grown stronger. I am indeed honored to be a part of all that this community represents.