



## Fr. Daniel O'Sullivan

December 29, 1933 - May 6, 2023

Rev. Fr. Daniel O'Sullivan, age 89, died peacefully at his home on May 6, 2023.

Fr. O'Sullivan was born on December 29, 1933, in Detroit, Michigan, to Daniel and Anne O'Sullivan. He was baptized in St. Bernard's Church in Detroit and attended St. Bernard's School, where he graduated with his high school diploma in 1951.

Fr. O'Sullivan went on to attend Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit and graduated in June 1956. He subsequently attended St. John's Provincial Seminary in Plymouth from 1956 to 1960. On June 4, 1960, he was ordained a priest.

Fr. O'Sullivan dedicated his life to serving others through his work in the church and the community at large. During his 63 year priesthood, Fr. Danny served various parishes and locations, including St. Dennis in Royal Oak from June 1960 - June 1965, Patronage of St. Joseph in Detroit from 1965 - 1967, Our Lady of Refuge in Orchard Lake from 1969 - 1972, St. Michael's-St. Joseph Kingston-Mayville from 1972 - 1974, Sacred Heart in Birch Run from 1974 - 1979, Wm. Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak from 1980 - 1985, Detroit Psychiatric Hospital from 1985 - 1998, and St. Francis of Assisi Church in New Haven-Ray Twp from 1991 - 2000. He began senior priest status in

2000.

Fr. O'Sullivan is survived by his brother, Eugene (Lynn), fifteen nieces and nephews, and thirty-two great-nieces and great-nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Daniel and Anne O'Sullivan, and his sisters: Bridget DeWitte and Mary Eileen Mulrenan.

Fr. O'Sullivan will be remembered for his unwavering faith, compassion, and dedication to his community. He touched the lives of so many through his pastoral care and ministry. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and parishioners.

Visitation for Fr. O'Sullivan will take place on Wednesday from 2 pm to 8 pm with Rosary 6 pm and Scripture Service 7 pm at National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, located at 2100 Twelve Mile Rd., Royal Oak. In-State Thursday 9:30 am until time of funeral Mass 11 am at National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica (the Mass will also be livestreamed at <https://shrinechurch.com/live-streamed-mass>). His great friend, Rev. Joseph Horn will be the homilist.

Entombment will take place privately at the Mt. Olivet Cemetery, St. James Mausoleum, 17100 Van Dyke Ave., Detroit.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be directed to The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (<<https://donate.svdpdet.org>>) or to the Fr. Solanus Capuchin Soup Kitchen (<<https://www.cskdetroit.org/more-than-about-food>>).

Share a memory at [www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Olivet Cemetery

17100 VanDyke  
Detroit, MI 48234

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 10. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica  
2100 W. 12 Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48073

## Rosary

MAY 10. 6:00 PM (ET)

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica  
2100 W. 12 Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48073

## Scripture Service

MAY 10. 7:00 PM (ET)

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica  
2100 W. 12 Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48073

## Funeral Mass

---

MAY **11**. 11:00 AM (ET)

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica  
2100 W. 12 Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48073

# Tribute Wall

KE

“ *Fr. Dan graveside for services of my mother-in-law Feb/2016. He is fondly remembered by our family, he was one of a kind. Condolences to his family.*



Ken Ellison - May 28, 2023 at 07:41 AM

KD

“ *Fuair mé amach go ndeachaigh cara de mo chuid ar slí na fírinne ar an séú la de Mhí na Bealtaine. Sheinneamar ceol le chéile thart faoi tríocha bliain ó shin. Sheinn sé an bosca ceoil, an melodeon. Sheinneamar sa chóisirí in Detroit, agus i gCeanada. Dúirt muid go seinnfeadh muid ceol ag tórramh na gceoltóirí eile inár ngrúpa. Ach níl mé in ann. Tá sé imithe. Ach, seó é an t-amhráin atá agam i gcuimhne ar Dan O Sullivan*

*I found out that a friend of mine passed away on the sixth of May. We played music together about thirty years ago. He played the accordion, the melodeon. We played in parties in Detroit, and in Canada. We said we would play music to at the wake of the other musicians in our group. But I can't. It's gone. But, here is the song I have - in memory of Dan O Sullivan*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKwtl1gCJ\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKwtl1gCJ_o)

Karen Donn - May 21, 2023 at 06:11 PM

JC

“ I was traveling by myself in Ireland. It was winter as I recall. I arrived in Clifton, County Galway and checked into a B&B. I was told about a pub that often had seisuns so I walked into town and found it. Sure enough a session was underway. I looked at the gathering of musicians and right in the middle I saw Fr. Dan with his accordion. At the end of the evening we got someone to take this photo. It is one of my favorites. What a wonderful man of God! Jack Cahill



---

**Jack Cahill** - May 18, 2023 at 07:37 PM

JC

*It was Clifden, County Galway. Autocorrected.*

---

**Jack Cahill** - May 18, 2023 at 07:41 PM

IC

“ On behalf of myself and my son, I wish to offer our sincere condolences to Fr.Dan's brother Eugene and all his extended family. We have fond memories of his visits to Annagh in Sligo; his mother's and my family home when I was a child and later visiting my home in Galway. He travelled to us for joyful and sorrowful occasions but each one was made memorable owing to Fr.Dan's presence. He will always be remembered for his unwavering faith, kindness, intellect and musical gift. We will sorely miss him, Rest in Peace Fr.Dan.

*"The Song is Ended, but the Melody Lingers On"*

*Your cousin Irene and Niall.*

*Galway, Ireland.*



---

**Irene Clarke** - May 13, 2023 at 04:24 PM

KC

“ We are deeply saddened at the passing of Fr.Dan. We have lovely memories of him visiting his mother's homeplace in Annagh, Sligo over the years. He loved to celebrate mass here every time he was over and always ended the night with a music session with his accordion. He will be sadly missed by all of us here. Thank you for the lovely memories Fr.Danny.

*Ar dheis Dè go raibh a anam.*

*Eugene, Kathleen, Patrick, Daniel, Stephen and Raymond Clarke,  
Sligo, Ireland*

---

**Kathleen Clarke** - May 11, 2023 at 05:02 PM

BS

“ Fr. Danny was my second cousin, he first came to Ireland in q959 with his parents to visit his father's homestead and met my mother then, they keep in touch always until her death in 1993. He came regularly to our home in O. Kerry, Ireland over the years. He never forgot any of his relatives andoved to celebrate mass while visiting here. I will miss him dearly as I spoke to him often on the phon. His last visit to Ireland was in 2016. I will remember er him for his gentle kindness and deep spiritual belief in Christ Jesus. He was a very knowledgible but humble being. Will remember always with deep fondness and belief that he's in heaven with the Lord. RIP dear kind friend and cousin, rest in the light of heaven with the angels and all your loved ones Fr. Dan and thank you for all your prayers. XX Bláithín O Shea.

Bláithín Ní Shé - May 11, 2023 at 12:00 PM



Blaithin, fr Dan was cousins with my father (O'Hara) of Sligo. Trying to track down history. Fr Dan was an amazing person. Rest in peace

Chris O'Hara - February 05, 2024 at 11:11 AM

MD

“ Father Dan was my great uncle. After reading all these beautiful memories I thought I'd add one too. I have a son with Autism who can be quite timid of people he doesn't know. Father Dan was out visiting at our family farm a few years ago and Owen who never approaches new people just ran up to him and laid his head on Father Dan for a very long embrace. We were all so surprised. It was a really beautiful moment and it touched Father Dan greatly. I have other fun memories of travelling to Ireland with him and surviving his crazy driving! But this memory with my son definitely stands out. ❤️❤️❤️

Meghan Doherty - May 11, 2023 at 09:58 AM

“ *Saint Patrick’s Day Prayer for Father Daniel O’Sullivan*

*Through Saint Patrick’s Intercession and the strength of heaven, I rise today.*

*Light of the sun, Splendor of fire, Speed of lightning, Swiftiness of the wind, Depth of the sea, Stability of the earth, Firmness of the Rock.*

*I rise today through God’s strength to pilot me.*

*God’s might to uphold me.*

*God’s wisdom to guide me.*

*God’s eye to look before me.*

*God’s ear to hear me.*

*God’s word to speak for me.*

*God’s hand to guard me.*

*God’s way to lie before me.*

*God’s shield to protect me.*

*God’s hosts for save me afar and anear, alone or in a multitude.*

*May our God of Peace and Love protect you, Father Daniel; shore you up; and welcome you home. May you rise today.*

*To the O’Sullivan Friends & Family, forever remember this prayer:*

*“Life is to give, and Life is to live, and talents are to use for good if you choose. Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be strong. Do not*

*pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your good works shall be no miracle, but you shall be a miracle today, tomorrow, and beyond.”*

*We thank God ahead of time for all your gifts!*

*Father Charles Blanchard*

---

**Fr. Charles Blanchard** - May 11, 2023 at 09:10 AM

MG

“*Fr. Dan, A kind and caring man who stood up to injustice - he must have had a few Irish rebels in the family. You could confide in him about anything, never feeling judged. He was a good priest and a faithful friend to so many. I'm grateful to have known him for so many years. He was part of the Grogan family on so many levels. We will miss you, Fr. Dan! Marijo*

---

**marijo grogan** - May 10, 2023 at 10:33 PM

JC

“ We will miss Father. Dan. His influence was very wide in the Irish community in Detroit as well as Windsor.

*The culture of Ireland was deep in his soul. Friendliness is the foremost characteristic of the Irish people. Father Dan was very friendly.*

*He would quickly engage you in a conversation and remember your name and your story . He thought that every person that he met was a unique individual.*

*Gisele and I never shared a parish that he was in, but he was in the heart of our family. He sang at our wedding in 1955, as a seminarian. Since then he congratulated us on the birth of our children, visited us when we were ill, played music at our yearly family reunions, and sent us a Christmas card—with a note in his own hand—every year for 63 years! Over the years, we listened to his homilies that he spoke softly, but assuredly, of God’s love and mercy. He stressed Christ’s promise that if we are faithful to Him we will be with Him forever.*

*Father Dan was a good and faithful servant. He had unbounded energy for the things that matter most.*

*We will pray for him and remember him always.*

*Jack Clancy*

---

**Jack Clancy** - May 10, 2023 at 06:24 PM

RH

“ *Daughters of Isabella Circle 683 memories*



Rae Hazelton - May 10, 2023 at 04:43 PM

“ Fr. Dan was a huge part of our childhoods, and even into adulthood. He was on the altar for my wedding in 1989, along with my two uncles, both Catholic priests (and both now deceased).

*Just last October, upon the death of my oldest brother, we were in touch with Fr. Dan about concelebrating the funeral at Our Lady of Refuge, where we grew up. He was all in, but then his health just would not allow it. But it meant so much knowing he wanted to be there for our family -- once again.*

*I'm not sure I mentioned it anywhere in print, but Fr. Dan stayed at our house for several months when I was in 9th grade I believe, so about 1971, when he was recovering from major back surgery. He was really part of the family after that experience. He also traveled to Ireland with my parents, playing tour guide and introducing them to his line of O'Sullivans.*

*I hope his journey home is quick, peaceful, and without pain or trauma. If he is able to absorb your words, please tell him how much he meant to my whole family, how much we loved him, and how much I personally will miss him. He was a positive force for good in this world, and that is the greatest of all life's accomplishments.*

*Godspeed to Fr. Dan! My parents will be there next to St. Peter at the pearly gates to greet him.*

*(Excerpt received from John Grogan, the author of "Marley and Me")*

BC

“ On behalf of the Capuchin brothers I offer my deepest sympathies on the passing of Father Daniel. It is truly humbling to receive memorial donations in honor of his life. Please be assured of the brother's prayers for the entire O'Sullivan family during this great time of grief. May perpetual light shine upon Father Daniel.

---

**Br Nick Blattner Ofm Capuchin** - May 10, 2023 at 01:31 PM

TT

“ In 1982, when my son Tommy was born at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Father O'Sullivan was the chaplain. I was happy, because he was at St. Dennis when I attended there, and I knew him well. Tommy was only a few days old when the doctor came in and said he would have to receive a full blood transfusion, his second transfusion in his short life. His body was rejecting his blood. It was a scary time. When they took Tommy down for the transfusion, Father O'Sullivan came into the room. I told him what was happening, and he said, "let's pray." Father then said a prayer for Tommy's health and well being. After the prayer he said, "Everything will be alright." I thanked him, and he left. A short time later, Tommy was brought back to the room. I asked the doctor, "How did the transfusion go?" The doctor said, "Tommy didn't need the second transfusion. His blood is perfect." The doctor didn't know why, but I did. Thank you Jesus. When I told Father what had happened, in his humble way he simply said quietly, "Good Tommy. Good." I will never forget this man, Father O'Sullivan, who had the ear of God, and who is with Him now.

Pray for us Father.  
Tom Torgerson

---

Thomas Torgerson - May 10, 2023 at 08:30 AM

RH

“ *Father Dan was the Chaplain for our Daughters of Isabella , Queen of the Skies Circle # 683 for over 30 years . Fr. Dan was our spiritual advisor and Friend. His wise and kind Irish spirit will most certainly be missed . May he now play his Irish music for the Angels in heaven. Rest In Peace , dear Father Dan.*  
*Our prayers and Sincere sympathy to his family.*  
*The officers and members of Queen of the Skies Circle # 683 Lois Smith , Regent. Rae Hazelton Past Regent (St Thecla Catholic Church)*

---

**Rae Hazelton** - May 10, 2023 at 07:49 AM

EC

“ *We are deeply saddened at the sad passing of Fr Dan, a lovely friendly priest who came to our home when he visited his mothers family in Co. Sligo and cousins in Co.Mayo in West of Ireland for many years. He was always delighted to join in a music session with his famous button accordion.*  
*Our deepest sympathy to all his family and May his gentle soul rest in Peace. Eileen, Tom, Sean & Niall O'Donnell Doocastle.*  
*CO.MAYO.*

---

**Eileen & Tom O'Donnell. Eileen hi cousin** - May 09, 2023 at 06:42 PM

TD

“ My condolences to Father’s family. He was a big part of my family when I was growing up in St. Dennis parish. As a very young priest he performed his very first “Extreme Unction” for my grandmother. He thought it was just a sick call but found out when he arrived at our home, that it was for Last Rites. He had to return to his car to review what to do and was very nervous giving the sacrament. He won us over then. He would also bring the altar boys out to our cottage for swimming and picnics, plus played his ever present accordion. I was also blessed to have him officiate my wedding in October, 1973. A few years later he baptized my son and nephew at a joint Christening. We always loved and respected him. May he now rest in peace. Trudy Vincent

---

**Trudy Vincent Dunaway** - May 08, 2023 at 08:24 PM

TI

“ Holidays will never be the same. Mom, Dan and all us kids would celebrate Christmas and Fr Dans birthday at the same time, usually over Pizza and a game of Rummy. And lots of story telling from that sharp memory of his. We’ll all miss him. Tina / the Pokowski family



---

**tina** - May 08, 2023 at 08:22 PM

JP

*The Pokowski family has known Fr. Dan from his early days at St Dennis, his first parish assignment after seminary, 63 years ago. The young energetic priest trained and inspired brothers as altar boys and handed out our report cards in grade school. We remember him in his little teal Corvair, taking kids to the lake, local pool, bowling alley or for ice cream. He sponsored the St Dennis CYO and gave parish slide-presentations of his trips to Ireland to standing room only crowds in the school cafeteria. He impacted so many and know he long remembered their faces, names and stories*

*The winter day that a younger sister's playful snowball fatefully met Father's face outside the rectory,, was the day this young priest first visited our family's Royal Oak home. He was 10 years younger than my parents and they forged a life-long bond. .Mom, dad and us 8 kids all embraced this man. No matter what parish he was sent to, Fr Dan always came back to us to minister, baptize, marry, bury ,celebrate and console over the years and generations. We enjoyed social visits, included him in family events, dinners and pizza parties where he reminisced, told stories and played his accordion.. A slice of chocolate Sanders bumpy cake and hot coffee with flavored Irish Creamer kept him playing rummy with us late into the night. This continued thru the latest years, even as we watched him stoically struggling to stand while conducting the funeral services for our Mom in 2012 and then Dad in late 2021.*

*This family fondly remembers and will dearly miss Fr Dan . We, like so many others, were blessed to have him in our lives. God gave us a gift and has now taken him home.*

---

jan P - May 09, 2023 at 12:45 PM

JA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



---

Jan - May 08, 2023 at 07:50 PM

JP

*This photo of Fr Dan was taken while quietly celebrating his 83rd birthday with a few members of the Pokowski family. You can see the years of caring, experience and wisdom etched on his face. Goodness, gentleness and humility shape his expression. His sweet soul glows in his eyes. There is the contented smile from a life well lived and graciously shared with so many.. We thank you, dear Fr. Dan.*

---

jan P - May 09, 2023 at 11:32 AM

NM

“ *In 1967, Fr. O’Sullivan came to my grandparent’s home on Georgia Street near Gratiot in Detroit to entertain our family with his accordion. He was at Patronage of St. Joseph Church at the time. He was well loved and we appreciated his fun and memorable visit.*



---

**Nancy Fisher- Miller** - May 08, 2023 at 04:53 PM

JD

*Great Picture Nancy!! thanks for sharing*

---

**John DeWitte** - May 10, 2023 at 08:01 AM

JM

“ With a name like McNulty, it shouldn't surprise anyone that most of my recent conversations with Father Dan centered around Ireland. His Mother's Father and my Father's Father lived 50 miles away from each other on opposite sides of Killala Bay. Father Dan lived the Irish Trinity, Faith, Music and storytelling.

He was a young priest when he came to Patronage. He set to work to meet, greet and understand his parishioners. This often included games of full contact basketball, where he gave as good as he got. He visited people in their homes, where he could truly come to understand them and their families' needs.

Every young couple wanted him to marry them. Every grieving parishioner wanted Father Dan to say the funeral mass. And to our Pastor's dismay, everyone lined up outside his confessional. Father Dan was a "Anam Cara". In Gaelic, a soul friend. A spiritual advisor and mentor. To a bunch of rambunctious teenagers, he never lost sight of another Irish axiom, "Sometimes the merriest of boys make the best of men". As those teenage boys and girls are now grandparents, I know that Father Dan's gentle guiding hand had shaped who we have become in so many, many ways.

"Good night sweet Prince, and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest".

---

Jim McNulty - May 08, 2023 at 02:19 PM

“ There are two kinds of people in the world: those who are Irish, and those who wish they were.

*At least that's how the saying goes.*

*Born in Detroit, Fr. Dan was a true and proud son of Dingle, Ireland. The ancient musicians of Eire knew there was magic in music, and Fr. Dan lived and shared this musical magic through his many sessions with his numerous squeeze boxes (button accordions). He was also one of the most dedicated and selfless priests, always serving the Irish community through sacraments, comfort in challenging times, and encouragement in daily living. Fr. Dan's name was synonymous with all things Irish, especially serving as the Chaplain to the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and numerous other Irish organizations.*

*He was also a font of wisdom and knowledge when it came to sharing in a lively conversation about his beloved Detroit Tigers.*

*In addition to being a humble priest who shared deeply human, moving homilies, he was a dedicated teacher of young musicians, and, in a quiet way, a very generous friend and family member.*

*We now grieve Fr. Dan's death. Unmistakably Irish as he was, we know he belonged to all people.*

*We now feel a keen sense of loss as we look into the empty space he has left. We know and understand we are all poorer for his passing.*

*That being said, we know, also, we are people of the Resurrection. As people of faith, it is our nature to hope. From moment to moment, day to day, we believe our dear Irish friend now sits in the light of Christ at the Heavenly banquet table.*

*May Fr. Dan and his squeeze box fill the Heavens and our hearts with delightful Irish music that will forever fill us with joy.*

*To paraphrase Matthew:*

*Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a*

*few things.....  
Enter into the joy of your Lord.*

*We love you, Fr. Dan.*

---

**Michael Aidan** - May 08, 2023 at 12:20 PM