

**“ALWAYS WITH A WILLINGNESS TO SERVE.”
MONSIGNOR JAMES JOSEPH DOODY RETIRES**



(St. John's – June 15, 2010) Parishioners, former parishioners, friends and family of Monsignor James Doody gathered at St. Patrick's Church, St. John's on June 15 to celebrate his mass of retirement from pastoral ministry in the Archdiocese of St. John's.

Speaking to those gathered Monsignor Doody said that after 57 years of service as a priest he thought that it was time to retire but he hoped that he would continue to “get a few hobbles.”

Monsignor Doody was born at Mosquito, Colinet Island, St. Mary's Bay, the son Casimir Doody and Sarah Byrne. He received his early education at Mosquito, Colinet Island. After leaving school he worked for some years in Gander and Argentina. In 1946 he began attending school at St. Bonaventure's College, St. John's where he studied Latin and philosophy, courses required in order to begin studies for the ordained priesthood.

He attended St. Mary's University, Halifax in 1947-1948 upon completion of his studies in Halifax he began his theological studies All Hallows College, Dublin, Ireland in 1948. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 21, 1953.

Monsignor Dennis Walsh the homilist for the celebration described his friend as a faithful priest with “service as his hallmark” a priest “always with a willingness to serve.” During the course of his homily, Monsignor Walsh highlighted some of the pastoral appointments of Monsignor Doody since his ordination.

1953 - 1954	St. Joseph's Parish, St. John's
1954 - 1956	Holy Apostles Parish, Renew's
1956 - 1957	St. Kyran's, Bar Haven, Oderin, and Merasheen Parishes
1957 - 1962	Sacred Heart Parish, Oderin
1962 - 1968	Monsefu, Peru Parish
1968 - 1973	Sacred Heart Parish, St. Mary's
1973 - 1982	Sacred Heart Parish, Placentia
1982 - 1984	Ministry to Priest's Program
1984 - 1986	St. Joseph's Parish, St. John's
1986 - Present	St. Patrick's Parish, St. John's and St. John Bosco, Shea Height's.

Parishioners travelled from many of the parishes where “Father Jim” had served filling the Church to capacity. Monsignor Walsh in his homily said that their presence was a testament to “Father Jim's big heart.”

Many of those attending were life long friends. Mr. Ray Power originally from Regina on Colinet Island recalled the triumphant return of the young Father Jim to

Colinet Island, the first priest from Colinet Island, for his mass of Thanksgiving. He said that as a young boy he spent days with his friends dragging boughs to the church in Regina where a bough arch was constructed for "Father Jim" to walk under.

Monsignor Doody during his 57 years as a priest has enjoyed the confidence of his brother priests being appointed or elected as a Member of the Board of Consultors (1968-1970); Member of the Archdiocesan Personnel Committee (1969-1970); Chair of the Council of Priests (1982-1984); Director of the Ministry to Priests Program (1984-1986) and Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese.

In December 1994, Pope John Paul II designated Reverend James Doody as a *Prelate of Honor* with the lifetime title of Monsignor. It is recognition of the Pope himself of special service rendered to the Church.

Concelebrating the mass with Monsignor Doody were several other priests who have had a life long connection. In addition to Monsignor Dennis Walsh were Archbishop Emeritus, Alphonsus L. Penney, Monsignor Francis Coady, Father John Maddigan, Father Pat Power and Father Wayne Dohey. On the previous evening Archbishop Martin Currie, Archbishop of St. John's and thirty nine priests from the Archdiocese gathered at St. Patrick's for a celebration.

Immediately following the mass at St. Patrick's a reception was hosted by the Terra Nova Council, Knights of Columbus at their hall on St. Clare Avenue. During the reception, Monsignor Doody thanked all who came out for the evening and was presented with several retirement gifts from parish organizations.

Monsignor Doody officially retires on July 2. He plans to continue to live in residence at St. Patrick's Deanery, St. John's that has been his home for the past 24 years.