



City of Cambridge

38.

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

IN CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 5, 1990

- WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Reverend Shawn Sheehan, retired Pastor and leader in church liturgical and social justice movements; and
- WHEREAS: Father Sheehan, a native of Brockton, graduated from Holy Cross College in 1933 and was ordained by then-Auxiliary Bishop Richard Cushing in 1940; and
- WHEREAS: Upon completion of his doctoral studies at Catholic University of America in 1944, Father Sheehan was assigned to teach at St. John's Home Missions Seminary in Little Rock, Arkansas; and
- WHEREAS: In 1948, Father Sheehan returned to the Archdiocese of Boston and was assigned to St. Thomas Parish, Salem-Peabody, and St. Mary's Parish, Cambridge and later appointed to the faculty of St. John's Seminary Brighton; and
- WHEREAS: In 1966, he was appointed Pastor of St. Leo Parish, Dorchester transferring in 1972 to St. Elizabeth Parish, West Acton, where he served until his retirement in 1983; and
- WHEREAS: Throughout his ministry, Father Sheehan was active in church renewal movements in the areas of liturgy, ecumenism, justice and peace; and
- WHEREAS: Father Sheehan was active in the civil rights movement of the 1960's and worked with local and federal social service agencies to promote anti-poverty and Model Cities programs; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record expressing its deepest sympathy to the family of Reverend Shawn Sheehan at this time of such personal loss; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council November 5, 1990.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk

October 26, 1990

OBITUARIES

Rev. Shawn Sheehan, 78

Retired Pastor was activist in civil rights movement

Bernard Cardinal Law was the principal celebrant at a Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, October 24, in St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, Acton, for Rev. Shawn Sheehan, retired Pastor and a leader in church liturgical and social justice movements.

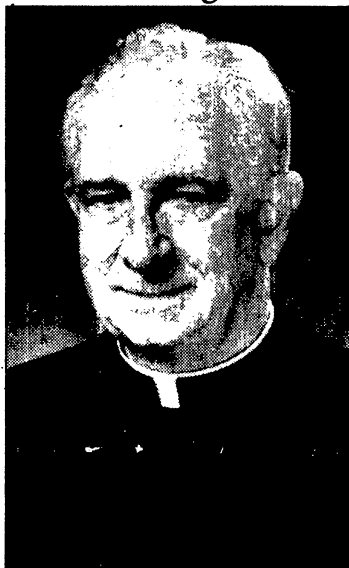
Father Sheehan, 78, died of cancer on Friday, October 19, at St. Joseph Home in Dorchester.

A native of Brockton, Father Sheehan graduated from Holy Cross College in 1933 and was ordained by then-Auxiliary Bishop Richard Cushing in 1940.

He received a doctorate in church history from Catholic University of America in 1944. The following year, he was assigned to teach at St. John's Home Missions Seminary in Little Rock, Ark., returning in 1948 to serve as assistant pastor at St. Thomas Parish, Salem-Peabody, and St. Mary Parish, Cambridge.

In 1954, he was appointed to the faculty of St. John's Seminary, Brighton, where he taught liturgy and church history. In 1966, he was appointed Pastor of St. Leo Parish, Dorchester, transferring in 1972 to St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, West Acton, where he served until his retirement in 1983. In later years, Father Sheehan served as priest-in-residence at Sacred Heart Parish, Newton Centre.

Throughout his ministry, Father Sheehan was active in church renewal movements in



Rev. Shawn Sheehan

the areas of liturgy, ecumenism, justice and peace. He served as president of the National Liturgical Conference from 1956 to 1959 and edited *Mediator*, a publication promoting renewal in Catholic worship.

He was active in the civil rights movement of the 1960s and worked with local and federal social service agencies to promote anti-poverty and Model Cities programs. Long associated with the Catholic peace movement, Father Sheehan participated in vigils and education efforts in behalf of the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Peace Pastoral.

Rev. Richard McBrien, chairman of the Theology Department at the University of Notre Dame, acknowledged Father Sheehan's "profound influence" on the people with whom he came into contact and added, "Here is a man who didn't need luxury or titles, a man who was way ahead of his time."

Rev. Bryan Hehir, a senior adviser to the U.S. bishops on peace and justice issues, paid tribute to Father Sheehan as a priest who "had a living sense of how the church worships and witnesses — a sense of lay participation and social ministry in the world."

Father Sheehan leaves a sister, Eileen (Sheehan) Downs of Golden, Colo., and a brother, James P. Sheehan of South Boston.

Burial took place in Calvary Cemetery, Brockton.

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Location: Well-kept home in East Boston, near MBTA and within
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02110.

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Pilot box
number.

DEAD-
LINE

12 Noon Friday
for the following
week's publica-
tion.

November 5, 1990

Councillor Toomey

Whereas: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Reverend Shawn Sheehan, retired Pastor and a leader in Church Liturgical and social justice movements, and

Whereas: Father Sheehan, a native of Brocton, graduated from Holy Cross College in 1933 and was ordained by then Auxiliary Bishop Richard Cushing in 1940; and

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St. Thomas Parish, Salem - Peabody
and St. Mary Parish Cambridge
and later appointed to the
Faculty of St. John's Seminary,
and

Whereas: In 1966 he was appointed
Pastor of St. Leo Parish,
Dorchester, transferring in
1972 to St. Elizabeth Parish
West Acton where he served
until his retirement in 1983, and

Whereas: Throughout his Ministry Father
Sheehan was active in Church
renewal movements in the areas
of liturgy, ecumenism, Justice
and peace; and

Whereas: Father Sheehan was active in the
civil rights movement of the
1960s and worked with local
and Federal social service
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and Model Cities programs; now
therefore be it

Resolved : That this City Council go on record expressing its deepest sympathy to the family of Reverend Shawn Sheehan at this time of such personal loss, and be it further

Resolved : That the City Clerk be thereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the family on behalf of the entire City Council.



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Adopted by the affirmative vote
of 9 members

Joseph E. Convent City Clerk

Order # 38 S-1063

Councillor Toomey resolutions on the
death of Reverend Shawn Sheehan.

In City Council,

November 5, 1990

Order adopted