

# Cardinal Seán's Blog

Cardinal Seán shares his reflections & experiences.



---  
From there I went to the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Bethany Apartments at The Cardinal Cushing Centers in Hanover. This new development by our Planning Office for Urban Affairs will provide more than 35 residences for low- and middle-income people in the area.





We were joined at the groundbreaking by Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, local and state officials and a large number of people who are involved in supporting the Planning Office's work.







With Planning Office Director Lisa Alberghini and Lt. Governor Polito











As I mentioned, the new development is on the grounds of The Cardinal Cushing Center. Originally the St. Coletta Center, it was founded by the Franciscan Sisters and Cardinal Cushing just after World War II as a place where “exceptional children,” as Cardinal Cushing called them, could realize their full potential.

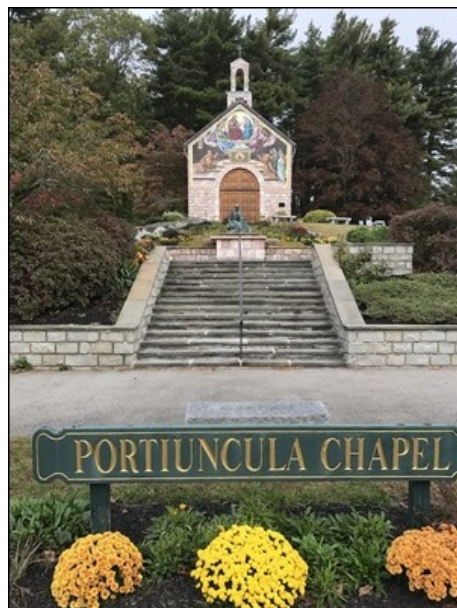




Such was his love for these children that Cardinal Cushing chose to be buried on the grounds of the school in a chapel which is a replica of the Portiuncula Chapel in Assisi.



Before the groundbreaking, I took a moment to visit the chapel.









I often joke that when I went to the Holy Land for the first time, and people asked me how I liked it, I would always say, "It is wonderful. It's just like the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington!" Well, if you go to the Portiuncula Chapel in Hanover, it's even more beautiful than the Portiuncula in Assisi, because in Assisi they built Our Lady of the Angels Church on top of it. But in Hanover, it's in a very beautiful wooded area, the way it would have been in the time of St. Francis.

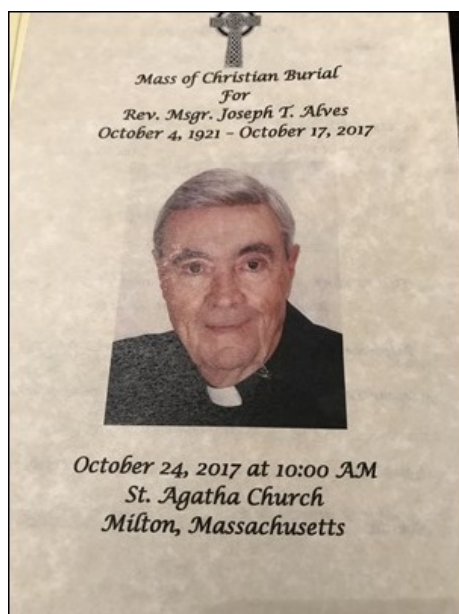
Of course, the work that is being done there at The Cardinal Cushing Center with the special needs children and their families is just extraordinary. So, we are so proud of our Planning Office for Urban Affairs for its work in conjunction with them to build new housing there for working class people.





---

The following day I went to Milton to celebrate the funeral Mass for Msgr. Alves. His sister, who is a Sister of St. Joseph, Sister Mary Alves, proclaimed the first reading for us.



Father Chris Hickey gave an extraordinary reflection on his life. Msgr. Alves was the oldest living priest in the archdiocese and he had an extraordinary military career flying B-29 bombers in World War II before becoming a priest.

It was a lovely send-off for a priest whose long ministry touched the lives of so many.

---

Later that day, back at the Pastoral Center, we had one of our regular ongoing formation meetings for recently ordained priests. During our lunch together, we had a very nice discussion about priestly spirituality and pastoral challenges. We spoke of the spirituality of a diocesan priest and talked about what kinds of things are life-giving and supportive of one's interior life. It was a very fascinating conversation.