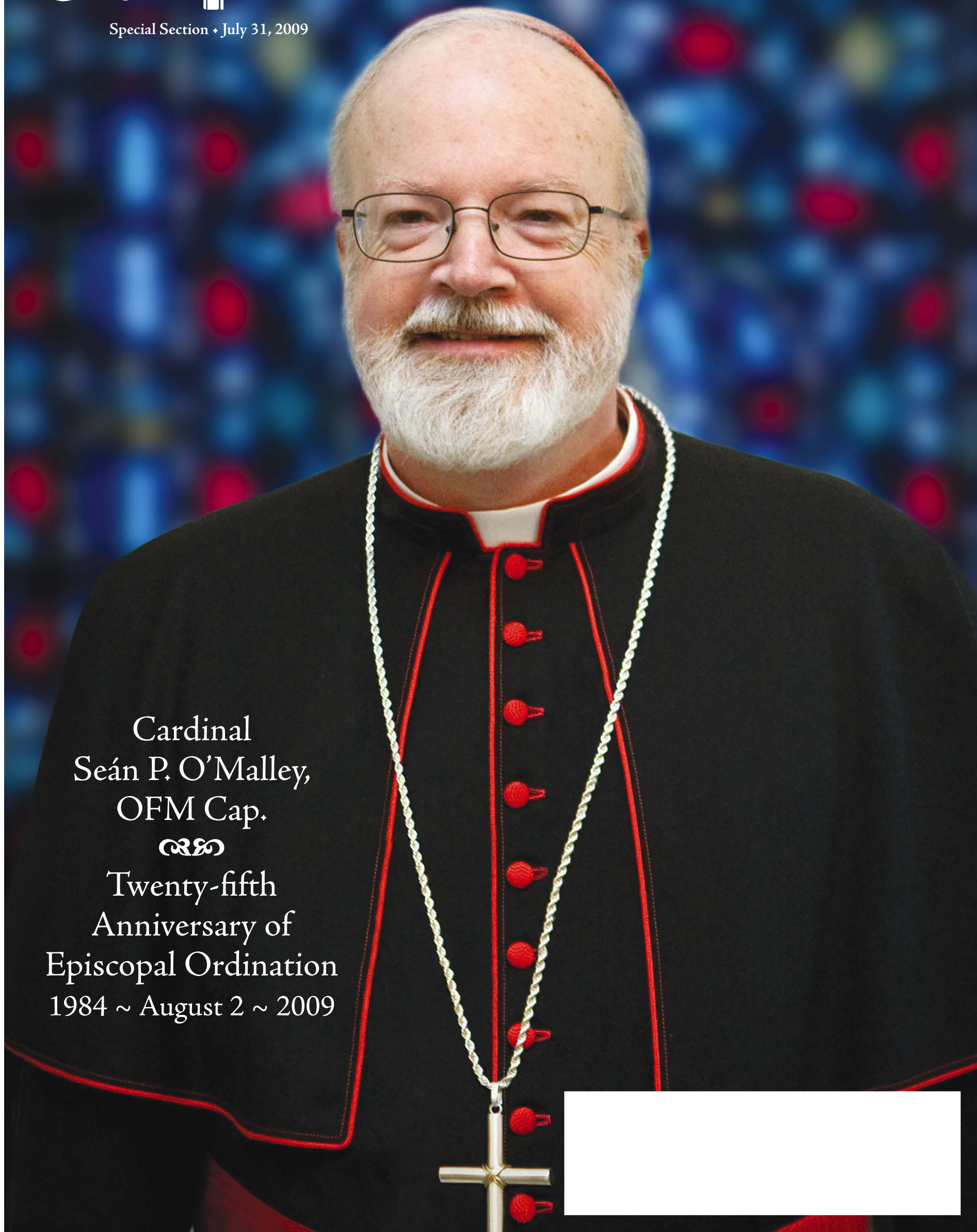


# The Pilot

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# Seán Patrick Cardinal O'Malley, OFM Cap.

By FATHER ROBERT M. O'GRADY

Seán Patrick Cardinal O'Malley, OFM Cap. is the ninth bishop and sixth archbishop in the more than 200 year history of the archdiocese.

He was born in Lakewood, Ohio, June 29, 1944, son of the late Theodore and Mary Louise (Reidy) O'Malley. He attended St. Gabriel and Sacred Heart Elementary Schools in Pennsylvania and St. Fidelis High School, a high school seminary conducted by the Capuchin fathers, in Butler, Penn.



He prepared for the priesthood at St. Fidelis Seminary, also in Butler, and at the Capuchin College in Washington, D.C. He was professed on July 14, 1965 in the Capuchin Order, a religious order dedicated to following in the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi.

On Aug. 29, 1970, Pittsburgh's Auxiliary Bishop John B. McDowell ordained him a priest of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin. He then went on to earn a master's degree in religious education and a doctorate in Spanish and Portuguese Literature, both at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he also taught from 1969 to 1973.

In 1973 he began serving as Executive Director of Centro Catolico Hispano in the Washington Archdiocese before being named Episcopal Vicar for the Hispanic, Portuguese and Haitian communities and Executive Director of the archdiocesan Office of Social Ministry in 1978.

The servant of God, Pope John Paul II appointed him as coadjutor bishop of the diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands on May 30, 1984. The Most Rev. Edward J. Harper, CSSR, the bishop of St. Thomas assisted by Washington's Archbishop James A. Hickey and one of



Greeting the Holy Father at an audience in Rome.

Photo courtesy/The Florida Catholic

the capital city's auxiliary bishops, the titular bishop of Walla Walla, the Most Rev. Eugene Marino, SSJ, ordained him a bishop on Aug. 2, 1984 at the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul in St. Thomas. He became the diocesan bishop of the Caribbean diocese, succeeding Bishop Harper, on Oct. 16, 1985.

During his service as bishop in the Virgin Islands, Bishop O'Malley was a regular visitor to the archdiocese. Actually he was here more on "business" than visiting. He spent some time each spring assisting with the celebration of the sacrament of confirmation in many parishes of the archdiocese.

On June 16, 1992 Pope John Paul II announced the appointment of Bishop O'Malley as the sixth bishop of Fall River. He was installed at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption on August 11, 1992, the Franciscan feast day of St. Clare.

As bishop of Fall River, he was involved with the wider community both within the diocese itself and in the Commonwealth. He was active in the work of the Massachusetts Catholic Conference, especially with Pro-life issues.

Bishop Seán Patrick O'Malley, OFM Cap., was appointed by Pope John Paul II on Sept. 3, 2002 to become the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Palm Beach. In a Eucharistic Liturgy of Installation at the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola in Palm Beach Gardens on Oct. 19, 2002, Bishop O'Malley became the spiritual leader of a Catholic population of more

than 250,000 Catholics worshipping in 53 parishes and missions.

On Tuesday, July 1, 2003 Pope John Paul II named Palm Beach's fourth diocesan bishop, the Most Rev. Seán Patrick O'Malley, OFM, Cap. as the archbishop of Boston. The announcement from Rome was made on the feast of Blessed Junipero Serra, a Franciscan missionary to California and Mexico. Serra is best remembered for the creation of the

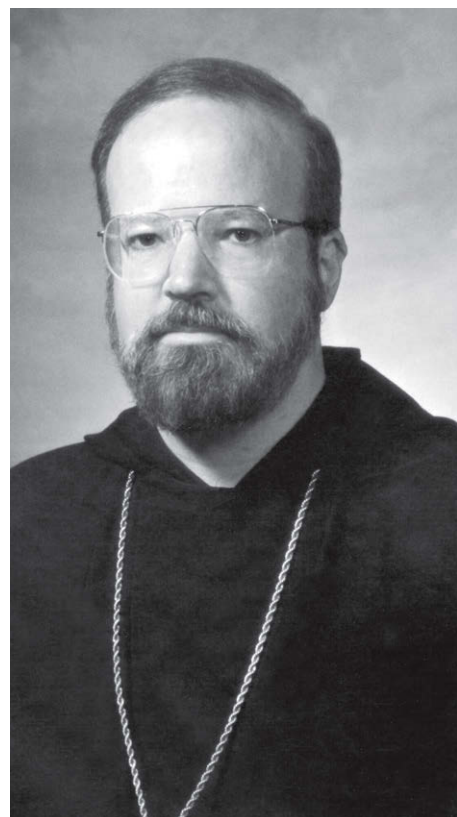
string of California missions, stretching hundreds of miles from San Diego in the south to Sonoma in the north. The names of the missions have become the names of large cities — Los Angeles and San Francisco; scenic vistas — Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo; and one serves as a harbinger of spring and announcer of fall — San Juan Capistrano.

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Bishop O'Malley concelebrates a Mass at a Pro-life Convention at Bishop Connolly High School in Fall River with New York Cardinal John O'Connor. Also pictured is Deacon Bruce Bonneau.

Photo courtesy/The Anchor, Fall River



Official portrait of Bishop Seán P. O'Malley, OFM Cap. from Fall River

Photo courtesy/The Anchor, Fall River



# Seán Patrick Cardinal O'Malley, OFM Cap.



Catching up with friends and parishioners following the rededication Mass in St. Ignatius Loyola Cathedral, Palm Beach Gardens. Photo courtesy/The Florida Catholic

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He immediately set about the process of rebuilding the archdiocese by meeting with victims of clergy sexual abuse; settling new and pending cases and beginning a process of reconfiguring and consolidating the parishes.

He initiated a study of the Catholic schools of the archdiocese resulting in the 2010 Initiative a parishes/vicariate based process of strengthening the existing schools and where possible expanding and adding to them.

Although he is the first Capuchin to serve the archdiocese as its diocesan bishop, he is not the first member of a religious order to do so. That distinction belongs to a Jesuit, Benedict Joseph Fenwick the second bishop of the diocese who served from 1825-1846. Nor is Cardinal O'Malley the first Franciscan, Archbishop Roberto O. Gonzalez, OFM, presently the archbishop of

San Juan, Puerto Rico was an auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese from 1988 to 1995.

Cardinal O'Malley is an active member of the United States Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops. He was elected by his brother bishops to serve as chairman of their Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. Currently, he is also a member of the USCCB Administrative Board, a consultant to both the Committee on Migration and Pro-Life Activities, and a member of both the Subcommittee on the Church in Africa and that of the Church in Latin America.

Throughout his years as bishop, he has served on numerous others boards, including Missions (of which he was chairman), Priestly Formation, Hispanic Affairs, Migration, and the Church in Latin America as well as on the board of directors for Catholic

Relief Services and the Association for the Development of the Catholic University of Portugal.

In 1998 he was appointed by the Holy Father to the Special Assembly for Oceania of the Synod of Bishops, which was held at the Vatican from Nov. 22 to Dec. 12. He has also served as Apostolic Visitor for several seminaries in Central America and the Caribbean.

He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of his alma mater, The Catholic University of American in Washington, D.C.

Pope Benedict XVI named him to the College of Cardinals and bestowed on him the red biretta of that office at the Consistory of March 24, 2006. At the

same time he entrusted to him the titular church of Santa Maria della Vittoria, a notable baroque church in Rome. The Holy Father also named him a member of the Congregation for the Clergy and the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

As he celebrates the silver jubilee of his episcopal ordination, Cardinal O'Malley characteristically wishes the focus not to be on himself but on others — especially his closest collaborators in the sacred ministry, the priests.

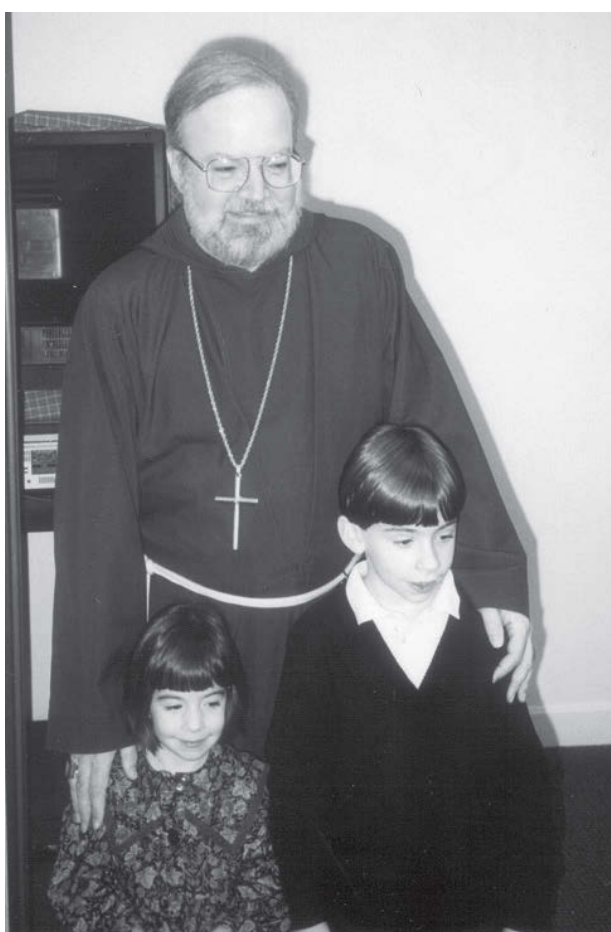
For him and for his priests it is both fortuitous and significant that this anniversary in celebrated during the Year for Priests.



My successor Bishop Gerald Barbarito incenses the altar at the rededication Mass in St. Ignatius Loyola Cathedral, Palm Beach Gardens. Photo courtesy/The Florida Catholic



Bishop O'Malley receives an honorary degree from UMass-Dartmouth in June of 2000. Photo courtesy/The Anchor, Fall River



Bishop O'Malley poses for a photo with students from Holy Trinity School in West Harwich. Photo courtesy/The Anchor, Fall River



Celebrating Mass and preaching during a visitation of one of our parishes in Palm Beach Photo courtesy/The Florida Catholic



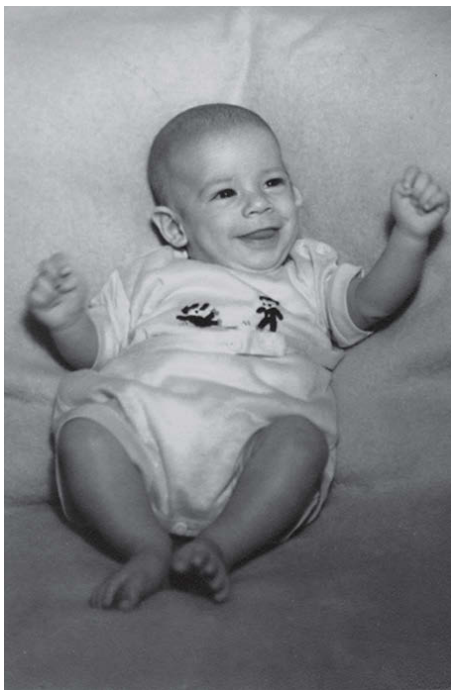
## O'Malley family reaction to 2002 appointment as fourth bishop of Palm Beach Florida is 'where he belongs'

*"I think he is going to be wonderful down here in Florida, especially because of his background with working with so many people and his love of language, and his understanding of cultures and his ability to empathize with what people are going through,"*

— Kitty Rotella, one of Bishop O'Malley's nine cousins in the Miami area.

By TOM TRACY

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — With his love of immigrants, his considerable linguistic talents and familial ties to the area, the new bishop of Palm Beach will make a good match for South Florida, according to immediate and extended members of the O'Malley family.



Baby Patrick O'Malley shows an early example of his smile. Photo courtesy of The Florida Catholic

"He has always been an advocate for the poor and immigrants, but he is just as effective with diplomats and high-level people," Mary Alexsovich, a resident of Miami and executive director of the Swiss-owned Inlingua Language Center, said of her older brother, Bishop Seán Patrick O'Malley, OFM Cap. He is the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Palm Beach.

"I think that is where he belongs,



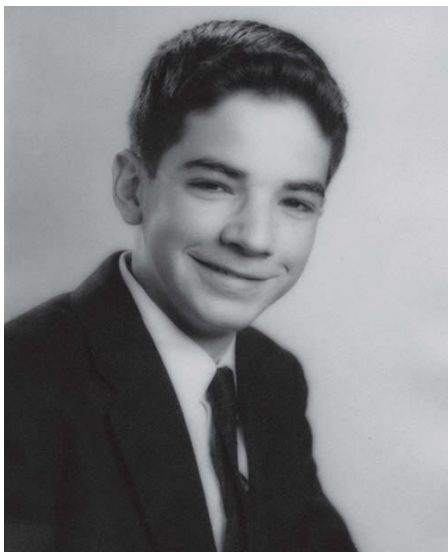
A "propehtic" pose — his first try at shepherding. Photo courtesy of The Florida Catholic

working with immigrants and very mixed communities; South Florida has that," Alexsovich said.

Recalling his early days as a Capuchin friar, Alexsovich said she remembered hearing from a Cuban woman that when her brother arrived in Washington, D.C., early in his priestly ministry, he barely spoke Spanish. The next year he was said to be fluent in the language. "He is really gifted in languages: I am not like him, and I am director of a language center," she said.

The O'Malley family are originally from Ohio, where the bishop attended Catholic elementary schools in Lakewood, a suburb of Cleveland, and after, his family moved to Pennsylvania, in Pittsburgh and Reading. Following his sophomore year in high school, the future bishop told his family he wanted to enter the Capuchin minor seminary. They were not surprised.

"We were two doors down the street from St. Gabriel Parish in Pittsburgh," which was staffed by the Capuchins, said the bishop's father, Theodore O'Malley, 85, a retired insurance attorney.



The first of many formal portraits.

Photo courtesy The Anchor, Fall River

Bishop O'Malley's mother, Mary Lou (Reidy) O'Malley, died of multiple sclerosis in 1964, six years before O'Malley was ordained. Theodore O'Malley and the bishop's stepmother, Claire, have been married for 35 years. They live in Deerfield Beach, just south of the dividing line between the Miami and Palm Beach dioceses.

As the second-oldest O'Malley son — he has another sibling, Ted, in Parker, Colo. — the bishop prepared for the priesthood at St. Fidelis Seminary, in Butler, Penn., and at the Capuchin College in Washington, D.C. He was professed on July 14, 1965 in the Capuchin Order, which is dedicated to following in the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi.



Ready for Mass... Photo courtesy of The Florida Catholic

On Aug. 29, 1970, he was ordained a priest of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin.

The bishop's first name is actually Patrick, but the Capuchins gave him the name Seán upon his profession of vows. It's the name his family and friends now use when they speak of him.

He then went on to earn a master's degree in religious education and a doctorate in Spanish and Portuguese Literature, both at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He taught there from 1969 to 1973.

In 1973, he began serving as executive director of Centro Catolico Hispano in the Washington Archdiocese before being named episcopal vicar for the Hispanic, Portuguese and Haitian communities and executive director of the archdiocesan Office of Social Ministry in 1978.

He was ordained coadjutor bishop of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands in 1984, and the following year became ordinary of the Caribbean diocese upon the retirement of his predecessor. In June, 1992, Pope John Paul II announced the appointment of Bishop O'Malley to the Diocese of Fall River.

According to the bishop's parents, the O'Malley family prayed together at meals and during Sunday Mass, but were a regular kind of Catholic family. "The children didn't give me any problems," Theodore O'Malley told *The Florida Catholic*. "They were good children."

In later years, as he was traveling to and from the Caribbean or Latin America, Bishop O'Malley would see his parents and his numerous cousins in the Miami area, where he frequently came to make flight connections. There were also big family get-togethers on Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter, according to his stepmother.

"We get quite a group

together," she said, adding that — in terms of Florida — the bishop is familiar mostly with the Miami area, but that he has visited St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach several times. "I think he will do fine in Palm Beach," she said. Her husband added: "All my children are better travelers than we are."

As far as getting acquainted with his new five-county Diocese of Palm Beach, the bishop's sister, Mary, pointed out that her brother has always been a quick study. She can't recall him ever getting less than an "A" throughout his schooling — nor can she remember ever actually seeing him study.

"I do remember him sitting down and reading the World Book Encyclopedia; so did I — but he remembers everything," Alexsovich said. In Rome, the bishop makes an excellent tour guide, she added: "He remembers everything."

Others of the O'Malley family have found a special calling in education and Catholic ministry. Kitty Rotella, one of the bishop's nine cousins in the Miami area, is director of the Montessori preschool through grade six at Carrollton of the Sacred Heart in Coconut Grove. Her memories of "Bishop Sean" include the family gatherings, which typically bring together 30 to 50 relatives.

"No matter how many Masses he would have for that day, when he came in for the holidays he would celebrate a liturgy for the family," at the chapel at St. Richard Parish in Miami, Rotella said. "His cousin's children serve the Mass."

She described the bishop as "very easy to talk to; a warm person, and also a fun person with a good sense of humor. He can tell a very good story. I think because of his life he has interesting stories

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Proud parents Mr. and Mrs. Theodore O'Malley of Deerfield Beach, Florida. Photo courtesy of The Florida Catholic



## *O'Malley family reaction to 2002 appointment as fourth bishop of Palm Beach* Florida is 'where he belongs'



Some of the O'Malley clan gather

Photo courtesy of The Florida Catholic

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to tell which have interesting meaning behind them and make you reflect on your own life," Rotella said.

Rotella also said the bishop is versatile enough that he can go from one

group of cultures to another, remaining approachable by all classes and peoples. He is also comfortable with himself, she added.

"I think he is going to be wonderful down here in Florida, especially because

of his background with working with so many people and his love of language, and his understanding of cultures and his ability to empathize with what people are going through."

Another of the bishop's cousins

in Miami is Rotella's brother, Rob O'Malley, a religion teacher at Belen Jesuit Preparatory High School in Miami and a permanent deacon affiliated with St. Richard Parish. It's been a particular blessing to have a member of the clergy in the family, said Deacon O'Malley, who worked as a lawyer for many years before going into Catholic education.

"My faith journey is different than (the bishop's) ...but he was an influence for me, and there were others, too," he said.

Once the people of the Palm Beach Diocese get to know their new spiritual shepherd, they will see he is soft-spoken and can be expected to relate well, especially to the diocese's poor areas, such as the migrant farm worker communities throughout the region.

"I think that Bishop Sean will relate well to that part of the diocese," Deacon O'Malley said. "He feels close to the poor."

Patricia O'Malley, the bishop's aunt in Miami, adds it's simply nice to see her nephew living so close now to his father and stepmother — it's less than an hour's drive from the pastoral center in Palm Beach Gardens to Deerfield Beach. "We are just very proud of Sean, he is a person for all of us to proud of," she said.

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**Congratulations and Best Wishes  
to Seán Cardinal O'Malley  
on his 25th Anniversary  
as a Bishop**

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