

Curriculum Vitae – Bishop Thomas J. O’Brien Retired Bishop of the Diocese of Phoenix

Date of Birth and place – November 29, 1935 – Indianapolis, Indiana

Date of Death – August 26, 2018 – Phoenix, Arizona

Ordained to Priesthood – May 7, 1961 for the Diocese of Tucson

Ordaining Prelate – Most Reverend Paul C. Schulte, Archbishop of Indianapolis

Incardination into the Diocese of Phoenix – December 1969

Prelate of Honor – title Monsignor – March 1981

Education

- Elementary - St. Catherine of Siena, Indianapolis, Indiana 1941 - 1949
- Seminary High School - St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad, Indiana 1949 - 1953
- Seminary College - St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad, Indiana 1953 - 1957
- Seminary Theology - St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad, Indiana 1957 - 1961

Assignments

- Immaculate Heart Parish, Douglas Parochial Vicar 1961 - 1964
- St. Theresa Parish, Phoenix Parochial Vicar 1964 - 1966
- St. Gregory Parish, Phoenix Parochial Vicar 1966 - 1969
- Secretary to the Bishop 1969 - 1978
- Vicar General 1978 - 1982
- St. Catherine of Siena, Phoenix Pastor 1979 - 1982
- Bishop of Phoenix 1982 - 2003
- Retired Bishop of Phoenix 2003

Other duties (*dates of appointment*)

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

- Member, Vocations Committee: 1984
- Member, Mission Committee: 1984
- Member, Economic Concern of the Holy See Committee: 1984, 1997
- Consultant, Pro-Life Activities Committee: 1990
- Member, Committee for Campaign for Human Development: 1990
- Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Collections: 1991
- Member, Committee for Doctrine and Pastoral Practices: 1992
- Member, Committee on the Diaconate: 1995
- Member, Committee on Marriage and Family: 1993
- Region 13 Representative, National Advisory Council: 1993
- Region 13 Representative, Administrative Board: 1993
- Chairman, Committee on Marriage and Family: 1996

Other

- Honorary Chairman, Arizona Alliance of Business Jobs for Youth Program: 1985
- Special Member, Greater Phoenix Leadership: 1981
- Board Member, Mexican-American Cultural Center: 1983
- Member, Board of Trustees, Catholic Mutual Relief Society: 1995
- Board Member, Catholic Relief Services: 1987
- Board of Trustees, Catholic University of America, Washington D.C.: 1988
- Member, Board of Directors, Arizona Save-A-Life Alliance: 1995

Pastoral Letters

- A Springtime of Hopes and Dreams 1986
- On Liturgical Renewal and Eucharistic Guidelines 1987
- Are the Moral Standards of Society Where You Want Them? 1993
- The Diaconate: A Call and Mission to Serve 1994
- Strengthen Your Brother: Pastoral Letter to the Presbyterate 1995

Accomplishments and Events

- Began the Primavera Project: A diocesan planning process
- Established the Catholic Sun newspaper and was its founding publisher
- Welcomed Pope John Paul II during his pastoral visit to the United States
- Welcomed Mother Teresa of Calcutta on two visits that resulted in the establishment of the Gift of Mary Home run by the Missionaries of Charity sisters
- Led the Today's Children Tomorrow's Leaders Campaign – for two new elementary schools, capital improvements of existing schools and an endowment for tuition assistance
- Vision 2000 – A diocesan planning process
- Jubilee 2000 events:
 - Spirit Mass and Confirmations at Bank One Ball Park
 - Festival of Faith
 - Eucharist 2000 – Eucharistic Congress
- Designed and Constructed the Diocesan Pastoral Center

Other Highlights

- First bishop to speak Spanish in the Diocese of Phoenix
- Founded and revived the Foundation for Senior Living
- Founded the Catholic Community Foundation and Crozier Dinner

Personal

Parents – Frank R. O'Brien and Mary O' Donnell

Sibling – Jeanne Dearing