

## **Area priest makes Torrington his home again**

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TORRINGTON >> The Rev. Will Roger Malave packed his belongings and made his way from Torrington to West Virginia in 1993 for work. Now, after years of travel and work experience, he's back in the city and enjoying retirement.

Retirement is an achievement well deserved for Malave, who will celebrate his 29 years of priesthood on Feb. 27 in addition to his 75th birthday on Wednesday.

During his 29 years of priesthood, he has moved 21 different times all across the country.

"I've been everywhere and done every kind of work imaginable," he said.

Born in Cayey, Puerto Rico, Malave and his six brothers and sisters moved to Camden, New Jersey, in May 1947.

Malave studied [for the] priesthood at Holy Apostles College in Cromwell and at age 46, he was ordained a Roman Catholic priest on Feb. 22, 1986, at St. Joseph Cathedral in Hartford. He then came to work at St. Peter's Church for two years in Torrington before moving on to churches in New Haven and East Haven.

In 1993, Malave moved the West Virginia and worked in two

different communities while he was there.

After his five years of work in West Virginia, he moved to Texas to work in a parish there for three months. He briefly made his way back to Connecticut in 1998, where he worked at St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury as a chaplain. It was after a few years at the hospital when he told his superiors that although he enjoyed his work in Waterbury, he was "ready to fly."

In June 2001, Malave lived and worked in Amsterdam, Ohio, where he would spend three years.

"It was a lovely experience," he said.

As his three years were drawing to a close, Malave thought that since he was getting older he wanted to move to a place he considered home, the state of Connecticut.

Once he was back in state, he worked at St. Margaret's Church in Waterbury for two years before officially retiring in 2006.

Although retired, Malave has not become immobile. Just a year ago he was living with another priest in Pennsylvania. Currently, he still helps out with Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Hartford.

Malave chose to come back to Torrington because of his fond memories of the residents of the area and affordable housing.

"Torrington was good to me for the two years I was here," he said.

Malave is excited to be living in Torrington again, as he said he has run into acquaintances from his past days here who have brought back memories of his previous time spent in Torrington.

“I like the atmosphere here,” he said.

For now, Malave is content with his home in Torrington. As to when his next move will be, he said he will be in the city “as long as he is allowed to be.”