



Church, friends remember Robert Moore

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Moore Family

Robert J. Moore Sr.

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GateHouse News Service

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Needham — Inside St. Bartholomew's Parish on Greendale Avenue, the mood was somber Sunday, Nov. 4, as the pastor, Rev. Philip E. McGaugh, addressed the tragic events from two days earlier, which stole a family man who regularly attended 8 a.m. Sunday Mass from the church.

"We are in need of healing; we're in need of hope," McGaugh said, early Sunday morning during the Mass.

Robert Moore, 78, of Elmwood Road, was killed on Nov. 2 by a contractor working at his home. His daughter-in-law, Nancy Moore, 46, was badly beaten. Both were found in the basement of the home by Moore's grandson, Jamie Moore, 20.

The family declined to speak to the media.

Police arrested William Dunn, 41, for the alleged murder — the first in Needham in 20 years.

During his homily, McGaugh described the difficulty in looking out at his congregation, and not seeing the Moore family in their usual seats.

"It is hard," McGaugh said.

After the Mass, parishioners, for the most part, quietly walked back to their cars, with some offering words of consolation to each other.

McGaugh stood outside the church, talking to folks as they left Mass, lending support.

"He was a very devout, very wonderful man — very loyal to family, church and to the community," McGaugh said after Mass. "He was a good guy. It's a big loss for the whole area. People are stunned; they're in pain."

But on Sunday morning, other Needhamites headed to the airport to pick up Robert Moore's relatives, which include eight children and numerous grandchildren, who were flying in from around the country for his upcoming wake and funeral.

"He was one of the kindest men you could ever know," Angela Chansky said, from her car at the airport.

Chansky said her husband, Mark, grew up with Moore's sons, whom he's now known for three decades.

"His whole family has been very supportive of me when I was going through difficult times," Chansky said. "He was a loving man, he had a quirky sense of humor, he had a smile every time you saw him."

Moore, who cared for his grandson, Michael, two days a week until his death Friday, was the first person the Chanskys trusted to baby-sit when their son was born.

"The first time he changed my son's diaper, my son peed on him, but he took it in stride. He was that kind of person," Chansky said. "He said, 'It's not the first time its happened and it won't be the last.'"

Angela Chansky said Moore was very "hands-on" with his children and grandchildren.

"He was a great family man," said Chansky's husband, Mark.

Moore and his wife, Fran, also volunteered at the Needham Community Council and the Charles River Arc.

"When you see in the paper about a 78-year-old man, you think, oh, some old guy," Chansky said. "But he was a very young, 78. He and his wife just celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary. The man who killed him robbed his grandchildren and

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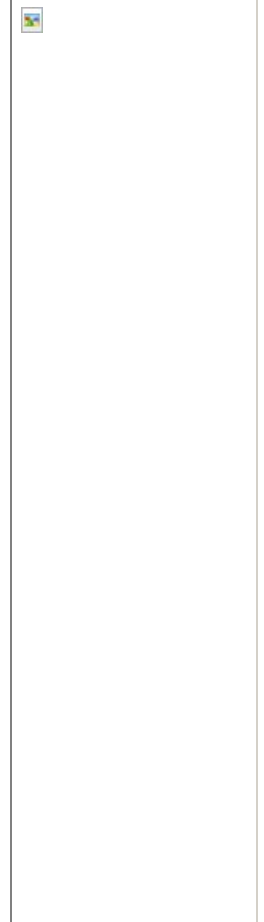
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his wife of another 20 years... he had so much more to give to his friends and family. Who knows what other great things Bob would have done.”

Moore’s wake will be held Tuesday, Nov. 6, between 4 and 8 p.m. at Eaton Funeral Home on Highland Avenue.

His funeral will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 7, at 10 a.m., at St. Bartholomew’s Parish.

The Moore family requests, in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to the Charles River Arc at 59 East Militia Road, Needham, MA 02492 or on the Web at www.crarc.org.

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