

J. HANSEN
SACRAMENTO
CALIF.

Keith Kenny - back row 4th from right.



1938 Graduating Class - St. Francis Grammar School



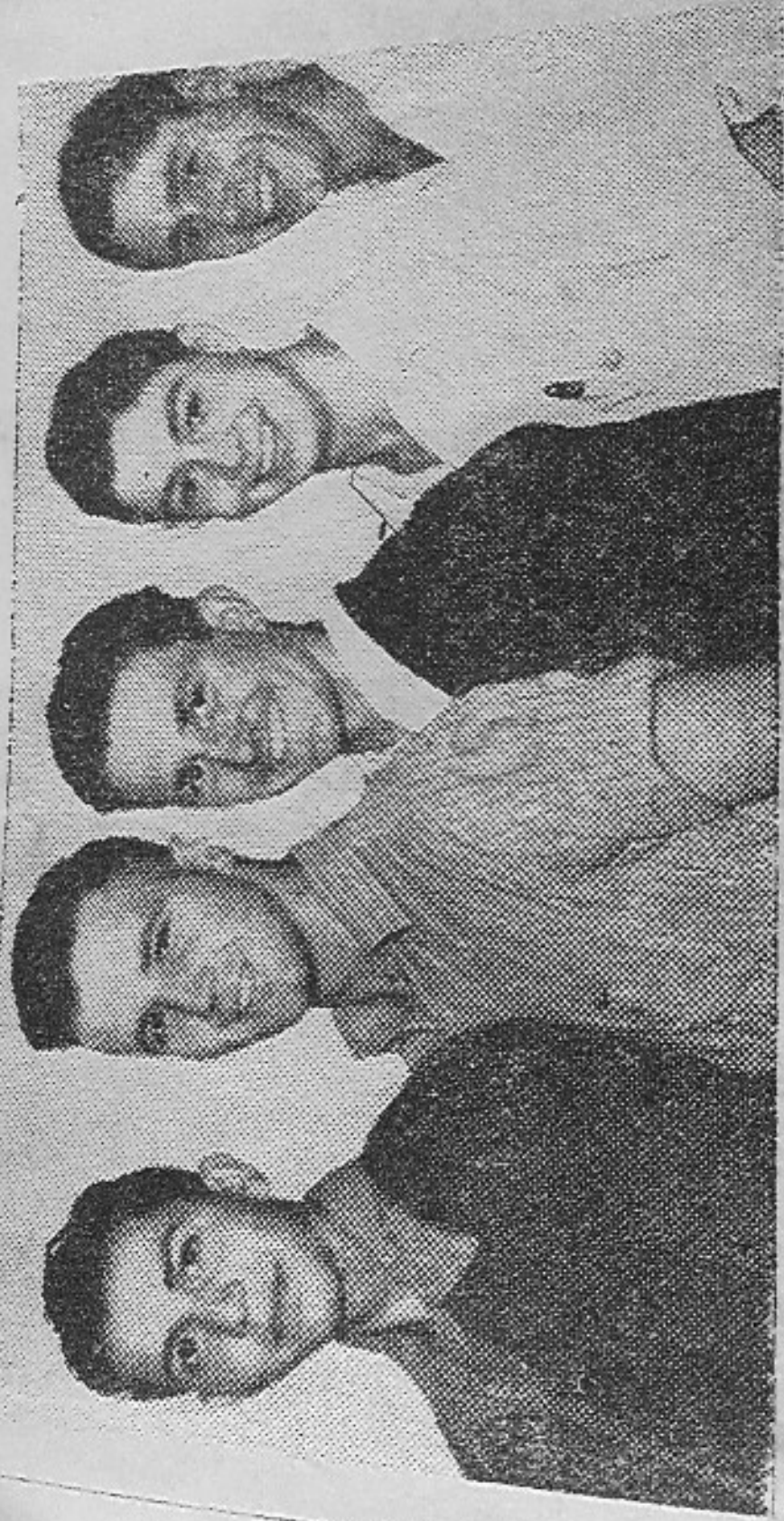
High School

Keith Kenny on right
Tom Kenny on left
in all pictures



OCTOBER 2, 1940.

STUDENT LEADERS AT C. B. S.

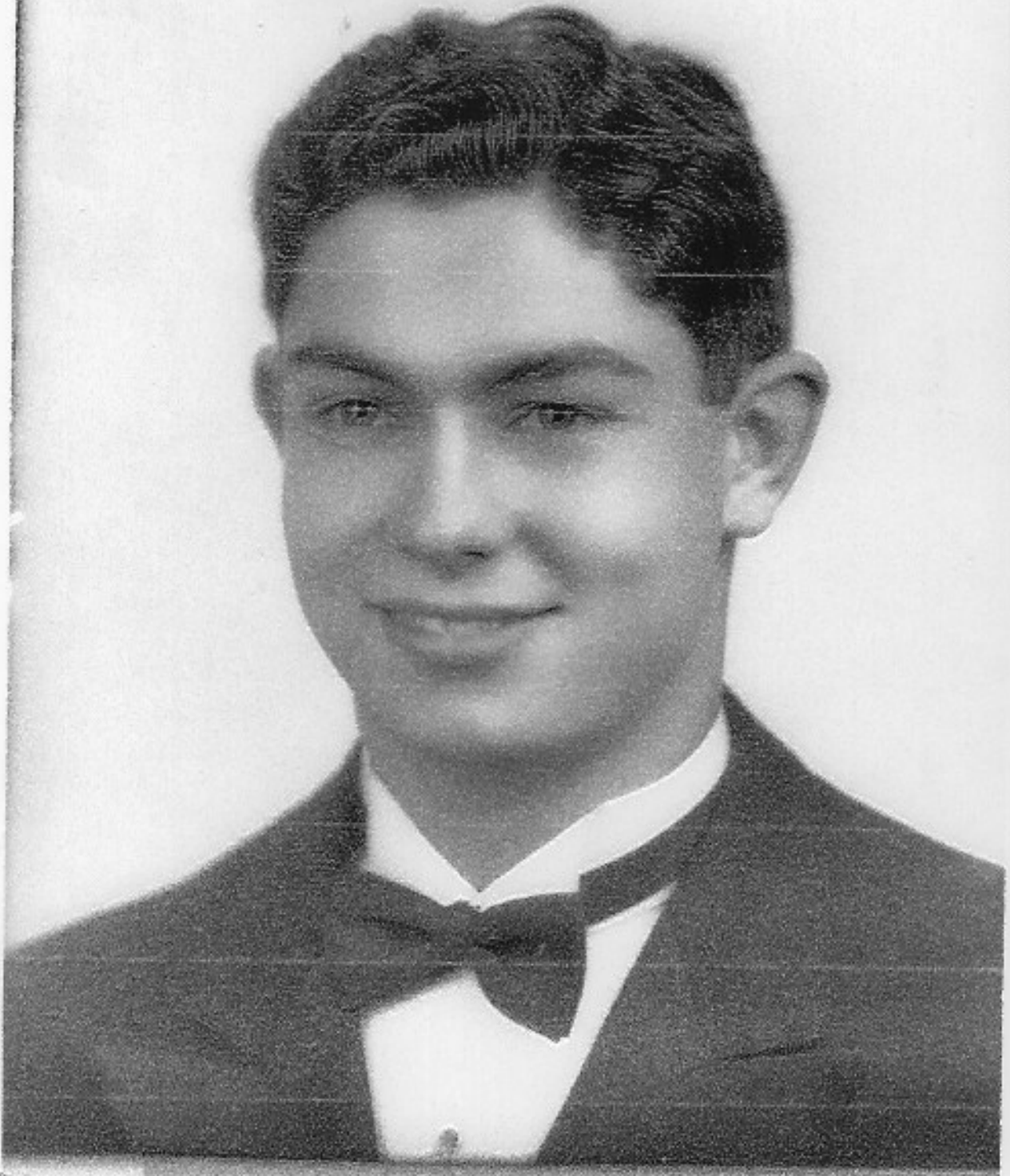


THESE FIVE are guiding a big program of activities at Christian Brothers school this year. They are, left, to right, with their positions in the student body association; Dayton Caldera, secretary; Anthony Smolich, vice president; Joe Babich, sergeant-at-arms; Keith Kenny, treasurer, and Tom Kenny, president.

Photo courtesy of Sacramento Union

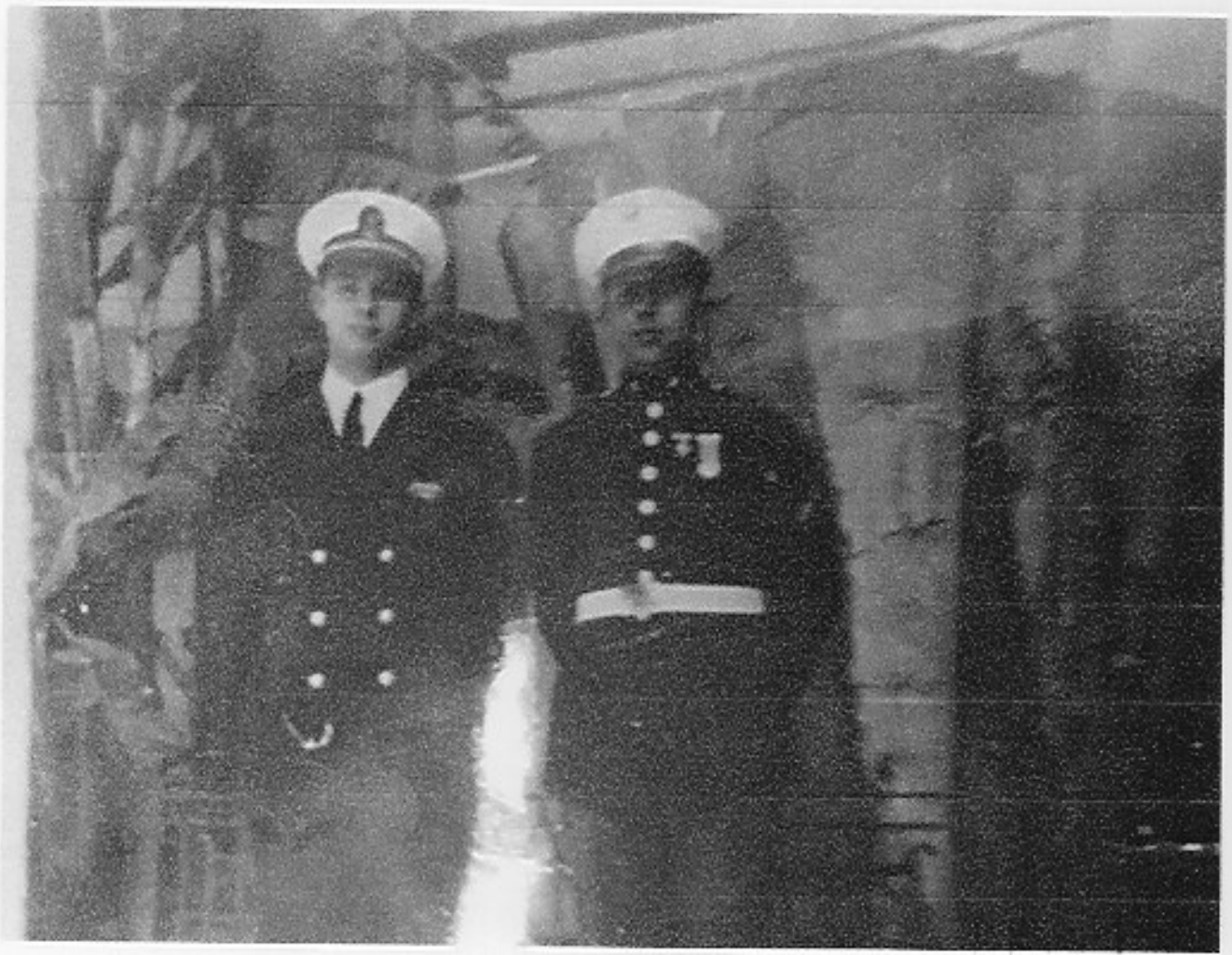
KEITH KENNEY '62

High School Picture



From: jkirene@sbcglobal.net
Subject:
Date: February 27, 2017 at 4:10 PM
To: Jerry Kirene jkirene@sbcglobal.net

JK



Sent from my iPhone

World War II

Keith Kenny (left) Tom Kenny (right)

Aug. 26-

When Peace Came to Pacific, As Told by Sacramento Boy

Lights Went On

WHEN the war with Japan came to an end, how did our boys react?

No one could tell that story so well as one of the boys themselves.

And here is the story of Keith B. Kenny, second officer, SS Francis Parkman, aboard his ship off Okinawa when the great news came. The accompanying poem is also by Kenny, written as the first wild burst of jubilation faded.

The letter was written to Kenny's folks, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Kenny, 2213 U Street.

The Last Outpost.
The Immortal Day.

Dear Folks:

I shall never forget tonight as long as I shall live. I have never seen anything like it before. I shall never see anything like it again.

Great is the rejoicing throughout the world—on every farm, in every village, every hamlet. And I am sure that nowhere is there greater celebration than in the United States, a celebration not to be missed. But I would not trade what I have seen and felt tonight for any other experience this side of heaven. For the scene I have witnessed tonight transcends all bounds and can only be described as one of tremendous awe.

Live in Immortality

I know that there it occurred on August 9 and that the ninth will live in immortality; but here, at Okinawa, it was the 10th, and it is the 10th of August that I shall remember always.

It happened shortly after 9 P. M. I was in my bunk but not asleep, for I had just turned in. I heard a ship's horn far across the anchorage. "Funny," I thought. "What would anyone be whistling for tonight?" Then there was another whistle, and still another, it was picked up from ship to ship and blared in ever increasing volume.

"Wonder what's up," I thought. Then it struck me—"My God! The war's over!"

I looked quickly out the port and the first thing I saw was the searchlights waving back and forth across the black void—long white fingers that webbed and unwebbed as I watched. Then I saw the tracers. . . .

amazed joy. I started at the fire, noisy beauty, and I thought aloud: "Can it be? Is it true? Do you know what this means?" And I wanted to burst my lungs and scream for joy! I wanted to fall to my knees in prayer, thanking God!

If I had heard the strains of the anthem, I should certainly have cried. Only that was miss-

g.

and even so the show was slow to subside.

As the lights went out, and the smoke-screen curled over and engulfed the ship, I made my way through the blacked-out passages to my stateroom. And there I knelt and prayed. Never have I prayed so simply—so eloquently.

"Thank you! oh, thank you, God!"

And so the news came to Okinawa.

Thanks for Peace

"May the peace of the Lord be always with you."
(From the mass.)

Okinawa, August 15, 1945 (Aug. 14, U. S. A.)

Oh, God of night! Oh, God of day!
With trembling lips and heart I pray.

With soul run o'er with elation!
Unsurpassed exhilaration!

Oh, God, I do not come to plead
Divine assistance in some need.

Nor do I come to just adore;
I worship Thee—still, there is more—

On this day sin and shame do cease,
Tomorrow dawns the age of peace.

Thou, Almighty, hast snuffed out war.
I thank Thee, thank Thee, thank Thee more!

I raise my voice to shout my thanks,
No more above the din of tanks;

No more the roar, the gore of war,
But peace and love I thank Thee for.

Nor I alone on all this earth,
But round and round and round its girth.

A thousand million voices fill
The air with shouts of joy!—and still

A thousand million tears are shed
For the homeless, the maimed, the dead.

A thousand million hearts cry out
Their thanks—so simple—so devout.

And I my voice to this vast host,
Do humbly add—though less than most.

Nor mid the joy forget the loss—
(Christ, lay down Thy aching cross!)

No more in black of night we grope,
Ahead there looms the light of hope.

Through blood and death our legs have trod,
The prodigals return to God.

What words to say what I would say?
What phrases, sounds, to mark this day?

Oh, thank Thee—how I thank Thee, Lord!
That man lives on, in spite of sword!

—K. B. KENNY.



KEITH B. KENNY, to whom peace from war came in a mighty flood of sound and infinite joy.

Ran To See Display

"The lights in my stateroom flooded on. 'Sparks' (the radio operator) was in the doorway. 'Have you heard the news?' he asked. The Japanese have surrendered. Then he was gone. So was I. In moccasins and drawers I ran to the boat deck and there beheld the most inspiring sight I shall ever see."

Tracers and searchlights from every ship in every direction filled the sky. Joining these were the shells from 20mm. and 40mm. guns, colored rockets, colored parachute flares and pyrotechnics, all set off together and providing a beautiful and at the same time terrifying panorama of color and a din of noise.

Screams of happy men, amazed at the sight and overwhelmed with joy, could be heard above the sounds of sirens and guns. Young Kenny said he wanted to burst his lungs. He wanted to fall to his knees in prayer, thanking God.

Thought Strikes Writer

"Then a thought overwhelmed me. This celebration is by Americans—America's fighters—America's 'barbarians'—these men who cheer, who go mad on this occasion must certainly be the most peace-loving race of all times. How much this means to them, to me! For some it is the end of an era; for some the beginning of life; for all the revival of hope."

It was, he explained, an un-

On this day sin and shame do cease.

Tomorrow dawns the age of peace. Thou, oh Lord, hast ended war. For this I thank Thee, thank Thee more!

I raise my voice to shout my thanks.

No more above the din of tanks: No more the roar, the gore of war. But peace and love I thank Thee for.

Nor I, alone, on all this earth. But all around its far-flung girth A thousand million voices fill The air with shouts of joy—and still

A thousand million tears are shed For the homeless, maimed and dead.

A thousand million hearts cry out Their thanks—so simple, so devout.

And I, my voice to this vast host Do humbly add, though less than most:

Nor 'mid the joy forget the loss— (Christ, lay down thy aching cross!)

No more in black of night we grope.

Ahead there looms the light of hope.

Through blood and death our feet have trod.

The prodigals return to God.

What words to say? What would I say?

What phrases, sounds to mark this day?

Oh thank Thee—how I thank Thee, Lord.

That man lives on despite the sword!

Keith F. Kenny Writes On Victory Display At Okinawa

Sacramento.—How the news of the Japanese surrender affected the men at the various Pacific battle posts, and at Okinawa in particular, was described vividly by Keith B. Kenny in a letter received last week by his parents here. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Kenny of 2213 U Street.

Young Kenny, a second officer aboard a Liberty Ship, has been in the service for several years and has called at many island stations in the line of duty. He is a graduate of the Christian Brothers' School and of the California Maritime Academy.

"I shall never forget tonight as long as I live. I have never seen anything like it before. I shall never see anything like it again," the seaman wrote from Okinawa, which he called in his letter-head "The Last Outpost." His date was "The Immortal Day."

Would Not Trade Experience

He said he would not trade what he had seen and felt on the occasion of the surrender news for any other experience this side of heaven. The joyous victory celebration at Okinawa transcended all bounds, he wrote, and inspired one with a feeling of tremendous awe. There it was August 10.

"It happened shortly after 9:00 p. m. I was in my bunk, but not asleep, for I had just turned in. I heard a ship's horn, far across the anchorage. 'Funny, I thought, 'what would anyone be whistling for tonight?' Then there was another whistle and still another. It was picked up from ship to ship and blared in ever-increasing volume."

Then it struck the sailor from Sacramento that the war was over. He looked out over the port and saw the searchlights waving back and forth across the black void—long white fingers that webbed and unwebbed as he watched. Then he saw the tracers.

authorized celebration and display. The entire thing, from every ship, was spontaneous, and the authorities pulled at their hair over the commotion, the spent ammunition. They fumed and swore, all the while themselves scarcely able to suppress the exhilaration that tore at their hearts.

To stop the display off Okinawa the air raid alarm system had to be used and all hands called to battlestations. Even then, the show was slow to subside.

Prayed in Stateroom

"As the lights went out and the smokescreen curled over and engulfed the ship I made my way through the blacked-out passages to my stateroom. And there I knelt and prayed. Never have I prayed so simply, so eloquently. Thank you, oh thank you, God! And so the news came to Okinawa."

A few days later Seaman Kenny wrote a hymn of thanksgiving under the title, "May the Peace of the Lord be Always with You," from the missal. The text, sent from Okinawa under the date of August 15, is as follows:

Oh God of night, oh God of Day!
With trembling lips and heart I pray.

My soul runs over with olation
And unsurpassed exhilaration.

Oh God, I do not come to plead,
Divine assistance in some need,
Nor do I come to just adore;

I worship Thee—but there is
more—

CBS Orators Emote In Bay Area Contests

During the past three weeks the CBS Speech Club has sent speakers to the bay area to participate in contests at the University of Santa Clara and at San Francisco State Teacher's College.

On May 7 and 8, seven speakers were sent to the latter campus to attend a highly competitive contest which included six fields of discussion—radio broadcasting, oratory, extemporaneous speaking, debate, and after-dinner speaking.

In this contest, Joe Gutierrez competed in radio announcing and oratory; Mervin and Jerome Conlan, debate; Roland Charles, radio announcing; and Frank Spiering, who made the finals in oratory.

On Saturday, May 1, eleven speakers traveled to the University of Santa Clara, to compete against 23 high schools from Northern California.

Among the CBS contingent, Frank Spiering won three stages of oratory but lost in the finals. Joe Gutierrez finished high in the tryouts of oratorical declamation. The debating teams, consisting of Jerome Conlan, Jim Bennett, Roland Charles, and Merv Conlan, receive word that they had won two out of three debates, but the final results are yet to be announced.

Student Body Selects Ring

Last Thursday, the Student Body of CBS voted on the traditional school ring. Seven rings were voted upon by alphabetical order and style "D", the ring submitted by the Juniors, was accepted.

The ring chosen has a blue stone bearing a Gaelic crest and the cost was announced at about twenty-three dollars.

Patrons Party Boosts Library

The Patrons Club of Christian Brothers School held its annual Card Party Monday night, April 26, at 8 P.M. in the school Cafeteria. For the price of 50 cents there was offered door prizes, score prizes and free refreshments.

This Club is composed of mothers whose sons have graduat-

CBS Apostle



CBS Graduate Is Ordained

Rev. Kieth B. Kenny, a Christian Brothers graduate, was ordained in a solemn ceremony at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, May 1, by Most Reverend Bishop Robert J. Armstrong.

Entering CBS in 1938, he became an honor student, meriting important student body jobs, and the senior class presidency. He was captain of the gridiron team after serving four years as tackle.

Before entering Menlo Park's St. Patricks Seminary in 1948, he was a student at Sacramento Junior College, University of California, and Santa Clara. He then became a merchant marine.

Father Kenny said his first Solemn Mass in his own parish church, Immaculate Conception, on Sunday May 2. He is the son of Thomas F. Kenney, 2213 U Street, Sacramento.

Seniors Sing Bishop's Mass

On the 28th of April, Rev. Robert J. Armstrong celebrated a Mass commemorating the Silver Jubilee of his consecration as Bishop of the Sacramento Diocese.

His Eminence James Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles presided at the Mass. Also present was the Most Reverend John J. Mitty, Archbishop of San Francisco.

Most Reverend Dusne G. Hunt, D.D., Bishop of Salt Lake City, delivered the sermon. Many Bishops from the West Coast were

FRANTIC FACTS OF '54

By FRANK SPIERING

MEMOS OF THE MONTH. — St. Joe's Press Club Dance quite interesting. At the door I was greeted by the usual "cut comment" from PATSY GREENE, who reluctantly accepted money and checked thoroughly to see if it would stretch. Apparently satisfied, she unlocked the door and I went in.

Thanx to Hi-Lights for mentioning me in their journal which aroused my curiosity as to how many "green freshmen" attend their academy.

CYO Rally coming up is going to be way out. For a buck you get everything from a ham dinner to an orchestra dance (A-1 kiddies).

Lotsa parties have been crashed lately. The big question, "Who dues the crumbs?"

Crazy Mixed Up Gripes

A reign of terror has swept across Sacramento lately and all because of a little item nicknamed a "Ducktail." It is a rather prefabricated butch with wings. Seems a city ordinance has been passed agin' em. (Flug: Brother Carl is still giving haircuts in the library).

Junior Prom tonight. Sophs and Frosh beware. Any lower classman found within the portals of the Mirror Room between 8 and 12 will be promptly toed out. **FAMOUS LAST WORDS:** "We didn't break up, we just ran out of money."

(Thanx to Smitty).

Revolting Reprecussions

Some rather dim wit posted a sign on the Resident door reading, "Abandon hope, all ye who enter here." (Also money, maybe?)

Lotsa troubles in the social set these days excepting the eldest Lago brother who is still living it up with a certain S.F. kiddie whose name I can't even spell.

But . . . that's life.

St. Mary's Alumni Outlines Careers

A 'Career Evening' buffet was presented by the St. Mary's Alumni Group in the CBS cafeteria on May 6th to acquaint a group of graduation seniors from CBS and Grant Union High Schools with the opportunities offered at St. Mary's for professional training.

In attendance were Brother Albert of St. Mary's College, Brother Cormac of CBS, and laymen in various professions around Sacramento.

These men, all graduates of St. Mary's College, included a doctor, a lawyer, a teacher, a

Grammar Gas

SCHOOL SPORTS—Last

the CBS Grammar school ball team added another vic to its string by tromping Patrick's 7 to 0. Outstanding this game was Dudycha pitched the shutout and also the longest hit of the game triple.

8th GRADE — The graduation theme is now being th around in the 8th grade as preparations are being mad the June exercises. Class have been ordered and class picnic has been plann

7th GRADE — Holy Spirit the victim of the mighty graders last week as the P ers boys scored an 8 to 3

Comprising our team are: die Thomas, pitcher; Orlin Dyke, catcher; Tubby Prat, base; Bob Leesha, second; Dick Arnold, shortstop; Rembulat, third base; Pete ney, left field; MIKE ST center field; Frankie DeFur right field . . . One day last the seventh graders were surprisingly early. Questic the month: Who turned the back? . . . Gary Rapp live to his name by rapping a ball through the gym wi while playing baseball in handball courts.

5th and 6th GRADES - news! Taking one of Mrs. : brakers (easy??) tests GAEL reporter came arou

Scribes Atter Press Confal

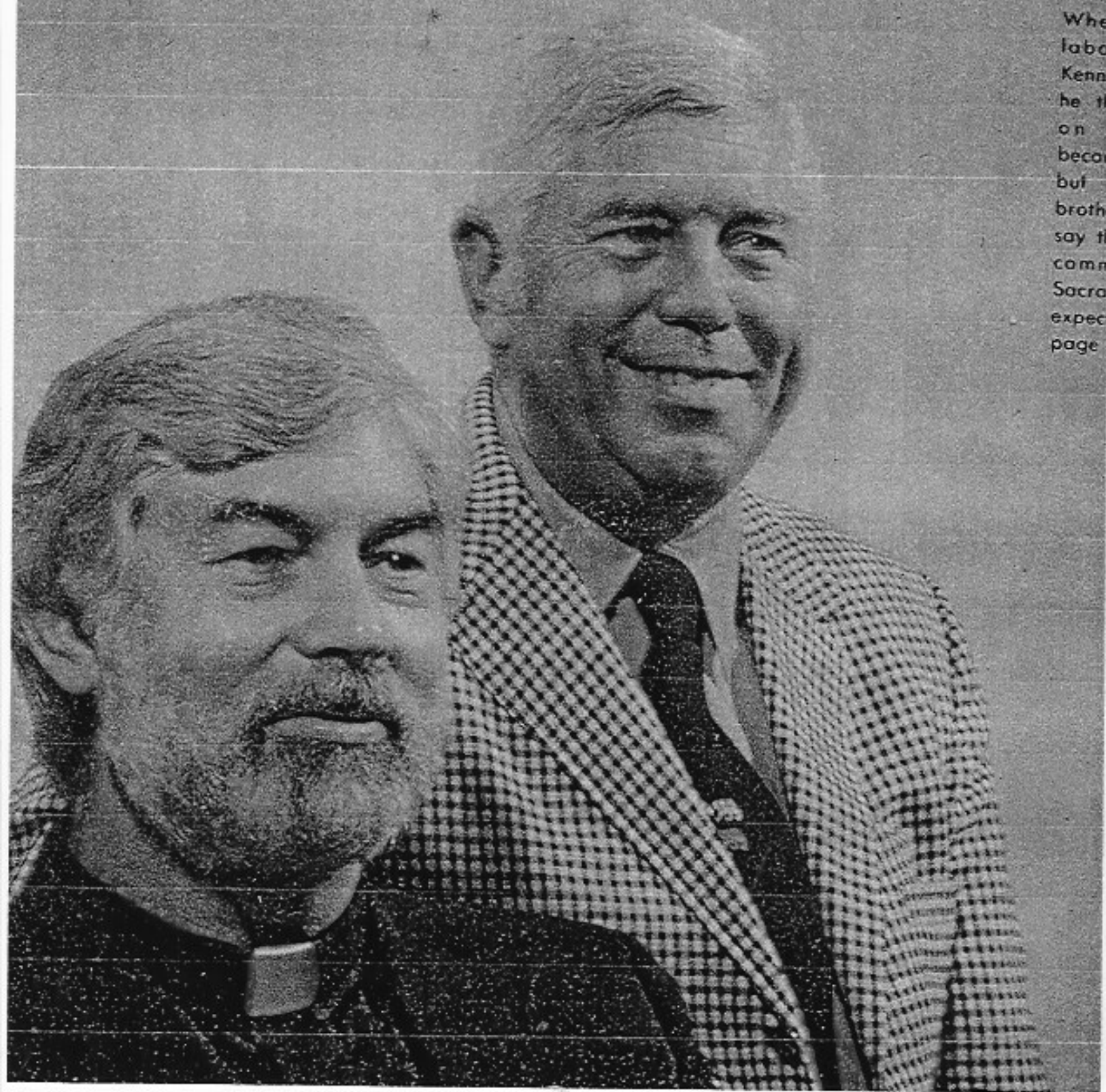
May 8 was the date sche for the 22nd Annual Weste tholic High School Press vention held at St. Mary's lege. Newspapers from Ca high schools including CI California and other W states, were exhibited and ed. Schools presenting the outstanding newspaper awarded with cups and tro Also on the agenda were le delivered by various journ notables.

Awards also were give individual writing and pho phy. The Julia Twomey

Sunday Best *The Sacramento Union*

People

7/21/74



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Remembering Father Keith B. Kenny — a social activist I admired

last word

Father Keith B. Kenny was a controversial priest of our diocese — a social activist whom the Sacramento City Unified School District honored by naming a public school after him.

As the theme of this issue of *Catholic Herald* is Catholic education, it is fitting to remember this priest after whom Father Keith B. Kenny Elementary School on Martin Luther King Blvd in Sacramento is named.

Ironically, Keith was not well-known for his efforts in education. He was better known as a fighter for Mexican farmworkers, a supporter of the United Farm Workers' union who got his name in *Time* magazine (December 1965) when he flew a Cessna 180 over the Delano area of Southern California and dropped "Huelga" leaflets into the fields. Beside him in the plane that day was Cesar Chavez, who addressed the farmworkers on a bullhorn.

He was a personal friend of Chavez and hosted him several times at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, when the union organizer visited Sacramento. He also provided a bed once for Father Daniel Berrigan, when the anti-war Jesuit was on the run from the FBI for damaging military property.

Those were the days of confrontational politics in the church (the '60s and '70s), and Keith was on the front lines for it all. Chancery office officials were regularly peppered with letters and phone calls from farmers and others who were angry at the sight of a Catholic priest carrying picket signs in vineyards in the San Joaquin Valley, many of them owned by Catholics. Keith was often in trouble with bishops.

Not that he was bothered by the rebukes of church authorities. He was as impatient with ecclesiastical bureaucracy as he was with unfair labor practices. At one point, he abruptly left his job as a legislative analyst at the California Catholic Conference, telling a reporter

"The office was on the 11th floor; the action was on the street."

I knew Keith well. We traveled together in Latin America a number of times, and, during the Reagan era, we co-authored a series of articles for *Catholic News Service* and the *Sacramento Bee* Sunday Forum section on revolution-torn Central America. Working with him was never boring.

I admired his intellectual brilliance and multi-faceted personality: his love of poetry (he once wrote a college essay about the heroic couplet — in heroic couplets); his skill with gadgets (he was a licensed flight and instrument instructor); his expertise in future planning (he served on the Sacramento County Planning Commission and was board president for the Sacramento Area Economic Opportunity Council); the respect he commanded among politicians (when he died, a California Senate resolution called him "a tribute not only to the priesthood, but to the state of California"); his popularity with the students at California State University, Sacramento (he taught in the School of Social Work); and his affection for the Mexican people (he was known to cry on occasion when counseling troubled parishioners).

I also admired his efforts to wake us all up to the growing presence of Hispanics in California — in society at large, but also in the Catholic Church. There were no Spanish Masses anywhere in the Sacramento Diocese at that time, with the exception of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish (of which he was pastor) and Holy Rosary Parish in Woodland.

Keith was determined to change that, and he didn't suffer fools easily.

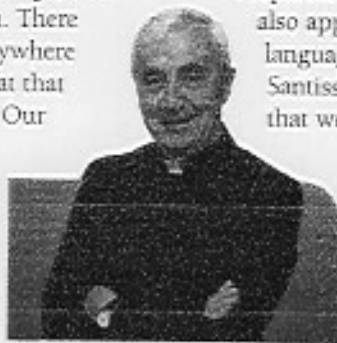


Father Keith B. Kenny

I often squirmed at his confrontational methods and wondered if the same result could not be achieved by more patient means. But trying to tell that to Keith would be like trying to tell John the Baptist to wear respectable clothes. Prophets have their own way of doing things.

What would Keith think of things in our diocese today? He would be happy to see a Hispanic bishop in charge. And he would approve of efforts to strengthen schools such as St. Patrick's SUCCEED Academy and Holy Cross College Preparatory Academy. He would also approve of the new Spanish language radio station — Radio Santissimo Sacramento 1240AM — that went on the air in October.

Would he take any credit for those advances? Not a chance! He was too shy and self-effacing for that. But he should. We stand on the shoulders of men like him.



>> Msgr. James Murphy is associate publisher of *Catholic Herald*.

Kenny

Continued From Page B1

with the diocese as director of planning and research.

The speakers, framed by the red, green and white of Mexico's national flag, reminded the mourners of Kenny's deep affection for Hispanic culture and the downtrodden of the earth.

"He was a brother to you all," reminded a tearful Margaret Mary Kenny, the priest's sister.

His brother, labor leader Tom Kenny, added, "It is only by accident of birth that my sister and I were related to Keith ... but for you, he fought the good fight. And if he were here today, he would tell all of you, his family, 'Feliz Navidad.'"

Quinn told the silenced crowd, "Keith will kneel in the straw beside the crib this Christmas ... (and in so doing) he will have come full circle with the infant who created him and called him to be a priest."

And again referring to Kenny, Quinn said, "A priest is one who gives himself to others ... it is a day-by-day and night-by-night labor that makes a priest a hero ... and it is that which gave substance to Father Keith's life."

But the most emotional moment came as the Rev. Jorge Moreno, the diocese's first native Mexican priest and Kenny's successor at Our Lady of Guadalupe, eulogized his friend.

The service was punctuated by

soft crying, laughter and even applause as Moreno recalled his friend's life and quoted from a poem Kenny had written.

"Loneliness and heartache are only a part of the human condition as we search for a role that is not to be found in this life," quoted Moreno. "I loved life. I loved Jesus. My only regret is that I have not loved enough."



Bee/Leliani Hu

The casket of the Rev. Keith B. Kenny was taken from Our Lady of Guadalupe Church following a bilingual funeral service Friday.

Hispanic Parish Buries 'Padre Keith'

By Robin Witt
Free Staff Writer

In a warm Spanish-language Mass which contrasted with the deathly gray skies outside, the friends, relatives and parishioners of the Rev. Keith B. Kenny gathered Friday to bury their amigo.

The Rev. Kenny, 58, a longtime defender of the Hispanic poor, died Tuesday of an apparent heart attack. He fell where he had lived much of his life: in the confines of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, one of the few national Mexican parishes in the state.

"Adios, Padre Keith," said Bishop Francis A. Quinn, setting the tone for the bilingual Mass of Christian Burial which featured mariachis, Spanish prayers and a lilting Celtic rendition of the wondrous hymn.

A crush of mourners arrived early for the ceremony, genuflecting and then filing in respect past the open casket. Some held crucifixes, while others, eyes closed, prayed in silence under the carved-wood representations of the Stations of the Cross.

"He did not like injustice," said Quinn, lapsing briefly into English. "He took strong stands, and that frightened many in the church and outside of it."

"He was a very gifted man intellectually, and he lived here in a family he did not want to leave. It was a family of gentleness and love."

Quinn was referring to Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, the church with which Kenny had been associated since 1963. He lived in the parish home for priests, although his final appointment

Crowds

mourn death of Fr. Kenny

His funeral was one of the largest in the history of Sacramento. An estimated 1,100 people jammed into Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Sacramento four days in a row to mourn his untimely death.

Father Keith Kenny, 58, died December 20 at the Spanish Speaking church on 7th and J Streets where he spent most of his priesthood. He was one of Sacramento's best known advocates for the poor, especially Hispanics.

"California's Hispanic community and the poor of the Sacramento diocese lost an ardent champion with the death of Rev. Kenny on Tuesday," the Sacramento Bee editorialized two days later. "The husky, energetic Roman Catholic priest had devoted his clerical life to their needs... to many of them he was revered as both a man's man and as something of a saint."

Four bishops and some 180 priests consecrated his Mass of Christian Burial December 23 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Concelebrating with Bishop Francis Quinn were Auxiliary Bishop Alfonso Gallegos, Auxiliary Bishop William Levada, Bishop John Cummins, Father Jorge Moreno, a close personal friend who succeeded him as pastor of that church 10 years ago, preached the sermon in Spanish praising his intellectual brilliance and dedication to the poor.

"A certain monsignor in our diocese once said that because Fr. Kenny was so brilliant and dedicated we would finally get one of our own local priests as bishop," Father Moreno said. "But he spent his life with the poor, with his wetbacks and his catechism children."

Father Keith Kenny was a graduate of Christian Brothers High School, Sacramento. He also studied at the California Maritime Academy, Sacramento City College, the University



"My life has had so many beautiful moments and has touched so many beautiful people that I can only rejoice in its richness," Fr. Kenny said in his last will and testament.

of Santa Clara, the University of California at Berkeley and St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park.

He was ordained by Bishop Robert Armstrong in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Sacramento in May, 1954. Except for nine months as associate pastor in Our Lady of Lourdes parish, Colusa, Father Kenny spent all of his priesthood in the Sacramento area and mostly with the Spanish Speaking.

His assignments included: Associate pastor and pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish; Executive director of Catholic Social Services in Sacramento; director of the division of social welfare of the California Catholic Conference; founding director of the diocesan Department of Research and Planning. He also served as the

to the federal building in Capitol Mall. They are: Dan Delaney, member of the diocesan Social Concerns Commission and director of Loaves and Fishes Dining Room; George Lyga, program coordinator of the diocesan Social Concerns Commission; Rev. David Moss, pastor of Rio Linda United Methodist Church; Matt Myers, teacher at Bishop Manogue High School, Sacramento; Pat Dahlberg, member of the parish council of St. Joseph Church, Clarksburg and Bolivar Moran, member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Sacramento.

In his last will and testament, written in Spanish and English, Father Kenny reflected on his life in the priesthood in Sacramento. It was read by Father Moreno at the Mass of Christian Burial:

"I thank God for the life he has given me, for my family and my friends. God has been very good to me and I am sincerely grateful. My life has had so many beautiful moments and has touched so many beautiful people that I can only rejoice in its richness. There have been sadness and heartaches, too, but I suppose that the love and the heartache are all a part of our human condition and are longing for a love that is not found in this life."

"I believe in God. I believe in our Lord Jesus Christ. I love God. I love Jesus."

"My only regret is that I have not loved enough. May the Lord have mercy on me."

Rev. Kenny, Ally Of Poor, Dies At 58

By Robin Witt
Bee Staff Writer

The Rev. Keith B. Kenny, a passionate friend to Sacramento's poor and Hispanic communities, died early Tuesday in his room at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, the victim of an apparent heart attack. He was 58.

A consistent spokesman for the disinherited, he once gave sanctuary to dissident Roman Catholic priest Daniel Berrigan, who then was being pursued by the FBI. And he was known for his own acts of civil disobedience and advocacy for Sacramento's Spanish-speaking people.

Indeed, Sacramento City Councilman Joe Serna said of him: "He was an Irish priest. But he was really a Mexican." Friends said Kenny expected to be arrested Dec. 28 during a demonstration against U.S. involvement in Central America. He planned to block the doors of Sacramento's Federal Courthouse.

Kenny had traveled in Central America and was a longtime critic of America's military and political intervention there.

Kenny, the brother of Sacramento Central Labor Council leader Thomas P. Kenny, was discovered dead at 8:45 a.m. Tuesday on the floor of his room. The Sacramento

County coroner's office called his death an apparent heart attack.

Kenny had been under a physician's care for hypertension. He had complained Monday night of chest pains and had gone to bed about 9:30 p.m., friends said.

Bishop Francis A. Quinn will celebrate a Mass of Christian Burial 11 a.m. Friday at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, where Kenny has been associated for most of his clerical career. Rosary will be said Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Quinn saluted his spiritual colleague as one "dedicated to the Spanish-speaking people and also to the poor, the disadvantaged and the oppressed."

Although born an Irish Catholic in Nebraska, Kenny taught himself Spanish and spent virtually all of his career in Spanish-speaking parishes. Ordained in 1954, his first appointment was as assistant pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Colusa, which had a substantial migrant Hispanic population.

He later served as pastor to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, the dio-

cese's national parish for Hispanics. During his service there, from 1963-1973, he was active in Cesar Chavez's Delano grape strike and boycott.

"Chavez stayed (at the church) with him many times," said the Rev. James Murphy, editor of the Catholic Herald and one of Kenny's best and oldest friends.

"He was a consistent voice for the poor. He was involved with Martin Luther King Jr. and Cesar Chavez before anyone else was. And he was involved with Our Lady of Guadalupe all his life. It was one of the poorest parts of the diocese."

Murphy said his friend's concern for the poor was "rooted in papal encyclicals (about poverty and social justice) and his awareness of the radical nature of the Gospel."

Kenny formerly served on the Sacramento County Planning Commission and was president and chairman of the board for the Sacramento Area Economic Opportunity Council.

Pat Melarkey, a friend and former county supervisor, said he "was the only really saintly man I ever met in my life." And Sacramento's Auxiliary Bishop Alphonse Gallegos called Kenny "a priest for the people who was concerned about the welfare of the people... He was loved by many people and admired for his stand of social issues."

In addition to his brother, Tom, Kenny is survived by a sister, Margaret Mary, a teacher at Loretto High School; and an aunt, Marie Reynolds of Sacramento.

Obituaries

The Rev. Keith B. Kenny Catholic priest

The Rev. Keith Bernard Kenny, a priest in the Sacramento Diocese who was active in Hispanic causes, died Tuesday (Dec. 20) in the rectory at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, where he lived.

Born in Nebraska, the Rev. Kenny, 58, moved to Sacramento as a teenager with his family and graduated from Christian Brothers High School in 1942.

After attending several different colleges over several years, he entered St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park in 1948. He was ordained in 1954.

He served briefly as assistant pastor in Red Bluff and Colusa, and in 1955 came to Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, first as assistant pastor, then administrator and, finally, pastor, from 1969-73. During that time, he served stints as director of local Catholic youth programs and Catholic Social Services.

For about a year in 1975, he was director of social welfare for the California Catholic Conference. In 1981, he was named director of the Diocesan Office of Research and Planning.

"He was a real hero for the Mexican community," said Pepe Buena Vista, editor of El Heraldo Catolico. "He always advocated for the poor, the undocumented aliens. He was more Mexican than many Mexicans."

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, located at Seventh and T streets, is a largely Hispanic congregation.

The Rev. Kenny "was dedicated to Spanish-speaking people, the poor, disadvantaged and oppressed," said Bishop Francis Quinn. "Because he was a prayerful and compassionate man, he will be no stranger to God, nor God a stranger to him."

He is survived by a brother, Tom, and sister, Margaret Orr.

A rosary will be offered 7:30 p.m. Thursday and a Mass of Christian burial 11 a.m. Friday at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Burial will be at St. Mary's Cemetery. Arrangements are by George L. Klumpp Mortuary.

Father Keith Kenny

California's Hispanic community and the poor of the Sacramento diocese lost an ardent champion with the death of the Rev. Keith Kenny on Tuesday. The husky, energetic Roman Catholic priest had devoted his clerical life to their needs, in keeping with his conviction that Christ's command to "feed my sheep" meant dedication to social justice as well as the spiritual pastorate.

His devotion to such causes ranged from sponsorship of programs for the poor and Hispanics of his own Sacramento parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe, to activism on behalf of the oppressed in Central America. Although he was well-known and respected among state and national political figures, he tended to shun the public light.

His vehement opposition to the Vietnam War led to acts of civil disobedience; he once sheltered the dissident Catholic priest, Daniel Berrigan, when Berrigan was being sought by the FBI. He had planned to demonstrate later

this month against U.S. involvement in Central America by blocking the federal courthouse doors in Sacramento.

His special apostolate to the Hispanic community began virtually with his ordination in 1954. An Irish-Catholic, he quickly became fluent in Spanish and went into the field to study and share the problems of farm workers, with whom he often lived. He was also a longtime supporter of Cesar Chavez and the rights of migrant farm workers. To many of them he was revered as both a man's man and as something of a saint. Pepe Buena Vista, editor of *El Heraldo Catolico*, said of him, "He was more Mexican than many Mexicans."

For all his activism, he was probably better known to the poor and Hispanics throughout the state than to many Sacramento parishioners. Characteristically, that was the way he wanted it. His unexpected death at 58 is a great loss to the community and to all those whose needs he served tirelessly and well.

Rev. Keith B. Kenny

In Rev. Keith B. Kenny, a Catholic priest in the Sacramento Diocese who died Tuesday at the age of 58, the community has lost a champion of the disadvantaged. Mexican-Americans in particular have cause for sadness.

Rev. Kenny served as assistant pastor, administrator and pastor in the largely Hispanic Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. He was also director of local Catholic youth programs and Catholic Social Services.

He was extensively involved in local government and other civic affairs. But Rev. Kenny may be more vividly remembered for his leadership in Mexican-American, anti-poverty and other social justice causes.

He once said, "I have always been left of most so-called liberals I have known. Being for true freedom is a tough thing."

The Union had its editorial differences with Rev. Kenny, but joins in mourning the community's loss.