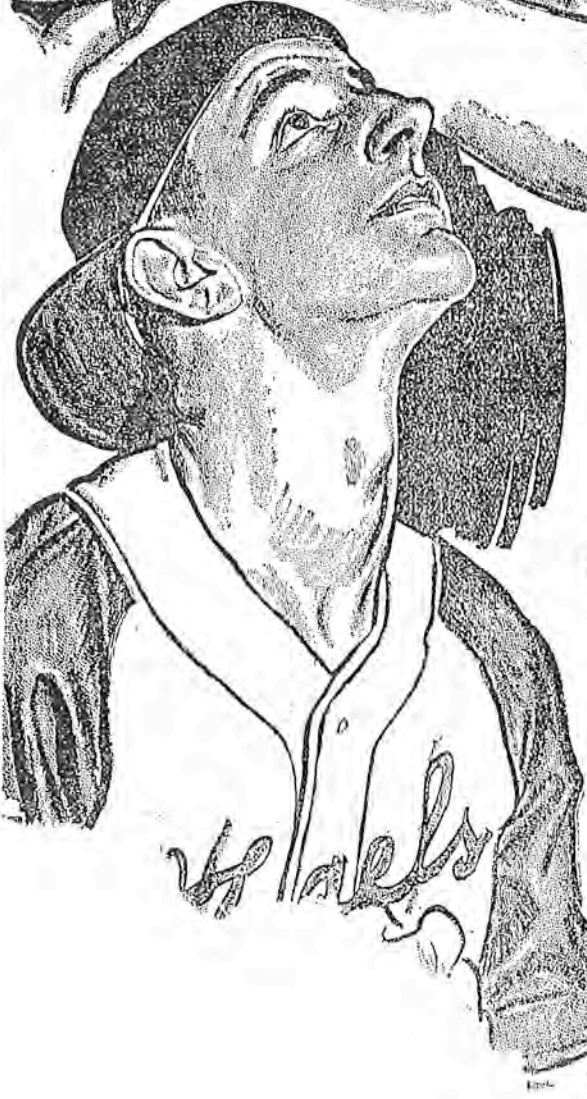


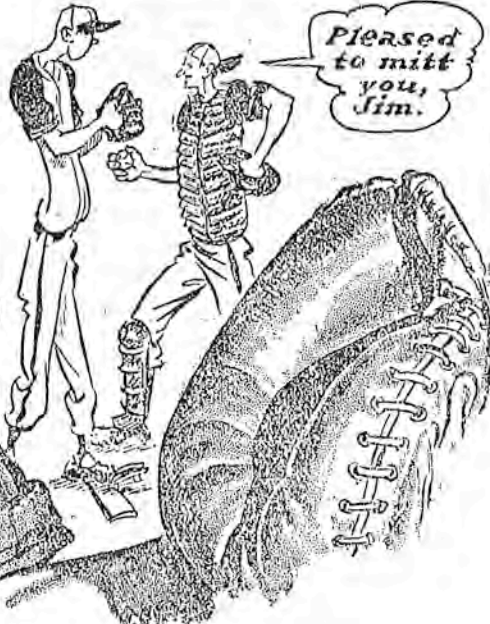
JIM HURCH 8⁷⁸ GRADE

A PAIR OF BOYS WHO HELPED RACK UP THE MYTHICAL CITY BASKETBALL CROWN FOR CHRISTIAN BROTHERS COULD TURN THE TRICK AGAIN, **** IN BASEBALL.

Gem
Church,
TOP SCORING FORWARD WHO FACED THE GAELS TO 14 STRAIGHT TRIUMPHS, SOON WILL LEAD THE WAY AGAIN AS THEIR FIRST LINE HURLER



WITH
Johnny
McNamara,
ALSO A KEY CAGER, AS HIS BATTERY MATE. HE'S THE OUTSTANDING YOUNG CATCHER IN THE SACRAMENTO AREA.



HURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1950

Heroes Of CBS Cage Wars Gird For Baseball

No rest for the wicked might be apropos for Jimmy Church and Johnny McNamara. It all depends which side of the fence you camp on.

Without stopping for a quick breather, the two Christian Brothers athletes will jump from basketball to baseball, and, to opposing high school aggregations in Sacramento, the results will be just as villainous.

Of course, Coach Jack Buick and his Gaels prefer to think of the duo in a more haloed setting. Church and McNamara are good, all right.

Just Got The Urge

Take little Johnny, the five foot nine inch pepperpot who slipped into basketball duds after the season was well under way "just because I got an urge" and provided the ignition for 14 straight victories in the best CBS cage season on record.

Wait till you get a gander at him in baseball. Johnny whipping off his mask, quick like a leopard, and zinging the ball to second on a low line is enough to make the most blase scout drool.

Runs In Family

With three ball playing uncles and a brother who is in the New York Giant farm system, Johnny gravitated naturally to baseball.

Johnny Lane, his catching uncle, took young McNamara into the family back yard at the age of 1, tossed out a fielder's glove and a catcher's glove and turned the toddler loose. Little Johnny scooped straight to the catcher's mitt, and that has been his diamond vocation ever since.

Baseball is his life. All he has to do to make the grade professionally is perk up his hitting. At 17, he just completed a season with the Julius team in the National Division of the Winter League and batted .235.

Plenty Of Confidence

"But," declares Johnny with determination, "I've got the confidence you need to hit, and I will hit!"

With a mask covering his generous proboscis, Johnny is an accomplished craftsman. He is rather slight for a catcher, at 150 pounds, but has the wiry strength and agility of a fine athlete to compensate for it. Around CBS, the stand-

ing gag is that he offers only one trouble—finding a cap with a bill long enough to keep his nose from being sunburned.

His battery mate, Jim Church, also was earmarked for the diamond from his cradle days. James F. Church, Sr., once was a Solon farmhand and got as far as Spring training with the parent club in 1928 before a broken arch sidetracked him from baseball.

Flossy First Sacker

Papa was a flossy first sacker and tried to make a slugger out of Junior.

"He probably wanted me to play first base, too," recalls young Jim. "but I switched to pitching when I found out I couldn't hit very well."

Jim is a serious, well poised young man of 18, with many facets of talent and activity.

Last semester he was president of the CBS student body. His scholastic average for four years has hovered around A, and he ranked second in his class as a junior. Jim exhibits a pleasing voice in school minstrel shows. He even has been known to tie a nifty diaper on his eight younger brothers and sisters.

Man Of Letters

Athletically, he has lettered in football, basketball and baseball.

The slim six footer paced the city cage champions with 143 points in 20 games and was the key man on offense and defense.

As a baseball hurler, graceful Jim has a smooth delivery and a good assortment of stuff. This will be his third season as a front line tosser.

The Gaels have made a habit of copping baseball honors in the city. Leave it to Church and McNamara, and they stand a good chance to turn the trick again.—By M. O.

McClatchy Players Dominate the 1950 All-

Buick Named Top Mentor

By JACK CASHEL

Although McClatchy High set few worlds on fire with basketball successes this past season, the Lions dominate The Sacramento Union's 1950 All-City cage team.

Two McClatchy players were awarded spots on the first team by the Union's board of judges along with lone performers from Christian Brothers, Grant Union and Sacramento.

The Brothers and Sacramento each placed two men on the second team with Grant nabbing the fifth position.

Three of the places on the first unit were uncontested. Rangy Center J. C. Masters of McClatchy and Forwards Bob Reynolds of Sacramento and Jim Church of CBS were unanimous choices.

Masters, only junior on the first team, captured the city prep scoring title this season. Standing 6 feet 3 inches, he works well off the boards and has one of the most deadly short shots in the city.

Reynolds is a repeater from last year's All-City squad. One of the smoothest performers in the Sac-Joaquin, he is blessed with outstanding spring, making it a practice to out-follow much taller opposing players. He stands 5 feet 10 inches.

Church is the main reason for Christian Brothers' cage success this season. Coach Jack Buick credits him with being the key cog in the Gaels' effective 1-3-1 zone defense, along with spearheading the CBS scoring thrust. He is an even 6 feet.

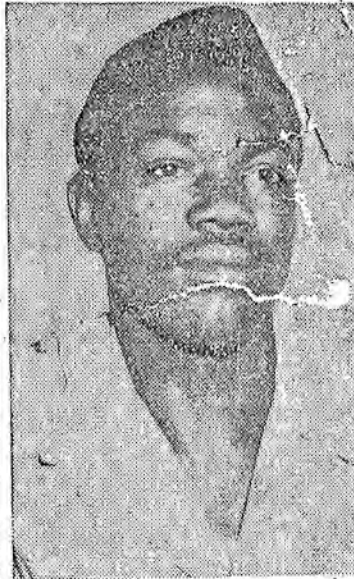
The guard positions went to Rudy Manriquez of McClatchy and Bob Simmons of Grant.

Un-sung Manriquez was the ball-control artist for the Lions. A trackman during the spring, he was one of the fastest players performing on local courts. He is the shortest man on the squad at 5 feet 7 inches.

Simmons can be credited with supplying what little success



JIM CHURCH (CBS)
Forward



BOB REYNOLDS (S)
Forward



J. C. MASTERS (M)
Center



BILL CLOUSE (S)
Forward



DON BRASEL (S)
Forward



KEN ORVICK (CBS)
Center

Grant experienced this season. Performing with a team that finished in the Sac-Joaquin cellar, he was never out-hustled and never out-smarted. He is probably the city's best ball handler. He is 5 feet 8 inches tall. The battle for

honor was close. Big Ken Orvick of CBS was picked for the center spot. Clouse won the scoring and rebounding honors. He is a 6 foot 11 inch player. Clouse of McClatchy led the scoring as the

Dragons most former and shot. He stands 6 feet 3 inches tall. Clouse won the John McNair award because of his clutch play. Clouse is 6 feet 11 inches tall.

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City Basketball Team



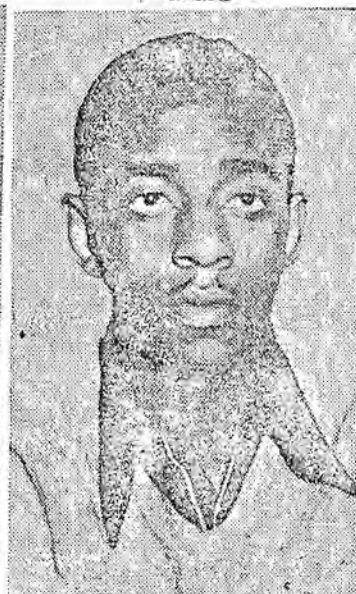
BOB SIMMONS (G)
Guard



RUDY MANRIQUEZ (M)
Guard



MIKE HANLY (CBS)
Guard



BILLY WILLIAMS (G)
Guard

Mike Hanly, the Brothers' heady play-former, holds down one of the guard positions. He is a junior standing 5 feet 10 inches. Grad Billy Ray Williams, the other guard, was unanimously to CBS's Jack Buick. Buick, in his first year at the Gael helm, molded a team out of reserves from last year and B team graduates that was not only Sacramento's strongest

Sacramento Union 5/17/1950

LIONS PLACE 5 ON ALL-CITY BASEBALL TEAM



WOODY HELD



JIM CHURCH



TOM AGOSTA



EARL ROSE



PETE CAMPOS



JOHN MCNAMARA



FRANK AGOSTA



KEN ORVICK



TONY STATHOS



RIPLEY ROBINNETT



TOM GALLI



ARDEN GOUKE

3 Brothers Are Selected, 2 Dragons, Pacers Named

By JOE BLENKLE
 Here's the cream of the 1950 prep baseball crop—The Sacramento Union's annual All-City team, selected by a committee of sports-writers and coaches. Newest team of the series, and probably one of the finest it has ever had, boasts a wide assortment of classy hurriers, speedy runners, hard hitters and defensive men. McClatchy High School, in a neck and neck race with Sacramento for city honors, dominates selections with five men. Chris-

Position	Name	School	Age	Class
Catcher	Ripley Robinnett	McClatchy	18	Senior
Catcher	John McNamara	Christian Brothers	17	Senior
Pitcher	Tony Stathos	McClatchy	17	Senior
Pitcher	Jim Church	Christian Brothers	18	Senior
Pitcher	Woody Held	Sacramento	18	Senior
First base	Ken Orvick	Christian Brothers	17	Senior
Second base	Earl Rose	McClatchy	17	Junior
Third base	Frank Agosta	Sacramento	18	Senior
Shortstop	Tom Galli	McClatchy	17	Senior
Left field	Arden Gouke	McClatchy	17	Senior
Center field	Pete Campos	Grant Union	17	Junior
Right field	Tom Agosta	Sacramento	18	Junior

Honorable mention: Dick Traversi, McClatchy, first base; Pete Vartanian, Christian Brothers, outfield; Dick Henrick, Grant Union, first base; Eddie Soto, Grant Union, outfield; Bill Wexler, Christian Brothers, pitcher; Mike Acker, Sacramento, pitcher; J. C. Masters, McClatchy, pitcher, and Buz Berresford, Sacramento, pitcher.

5-1 0-0
 M. E. A. T. O
 N. S.

OVER

tia Brothers, city champions last season, rates three, as does Sacramento. And Grant Union rounds out the 12-man squad with one player.

TWO MEMBERS of the 1949 team—John McNamara, Christian Brothers catcher, and Tony Stathos, McClatchy pitcher, grace the new lineup. Jim Ramey of Grant Union, who made the team last season as an outfielder, was not mentioned. Ramey was shifted to short this season, filling a big hole in the Pacer lineup, but was pushed into the background by men more experienced in the position.

Committee members were almost unanimous in their picks, with six players getting full votes, and the remaining six only one vote off the pace.

Here's the way the squad stacks up:

CATCHERS—Ripley Robinett, McClatchy, and John McNamara, CBS. Robinett is batting .340 and McNamara .305. McNamara is rated one of the best prep catchers ever to come out of a local school, and is an almost certain prospect to sign a pro contract, following in the footsteps of brother Jimmy, now a shortstop for Idaho Falls in the Class C Pioneer League. Both were unanimous selections.

PITCHERS—Three pitchers named to the staff are as versatile as they are accomplished on the mound. Woody Held of Sacramento, also a unanimous choice, is a .333 hitter, and can roam the outfield. Jim Church, Christian Brothers, boasts a 6-1 record and has remarkable control, having walked only 13 batters in seven games, while striking out 44. He is hitting .420, and is also an outfielder. Tony Stathos of McClatchy, with a 6-2 mark, is frequently used as an outfielder or pinch hitter while not on the hill. Stathos was a unanimous choice.

FIRST BASE—Ken Orvick, Christian Brothers, rated over Dick Traversi, sophomore flash at McClatchy, and Dick Renwick of Grant Union, on basis of Orvick's size, experience and hitting ability. The 6 foot, 1½ inch star is powering the ball at .349.

SECOND BASE—Earl Rose, McClatchy keystoneer and another unanimous selection, is batting .452 and teams with Tom Galli, McClatchy shortstop, as the best double play combination in the city.

THIRD BASE—Frank Agosta, Sacramento, is batting .358. The speedy Dragon infielder does a heady job at the hot corner.

SHORTSTOP—Other half of the All-City double play combination is Tom Galli of McClatchy, a .297 hitter and a top defensive man.

OUTFIELDERS—Pete Campos of Grant Union, also used as a pitcher, might well be named captain of the mythical squad. Campos is hitting .500 and though only a junior, is rated among the city's all-around performers. Tom Agosta, also a junior, was a unanimous choice. Agosta is hitting a mighty .370. Third member is Arden Golke, McClatchy senior who is batting .245.

All City Prep Baseball Team Is Presented As Sport Nears Fadeout For Spring Grid Practice

SACRAMENTO BEE
By Marco Smolich

Sacramento's prep baseball race is in the home stretch and will cross the finish line next week to allow Spring football practice to take the limelight.



Frank Agosta

All of which serves merely as an introduction to the selection of an all city team. Here is ours:

First base — Dick Traversi, the C. K. McClatchy High School Lions; second base — Earl Rose, Lions; shortstop — Tom Galli, Lions; third base — Frank Agosta, Sacramento High School Dragons; outfielders —

Woody Held, Dragons, Pete Campos, Grant Union High School Pacers, and Ken Orvick, Christian Brothers School Gaels; utility — Tom Agosta, Dragons, and Dick Renwick, Pacers; catchers — John McNamara, CBS, and Rip Robinett, Lions, and pitchers — Tony Stathos, Lions, Mike Acker, Dragons, and Jim Church, CBS.

Fourteen players are named but that is not the only reason the squad has depth.

Held, Campos and Rose can take their turns on the mound. Held also feels at home in the infield. Orvick can handle first base and catching assignments, and Stathos and Church are better than average batsmen, who can be shoved into the outfield or used as pinch hitters.

Traversi Only Sophomore

Traversi is the only sophomore to merit all city honors. The six foot youngster, left handed all the way, has shown plenty of poise and savvy and sports a neat .416 mark at the plate.

The keystone combination of Rose and Galli has cut off many a base hit for Lion hurlers. The latter is hitting .297, Rose .452. Three of Galli's blows have been triples.

Frank Agosta can guard the hot

corner with the best and proves his offensive worth with a .358 average.

Held, a .333 clouter for Sacramento, is one of the outstanding prospects in the city. Coach Woody Adams has used him in center field, at second base and on the mound.

Campos Tops Sluggers

The all star slugger with the highest mark is Campos of Grant. The southpaw is stroking the horsehide at a .500 clip. When he is not shagging flies, he takes his turn as a pitcher.

Orvick has been playing first base for the Gaels but the outfield is not unfamiliar to him. He is a dangerous long ball hitter, having batted in 14 runs in 14 games with a .349 average which includes four doubles and three triples.

Utility men Tom Agosta and Renwick are hitting .370 and .353, respectively.

Easily the top catcher is the Brothers' McNamara. Scouts rate him just as good a high school receiver as has graced local diamonds in many years. He is baseball smart with an average of .305.

Robinett of the Lions is an adequate mask and glove man and a good hitter, as is attested by his .340 mark.

Records Of Pitchers

The pitchers' records are Stathos, 6-2; Acker, 5-0, and Church, 6-1. The former, a southpaw, suffered his defeats in his last two starts. His stuff is the best in the city.

Acker has given up only five earned runs in five starts and three relief jobs.

Church is blessed with marvelous control. He has issued only 13 bases on balls in seven contests, while whiffing 44 batters. One of his triumphs was over Lodi's Flames, pace setters in the Sac Joaquin Conference.

The intra city race has gone according to Hoyle. The Lions and Dragons are leading the field and share the runnerup position in the conference standings.

CBS, defending city champion, has a winning record, while Grant has shown considerable improvement over its efforts of last season.

Jack Woerner, baseball coach at the Sacramento Junior College, has named Bill Atkins and Don (Ducky) Knezovich to do the pitch-

ing in Friday night's double he against the Santa Rosa Bear Cubs at Edmonds Field. Atkins' opponent will be Bill Nishita, and Knezovich's probably Eddie Cattuzzo.



Jack Woerner

Clarence (Cook) Sypher, Santa Rosa mentor, is a graduate of Stanford and played with the Mission and Hollywood teams of the Pacific Coast League, 1923-29.

Members of the Red Kress Knothole Gang will admitted free to the games upon presentation of their member cards. The twin bill will start 6 P.M.

It is not surprising Gene Blackwood, SJC distance man, is the Panther tracksters in possession in seven meets. His total 52%. Others in the upper bracket are Dave Cleavinger, 48; I Wham, 38½; Jim Hobel, 35½; Hart and Bill Clark, 30; Jim Mahan, 24, and Bob Banks, 20 5/6.

The CBS intramural boxing set for May 13th, will involve youngsters from the fifth grade through high school. . . . Roche, Sacramento State's tall ketball center of last season, be graduated in June, thereby saking a year of eligibility. He do graduate work in Arizona.

Ten Sacramento State Colli athletes are student teaching in cal high schools. Pete Pele John Valentino, Bill Walcott, John Patterson are at Grant. Alie Wilkin at the C. K. McClatchy High School, and Elmer Den Dick Gwinn, Jack Heron, Jim N ray and Jud Kovich at Sacramento. . . . Murray, incidentally, led Southern California Conference the high hurdles while a trackster at Occidental. . . . Members of SSC track class serve as official Sacramento County League me



Back row (left to right): Lou Bordisso, Harold Mathews, Bob Lehtola, Al Anicich, Joe Kirrene, Albi Brown, Jim Church, Al Enos (coach)

Middle row (left to right): Ken Orvick, George Radovich, Johnny McNamara, Pete Vartanian, Ray Jurasich

Front row (left to right): Al Gutman, Jim Winschell, Bruce Wood, Jerry Kaiser

SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

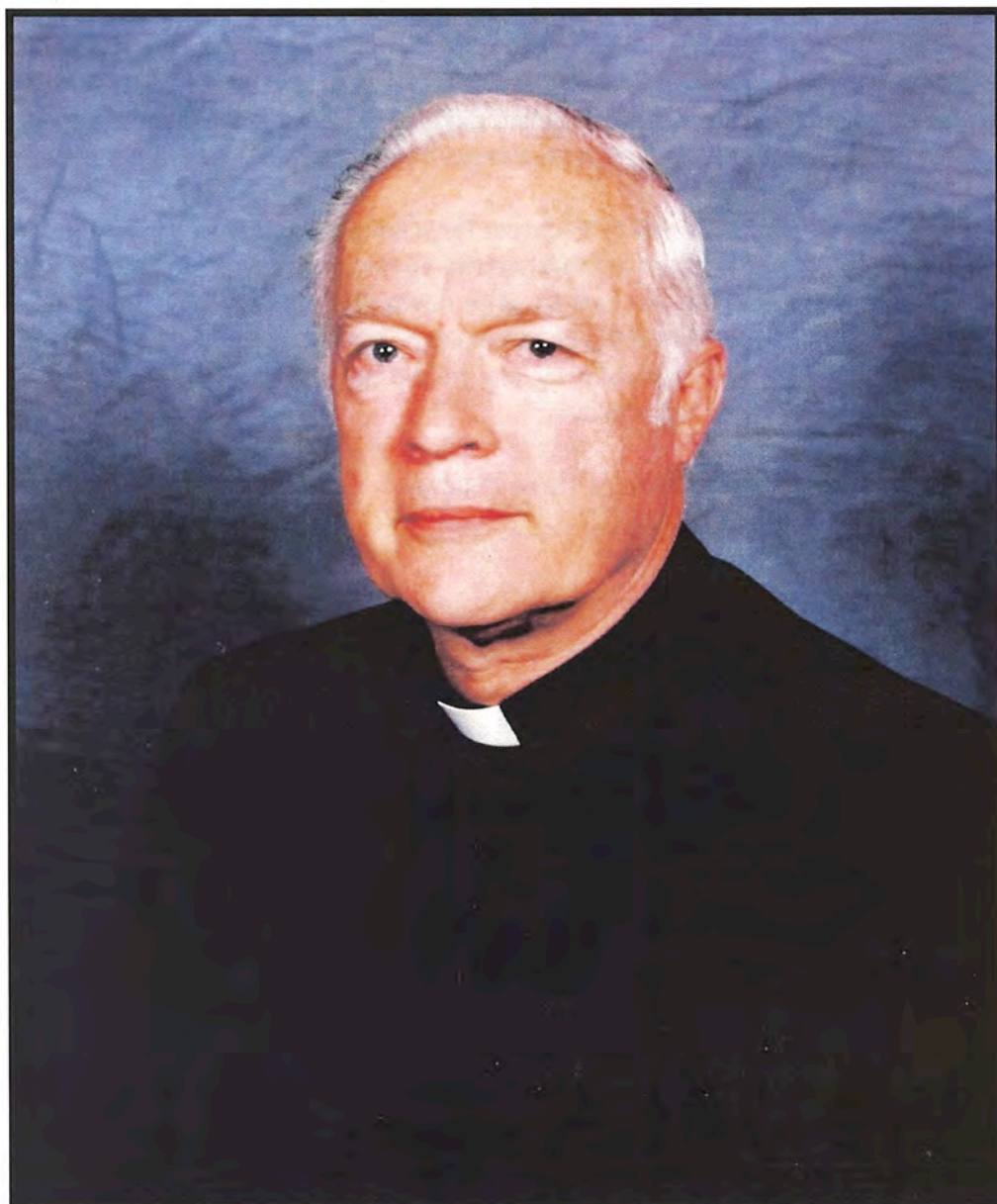
Vol 3

Father John E Boll, Diocesan Archivist

No 20

MONSIGNOR JAMES FRANCIS CHURCH Native Son and Priest of the Diocese of Sacramento

By Father John E Boll
May 2015



Monsignor James Francis Church

James Francis Church was born January 26, 1932 in Lodi, California. He was the firstborn child of James Church and Wilma Newington. Jim's grandfather, James I and his father, James II, had grown up in New Plymouth, Idaho where the family was involved in dairy farming and growing alfalfa, wheat, corn and onions. These were depression years in the United States.

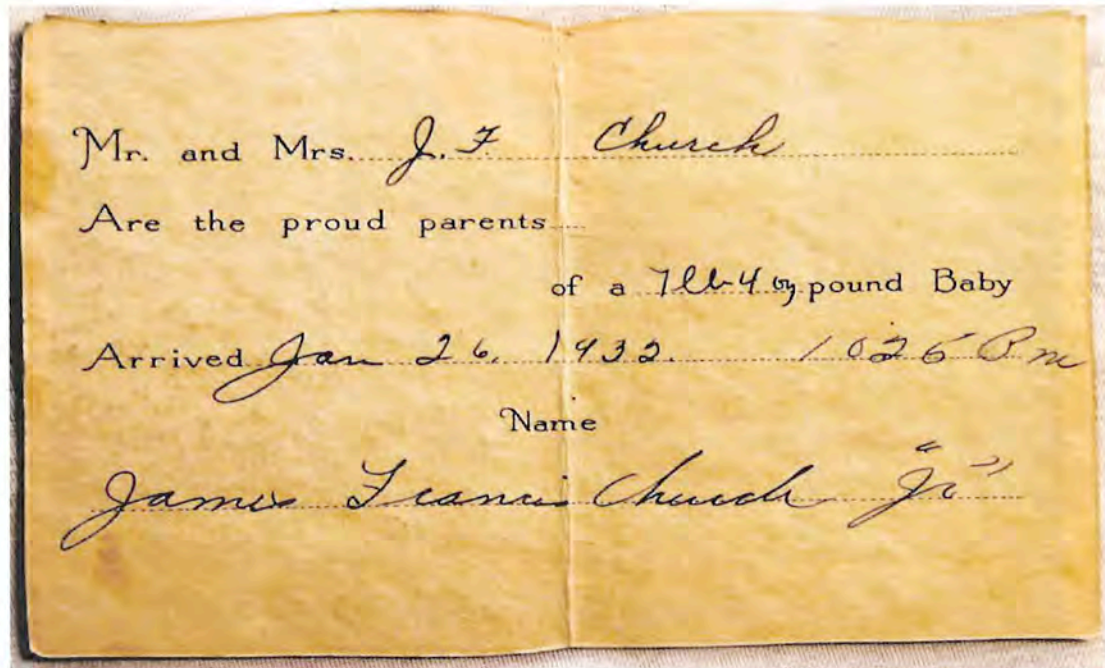
Jim's father attended the University of Idaho and then went to Lewiston, Idaho to play baseball. Sacramento drafted him to play for the Sacramento Solons minor league baseball team. After breaking his ankle while preparing for the baseball season, Jim was dropped from the team.

James Church and Wilma Newington Marry

Jim Church met Wilma "Billie" Newington in Sacramento through a customer at Union Oil Company. The customer's wife was Billie's sister. Jim and Billie began to date and were married on Easter Sunday, April 5, 1931, in Sacramento's Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Jim was driving truck out of Sacramento when a gasoline dealership became available. He took over the dealership in Lodi and he and Billie took up residence there.

From Lodi, the Church family moved to Vacaville for a couple years. After President Franklin D Roosevelt was elected, the President established the 40 hour work week for the first time. Jim's Union Oil representative told the workers to write down 40 hours on their timesheet but they would still have to work 10 to 14 hours a day to make deliveries. On that day, Jim handed in his keys and quit his job. He was a man of principle; he did not cheat his employer nor would he participate in the dishonesty of his employer.

Jim and Billie Church Become Parents of Three Children



Document courtesy of the Church Family

Announcement of the Birth of James Francis Church, Jr in 1932

Jim's wife Billie had three children in three years. Their firstborn son James was born in Lodi; Catherine Mae was born in Vacaville; and Elizabeth Marie was born at Providence Hospital,

Oakland. The physical and psychological toll on Billie giving birth to three children so close together was the probable cause of her post-partum depression. In the hope of starting a new life and the need for family to help with the children, the Church family returned to Idaho. Billie's health did not improve and she died in Idaho. Little Jim was only three years old when his mother died.

James Church Marries Mary Driscoll



Photo courtesy of the Church Family

Bishop Edward Kelly officiates at the wedding of James Church and Mary Driscoll in 1940

Mary Driscoll, Jim's future second mother, had been a top student in the local Catholic High School in Boise and became the secretary of Bishop Edward Kelly, bishop of Idaho. Mary and the bishop wrote a column for the local Catholic newspaper. She was the actual author of the articles that answered questions sent in by the readers. Mary wrote under the penname of Father John.

Jim Church knew Mary Driscoll since she was a very young girl. They used to ride the same school bus. When Mary came home on the weekends from Boise, she went out with James and they began to date. They were married in January 1940 at the Cathedral in Boise, Idaho by Bishop Kelly.

The Church Family Returns to Sacramento

Jim and Mary and the three children moved to Sacramento. Emmett Reagan, a local Sacramentan, owned a number of bars in the Capital City and an oil company in Roseville. He

hired Jim to drive a fuel delivery truck, a job which he held for a number of years. Mr Church also worked on oil ships in Stockton, Oakland and San Francisco during World War II.

The Church Family Expands in Number



Photo courtesy of the Church Family

James, Catherine and Elizabeth in 1939

Jim and Mary Church enlarged the family until they had 8 boys and 6 girls. Mr Church lived to the age of 99 and 10 months and Jim's mother Mary has a clear mind, is active and going strong at nearly 98 years of age.

Jim Church's Schooling

Young Jim Church attended primary school in Fruitland, Idaho for his first two years. After moving to Sacramento in 1940, he attended Immaculate Conception Parish School in the Oak Park area of Sacramento until he graduated from grammar school. Jim had great athletic potential and excelled in the parochial league in football, basketball and baseball.

Christian Brothers High School Class of 1950

In 1946, Jim entered Christian Brothers High School as a freshman and attended all four years at CB, graduating in 1950. He earned seven varsity letters, competing in basketball as a forward, baseball as a pitcher and an outfielder, and as an end in football.

During his high school senior year, Jim led the Christian Brothers *Gaels* to the city high school basketball championship, scoring 168 points in 20 games. He was the only *Gael* selected to be on the All-City Basketball Team that season. In the 1950 baseball season, Jim batted 429, had 6 wins and 1 loss, striking out 48 players while walking only 12. He was the unanimous choice of the Sacramento Bee and Sacramento Union All-City Baseball Team.

Besides excelling in sports, Jim was an outstanding student in both scholastics and student government. He was a school principal's dream of a model student. He carried a grade average between 3.6 and 4.0 all four years at CB. Jim was a class officer in his freshman and sophomore years, a student-body officer his junior year and student-body president during the spring semester of his senior year.

The Beginnings of a Vocation to the Priesthood

Jim had thought about the priesthood a little bit. One summer the parish held a summer school for students and the Sisters told Jim that one day he would be a great baseball player. A Maryknoll priest who had served in China told Jim he should consider the priesthood. That started him thinking. In 1950, Christian Brothers had a retreat given by a Franciscan priest. The

Franciscan asked if anyone wanted to talk about priesthood he would be available. Jim decided to talk to the Franciscan who suggested that he check out the seminary.

In the meantime, Father Jim Mulligan who helped with the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), offered to take any young men to visit the seminary. Jim visited Saint Joseph Seminary in Mountain View a couple of times and then began praying, asking Mary to help him discern if he should become a priest.

Jim Enters Saint Joseph Seminary in Mountain View



Photo courtesy of the Church family

Jim entered Saint Joseph Seminary as a college freshman in the fall of 1950. A number of good athletes entered the seminary that year and Jim was one of them. Math and science were his primary interests and he excelled in them. Jim had the highest scores in the class in these subjects. After two years at Saint Joseph Seminary, Jim moved to Saint Patrick Seminary, Menlo Park, for the next six years.

A Budding Baseball Career

Jim Church played a lot of sports in the seminary and had a great time. In the summers he was part of a baseball league in Northern California and played semi-professional baseball. Major league scouts Joe Devine of the Yankees and Bernie De Viveras of the Tigers spoke with Jim's father regarding the future of young Jim in baseball. When they found out he was in the seminary, they wanted Mr Church's assurance that should his son decide to try out for professional baseball, they would be contacted. But Jim, Jr was interested in only one team, the Padres, not the San Diego Padres but the priest padres.

Jim with his Father and Grandmother at St Joseph Seminary 1952

James Church is ordained a Priest in 1958

James Church was ordained a priest on June 14, 1958 by Bishop Joseph McGucken in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. His first assignment for only a few months was Holy Rosary Parish in Woodland where he filled in for the vacationing pastor, Monsignor John Tumulty.

His first permanent assignment was to Saint Isidore Parish in Yuba City where he worked with Father Bernard (Barney) McElwee who was pastor. Father Jim ministered in Yuba City from August 1, 1958 to June 30, 1960. During that time the present metal church was built.

Father Church says that Bishop McGucken would not allow the parish to install air conditioning and he made some comments about that decision. Soon after, Bishop McGucken called Father Jim to his office and assigned him to teach at Christian Brothers High School.



Photo courtesy of the Church Family

James Church is ordained a Priest by Bishop Joseph McGucken in June 1958

Father Church Assigned to Teach at his Alma Mater, Christian Brothers High School

Father Church taught at Christian Brothers High School for seven years. During this time, he lived in residence for a brief time at Sacred Heart Church and then moved to All Hallows rectory where he resided for two years during the pastorate of Father John Maguire. From 1962 to 1967 he lived in residence at Immaculate Conception Parish.

Summer Classes

In the summers, Father Church attended classes in colleges and universities around the country and when he returned in the fall he never knew where he would be assigned. Monsignor James Poole, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, acted as a guide to Father Church in his educational career.

In the meantime, the Vatican was trying to appoint Monsignor Poole a bishop. Father Church says Monsignor Poole received the invitation to be bishop of Boise but he did not want to accept the position. Bishop Armstrong tried to convince Poole to accept but he was definite about not being a bishop and declined the appointment.

Father Church was appointed to teaching positions in whatever school he was needed. He served as a teacher at Saint Pius X Seminary from 1969 to 1973.

Assistant Superintendent of Catholic School

Monsignor Poole asked Father Church to work in the Catholic School Department and he was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools, a position he held for a number of

years. During those years he lived in residence at the Cathedral, Saint Paul Parish, Saint Peter Parish and Saint Anne Parish. At this point, Father Church was interested in getting back to parish work and he told the bishop: "If I wanted to be a teacher all my life I would have become a Jesuit." Soon after, he received an appointment to his first pastorate.

Named Monsignor

Toward the end of Bishop Bell's tenure as Bishop of Sacramento, Father Church was honored by Pope Paul VI by being named a Monsignor. He was installed as a Monsignor by Bishop Alden Bell in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacramento on January 21, 1977, five days shy of his 45th birthday.

First Pastorate, Saint Peter Church, Sacramento



Monsignor Church was appointed to his first pastorate at Saint Peter Parish in Sacramento from 1983-1994. He enjoyed his eleven years at Saint Peter Church because he found the people and the religious sisters to be fine people.

Named Pastor of Saint Philomene Parish

Bishop William Weigand appointed Monsignor Church pastor of Saint Philomene Parish where he served from 1994 to 2000. While pastor of this parish, he was involved in the renovation of the church.

A Move to Saint Charles Parish

The next appointment for Monsignor Church was to Saint Charles parish in 2000 where he served for the next six years. He enjoyed the people of the parish and found the parish school to be very positive. The Sacred Heart Sisters who taught at the school had a conflict with the previous pastor and Monsignor Church believes he was sent there to pull the community back together.

Last Assignment, Saint Rose Parish

In 2006, Bishop Weigand accepted Monsignor Kavanagh's request to retire and asked Monsignor Church if he would serve as pastor of Saint Rose Parish. Monsignor Church was 75 at the time and ready to retire. The Diocesan Finance Department took the parish financial records hoping to figure out the realities of the parish. Monsignor Church invited Monsignor Kavanagh to continue living in residence at the rectory.

Monsignor Church Retires in 2014

In the summer of 2014, after talking with Monsignor Church's family, Bishop Soto asked Monsignor Church to step down from his role as pastor of Saint Rose Church. He moved to Saint Anthony Parish in the Pocket Area to be priest in residence. After a few months, with his family's encouragement, Monsignor Church moved to Mercy McMahon Terrace where he now lives.



Although this is not the place he chose to live, he says life at this Catholic retirement facility is OK.

On Sundays, Monsignor Church gathers with his family. His mother lives in her own home with some of her children living with her. She is very content surrounded by her many children and grandchildren who drop by daily to see her. She attends daily Mass at either Immaculate Conception or Sacred Heart Churches.



Photo courtesy of the Church Family

Little Jim at Two Years of Age

Final Thoughts

Having been a priest for 57 years, Monsignor James Church says he has had a peaceful experience as a priest. His life has been happy and he continues to enjoy a rich life with his extended family and his many friends made over a lifetime.

Monsignor Church has touched the lives of many people during a lifetime of ministry in the Sacramento Diocese. We are grateful for his witness and ministry and wish him blessings from God and continued love and support from his family and many friends.

AD MULTOS ANNOS!

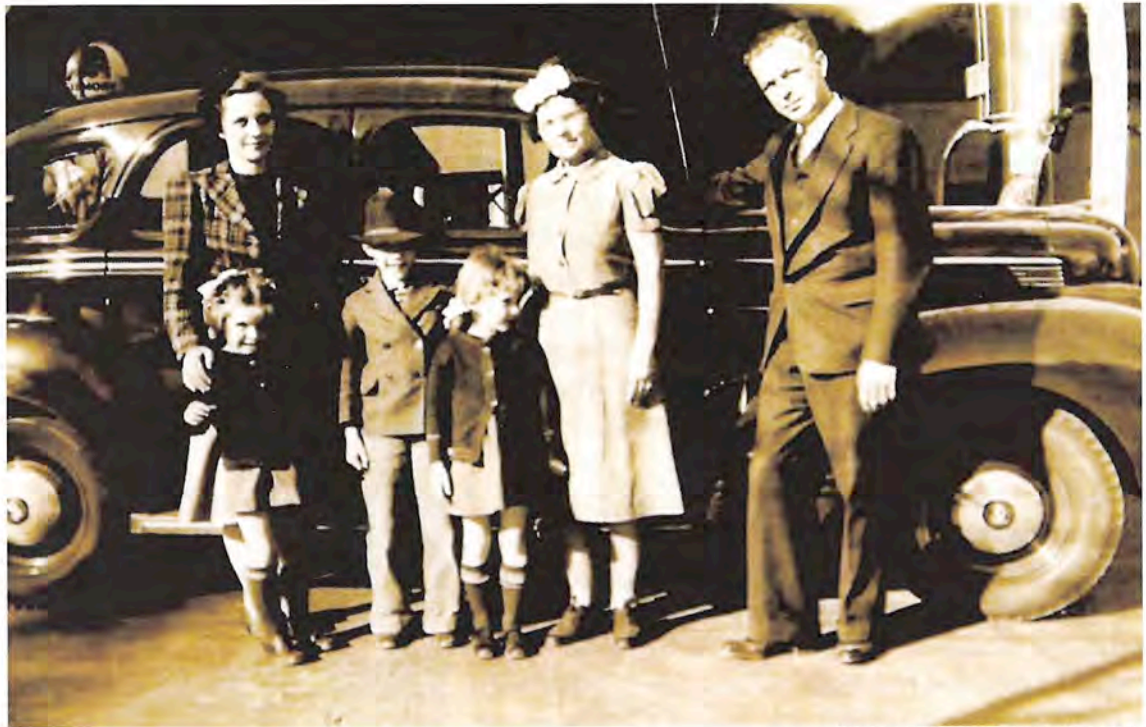


Photo courtesy of the Church Family

L-R, Mary Church, Betty, Jim, Cathy and Kate & David Newington, Great Uncle and Aunt, 1940



Father Ed Barden with Betty, Jim and Cathy



Senior at Christian Brothers 1950



Photo courtesy of the Church Family

First Priestly Blessing on Ordination Day 1958



Photo courtesy of the Church Family

Monsignor Church with his Parents, James and Mary Church, at his 35th Anniversary



Photo courtesy of the Church Family

Jim McNamara inducts Monsignor Church into Christian Brothers Hall of Fame in 1997

Diocesan Assignments 1958-2008

Ordained: June 14, 1958

Diocese of Sacramento by Bishop McGucken

1958	Holy Rosary Parish, Woodland	Asst. Pastor
1958-1960	St. Isidore Parish, Yuba City	Asst. Pastor
1960-1964	Bishop Armstrong High School: Faculty & Financial Administrator (1962-64)	
1960	<i>Sacred Heart, Sacramento</i>	<i>In Residence</i>
1960-1962	<i>All Hallows, Sacramento</i>	<i>In Residence</i>
1962-1965	<i>Immaculate Conception</i>	<i>In Residence</i>
1964-1967	St. Francis High School: Faculty & Financial Administrator,	
1966-1969	Diocesan School Board	
1965-1969	<i>St. Paul Parish, Sacramento</i>	<i>In Residence</i>
1967	Christian Brothers High School: Faculty & Counselor	
1968-1973	St. Pius X Seminary, Galt: Faculty & Financial Administrator	
1970-1983	Assistant Superintendent of Schools	
1972-1973	<i>Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	<i>In Residence</i>
1973-1975	<i>St. Paul Parish, Sacramento</i>	<i>In Residence</i>
1975-1978	<i>St. Peter Parish, Sacramento</i>	<i>In Residence</i>
1978-1981	<i>St. Anne Parish, Sacramento</i>	<i>In Residence</i>
1981-1983	<i>St. Paul Parish, Sacramento</i>	<i>In Residence</i>
1983-1994	St. Peter Parish, Sacramento	Pastor
1994-2000	St. Philomene Parish, Sacramento	Pastor
2000-2006	St. Charles Parish, Sacramento	Pastor
2006 —	St. Rose Parish, Sacramento	Pastor



Photo by John E Boll 2015

Monsignor Church with his Mother, Mary Church, at the Family home in Sacramento



Photo courtesy of the Church Family

Jim Church's Seminary Class at Saint Patrick Seminary, Menlo Park



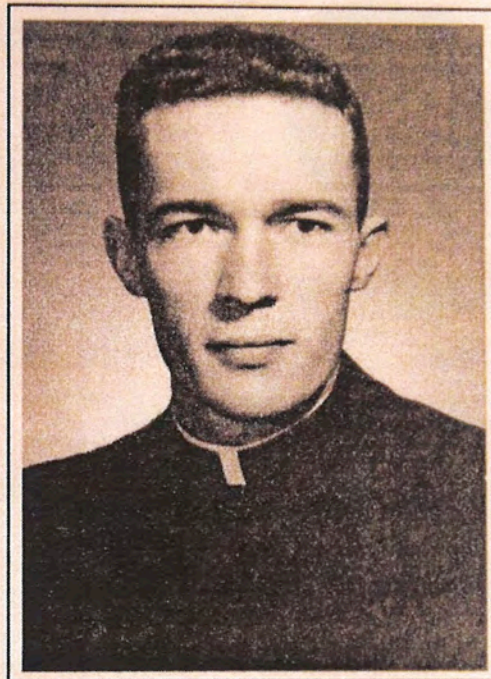
Photo courtesy of Church Family

Monsignor Church Celebrates Mass at Saint Peter Parish, Sacramento



Newly Ordained Father James Church

Monsignor James Church
Ordained to the Priesthood
June 14, 1958



GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

June 14, 2008

Immaculate Conception Church
32nd Street & Broadway
Sacramento, California

Published with the permission of Monsignor Church

Monsignor James F. Church(1932 - 2017)

Monsignor James F. Church was born on January 26, 1932, and passed away on Sunday, January 22, 2017, after a four year battle with Alzheimer's, four days shy of his 85th birthday. He was the oldest of 14 children of the family of James (deceased) and Mary Church which included his siblings: Cathy (deceased), Bette (deceased), Jack (Jan), Mike, Bernie (Jody), Fran, Peggy, Kevin (Pam), Ken, Monica, Terry (Chris), Tim and Maureen. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Father Jim, as he was affectionately known, graduated from Immaculate Conception Grammar School and Christian Brothers High School, class of 1950. In high school he participated in football, basketball, baseball and track. In his senior year he was named All-City first team in both basketball and baseball by the local papers. He was also the student body president his senior year. To keep himself busy that same year he was also the lead actor and singer in the annual school play. He was a member of the Sacramento Area Baseball Hall of Fame and was also inducted into the Christian Brothers High School's Inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame. In 1950 he entered St. Joseph Seminary in Mountain View to begin his studies for the priesthood. After two years at St. Joseph's Seminary, he moved to St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park, for the next six years, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Philosophy). He was ordained a Catholic priest on June 14, 1958, in Sacramento, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Throughout his priesthood he continued his education at such places as: St. Mary's College, 1960-62, Post Graduate Work (Math & Education); University of Portland, 1971, Master of Science Degree (Chemistry & Physics); University of San Francisco, 1973, Master of Arts Degree (Teaching Religion). In his almost 60 years as an active priest he had many different assignments and served at, or was in residence at, many different parishes in the Diocese of Sacramento. He began in 1958 at Holy Rosary Parish, Woodland; 1958-60 St. Isidore Parish, Yuba City; 1960-64 Bishop Armstrong High School, Faculty & Financial Administrator; 1960 Sacred Heart Parish, In Residence; 1960-62 All Hallows, In Residence; 1962-65 Immaculate Conception Parish, In Residence; 1964-67 St. Francis High School, Faculty & Financial Administrator; 1966-69 Diocesan School Board; 1965-69 St. Paul Parish, In Residence; 1967 Christian Brothers High School, Faculty & Counselor; 1968-73 St. Pius X Seminary, Faculty & Financial Administrator; 1970-83 Assistant Superintendent of Schools; 1972-73 Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, In Residence; 1973-75 St. Paul Parish, In Residence; 1975-78 St. Peter Parish, In Residence; 1978-81 St. Anne Parish, In Residence; 1982-83 St. Paul Parish, In Residence; 1983-94 St. Peter Parish, Pastor; 1994-2000 St. Philomene Parish, Pastor; 2000-06 St. Charles Parish, Pastor; 2006-14 St. Rose Parish, Pastor; and finally, 2014 St. Anthony Parish, In Residence. In 2014 he retired and spent his last years as a resident of Mercy McMahon Terrace. Friends are welcome at the following services: Rosary on Sunday, January 29, at 6:00pm at Immaculate Conception Church, Broadway & 32nd Street, Sacramento; and Funeral Mass on Monday, January 30, at 10:00am at St. Anthony Church, 660 Florin Road, Sacramento. Reception to follow. Burial services will be private. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to The La Salle Club c/o Christian Brothers High School, 4315 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Sacramento, CA., 95820 or to a [charity of your choice](#). He will be missed by all who knew him. May he rest in peace. Arrangements by W.F. Gormley & Sons.

Funeral Home**W.F. Gormley & Sons**

2015 Capitol Ave Sacramento, CA 95811
(916) 443-6513

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