

# SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

Vol 3

Father John E Boll, Diocesan Archivist

No 16

*Father William Joseph Dinelli*

Native Son of Sacramento

Priest of the Diocese of Sacramento

Pastor Emeritus of Saint Anthony Parish, Walnut Grove

Autobiography by Father William J Dinelli

## PART I



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PART I





Manuel & Son, Louis 1917



Isabel and Eva 1908



Isabel and Eva 1923



Manuel Miller on far right with his fellow miners in Redding, California circa 1917



Sonny (Connie) and Uncle Frank Machado 1963



Cousin Judy Machado & Billy 1941



Judy Machado Carrel, Daughter Caroline & Aunt Rose Machado



Aunt Rose & Grandson David Machado



Grandpa, Grandma & Billy 1936



Frank                      Machado Siblings  
Mary                      Manuel                      John



Grandpa, Uncle Victor & Billy 1942

## ISABEL AND EVA BECOME TEACHERS AND DEVOUT CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS



Isabel V Miller

Isabel, Bill's mother, and Eva, her sister and his future godmother, the two oldest of the four living Miller children, eventually became public school teachers in the Sacramento Unified School district and retired after forty years of dedicated service to their students. During the mid-nineteen thirties, along with ten other teachers, they formed the Carmelite Auxiliaries, a financial support group to help the Discalced Carmelite nuns who had recently established a monastery on Stockton Boulevard in Sacramento within walking distance of the old Sacramento County Hospital.



Eva N Miller

At his mother's death in 1986 at the age of ninety, her family established in her memory at some of our parochial and private Catholic high schools *The Isabel V. Dinelli Memorial Scholarship Fund for Minority Students*. Over the years it has helped a number of deserving students with their school costs. Father Bill wrote of his mother at that time, "She prayed for us unceasingly and inspired us by her words but especially by her example to try always to walk hand in with the Lord on one side and his blessed mother, Mary, on the other."



Isabel 1925



1958



1963

*"Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and reject not your mother's teaching, for they are a fair garland for your head and pendants for your neck." Proverbs 1:3-9*

#### THE JACOB AND PHILOMENA DINELLI FAMILY



William O Dinelli

Bill's father, Guglielmo (William), as his parents called him, was born in Villa Basilica, a small village near the city of Lucca in the land of Tuscany in central Italy. His parents were Jacob and Philomena Dinelli. When he was five years old, he immigrated with his parents and oldest sister, Germana, to this country. They settled in northern Michigan in the small town of Franklin, which is close to Hancock, a land that is called *The Copper Country*.



Jacob Dinelli and Son William 1947



Jacob & Philomena Dinelli and Children circa 1912  
Bill, Sr is the boy on the right



Jacob and Philomena Dinelli and children circa 1918

Needing to leave school early so as to help his father support their growing family, Bill worked in the local copper mine. In 1922, in hope of finding a warmer climate for his asthmatic mother, he struck out on his own for California where he found work in the Empire Gold Mine in Grass Valley, California. After a few years he had saved enough money to make a down payment on a house on 48<sup>th</sup> Street in Sacramento, an area that came to be known as *Little Italy* due to the large number of Italian families that were settling there. He then sent for the rest of his family who were being readied for their trip west with the help of Aunt Ger, the second oldest of the Dinelli children.



Uncle Dominick & Dolores Dinelli & Sons Darryl & Dennis cir 1954



Bill, Cousin Sandra Micheli, Isabel, Viola Sagar Dinelli & Jimmy Sagar 1954





William O Dinelli circa 1941



Bill Sings in the Southern Pacific Shop Quartet in 1944

In 1926, he started to work as a pipefitter on steam engines for the Southern Pacific Railroad division in Sacramento and retired in 1963. On November 29, 1933, he and Isabel V. Miller were married at Saint Thomas Aquinas Cathedral in Reno, Nevada by the Right Rev. Monsignor Michael J. Hines. Up until a few years before his death at the age of ninety-two, he took up the Sunday collection during one of the early morning masses at Sacred Heart Church in Sacramento, which was the family parish, and for a time served in the parish *Legion Of Mary*. At his funeral, Bill, Jr said of his father, "He was a faithful son, a faithful husband, a faithful father, and a faithful worker."



Bill 1931



Bill and Isabel 1950



Isabel 1931

Over the years, Bill and his father had taken many trips together. On the way to St. Mary's Cemetery in Sacramento for his burial service, he sent this prayer to him: "Well, Dad, I guess that this

is our last trip together for a while." He hopes that in the eons to come, in our "new heaven and earth (Rev. 21:1)," our families, both the immediate and the extended back through the ages, will enjoy many get-togethers and excursions.



Bill, Sr & Billy 1937



Bill, Sr in Bodie, California 1962



Bill, Sr at Lake Tahoe 1968



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Franklin, MI 1973



Bill & Isabel 1979

## PRE-SCHOOL AND EARLY SCHOOL DAYS



In 1939, Billy began kindergarten at David Lubin School in Sacramento. After half a year, his parents enrolled him in Sacred Heart School, the local parochial school that was part of Sacred Heart Church. His first grade teacher was Sister Mary Vincent, R.S.M. She also gave piano lessons to the children who might want to take them.

1935



1936



Riding his pony 1939



School Days 1941

When he reached the third grade, now back at David Lubin, his parents, feeling that he had some musical talent, asked Sister Vincent if she would teach him how to play. He would continue to take piano lessons until the end of his sophomore year of high school. Doing so, he feels, not only enabled him, when he was growing up, to provide a little entertainment at family gatherings, but, when he was older, gave him a way to relax and unwind when he was alone.



First Communion 1942

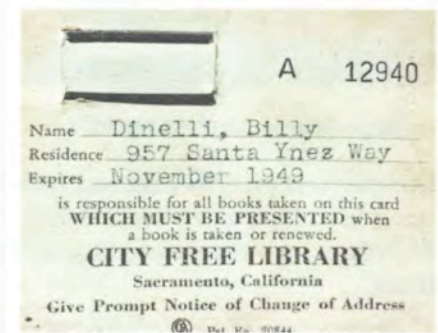


The second half of the third grade (it was officially then called the high third grade) through the sixth grade and graduation were spent at Fremont school in Sacramento, where his mother taught. That first class there stood out from the rest because his teacher was also his mother. He soon got used to it, though, and, apparently, so did his classmates.

With Aunt Eva and his Mother Isabel 1940

During his public school years, his parent provided for his religious education by enrolling him in Sacred Heart's catechism classes that were held after the public school classes were over. During his fourth grade class he rejoined one of his former classmates from David Lubin, Victor Bertolani, in learning how to serve Mass. Fr. Edward Christen, one of the assistant priests, would seat them beside him and patiently go over the Latin responses that they would be expected to know. Later in the church, he went over their various moves at the altar.

The great day for them to serve their first mass finally came. When it was over, Bill asked the priest how he had done, and he answered with two words: "You're hopeless!" When he told his father what the priest had said, he just laughed. He eventually got it right, though, and continued to take his turn serving through high school. He feels that doing so kept him closer to his Catholic faith during a time of his life when he could have easily strayed from it.





### Fremont School Graduating Class of 1946

Bill is the 6<sup>th</sup> student from left in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row

### SACRED HEART SCHOOL, SACRAMENTO, FOR 7<sup>th</sup> AND 8<sup>th</sup> GRADES



Sister Marita Cunningham, RSM

After graduating from Fremont, Bill returned to Sacred Heart School for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. His teacher for these two years was Sister Mary Ita (Marita) Cunningham, R.S.M. He feels that her strong personality and no non-sense approach to class discipline helped him to become more self-disciplined when it came to paying attention in class and to not acting up. "The yardstick," he says, "was always close by in the chalk tray if we boys needed a little help in understanding her directions."

Their class was especially blessed, he feels, by two other vocations to the religious life: Loretta McCormack and Kathryn Rasmussen became Sister Dorothy McCormack and Sister Marianne Rasmussen in the Franciscan Sisters of Penance and Charity, the religious order whose sisters had taught them at St. Francis High School.

*"If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." Matthew 19:21*



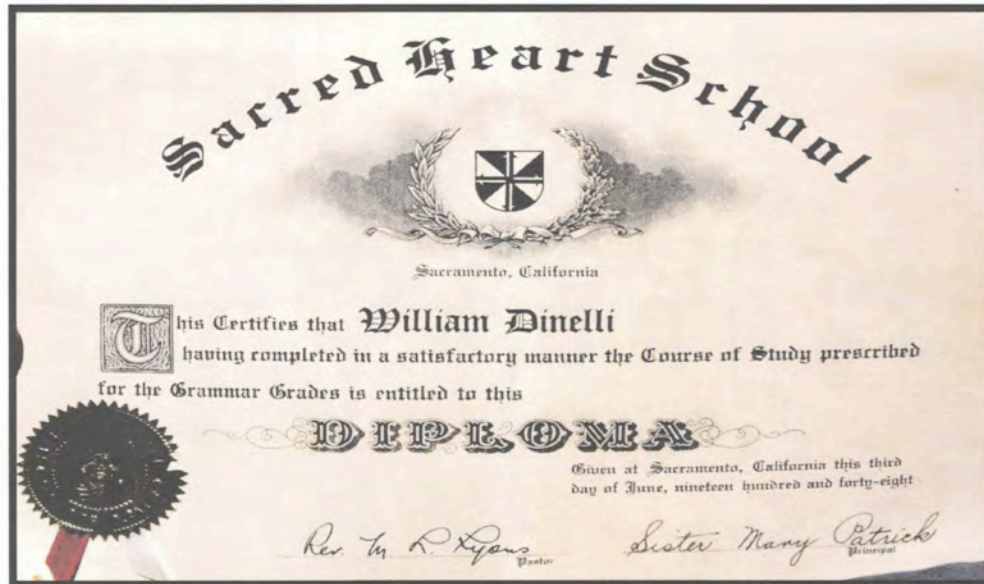
Sacred Heart Church Confirmation Class of 1946

Bill is second from the right in the front row



Sacred Heart School Class of 1948

Bill is the third from the left in second row



Eighth Grade Diploma



Sacred Heart Class Reunion 2008 to Celebrate Sister Ita's (Marita) 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

**CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL**

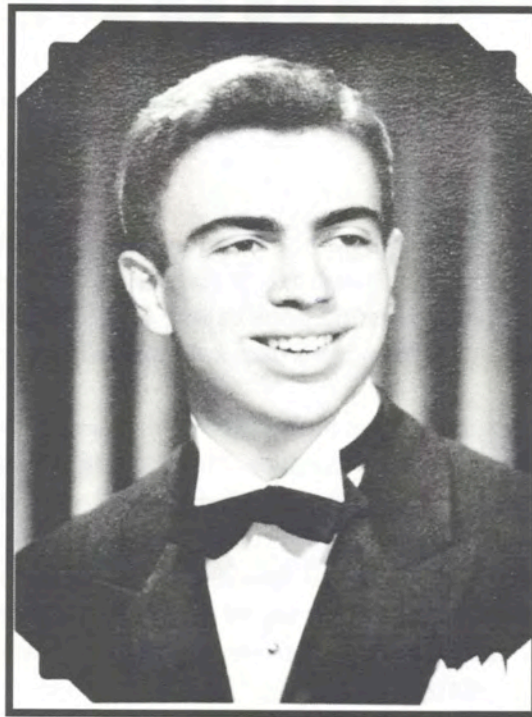
During the early part of Bill's senior year at Christian Brothers, still not knowing what he wanted to do with his life after high school, he thought that it might be a good idea to pray about it. Until then he had hardly ever said his prayers unless he was attending Sunday mass with his parents or serving on Sundays or weekdays.

He feels that his prayers were soon answered. While relaxing in the school cafeteria during the lunch period one afternoon, the idea of the priesthood suddenly popped into his mind. It was not to the diocesan priesthood, though, with which he was the most familiar, since its priests were the ones who staffed his parish, but to a contemplative religious order, namely, to the Trappist Order or, as it is officially known, the Cistercians of the Strict Observance. As he remembers, an

article on the newly founded Trappist Monastery of Our Lady of the Blessed Trinity in Huntsville, Utah had recently appeared in the popular, *Life Magazine*. That article, he feels, may have sparked his new interest in that particular order.

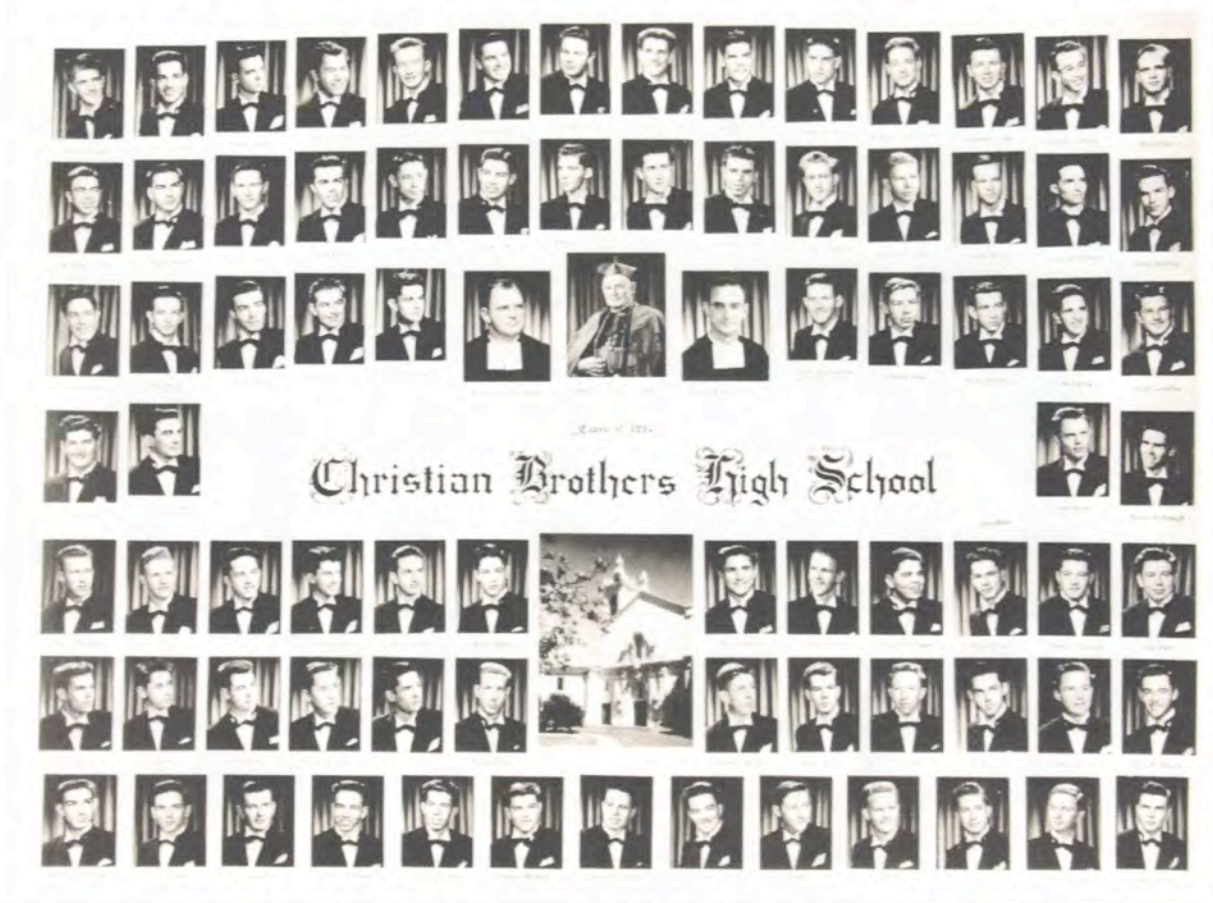


Christian Brothers Musical "Leap for Joy" in 1952; Bill is 6<sup>th</sup> from the left and Julia Resendez is his partner



High School Senior Portrait





Christian Brothers High School, Sacramento, CA  
 Graduating Class of 1952

### FIRST THOUGHTS OF THE PRIESTHOOD

After school was over that day, instead of going straight home as he usually did, he first stopped off at the St. Thomas Aquinas Library that was in the basement of the downtown Cathedral. There he borrowed what looked like an interesting book called, *The Man Who Got Even With God* by the Trappist, Fr. M. Raymond, who wrote of his own spiritual journey to the order.

After finishing it and still curious, he started to read some of Thomas Merton's books, such as *The Seven Story Mountain* and *The Waters Of The Siloe*. This reading, incidentally, was a whole new world for him because until then he had only read what he had to read for class work. During this time he also corresponded with Abbott Mauritius Lans, OCSO, the founding abbot of Our Lady of the Blessed Trinity Cistercian Monastery in Huntsville, Utah, so as to see what he thought about his interest in the order. The abbot felt that it would be better, at least for the present, for him to zero in on the diocesan priesthood with which he was the most familiar, which he did. It was a decision that he has never regretted.

When he asked one of the assistant pastors of his church whose masses he had often served what he thought about his idea of wanting to be a priest, he answered with one word: "No!" The

He then remembered reading that Saint Therese of Lisieux had written that if one picked up a pin for the love of God he could save a soul. From that moment every time that he pulled down the lever he tried to do so for the love of God. He figures that during that summer he must have saved hundreds of souls.



College Classmates 1954

Bill is the first student on right in the third row



Graduation portrait, Saint Joseph College, Mountain View, California, June 1955

pastor was equally unsupportive. Only one priest, as far as he knows, was willing to give him a chance: Msgr. Cornelius P. Higgins, a priest in residence in Sacred Heart whose Masses he had also served, who also served in the Bishop's downtown office. In the middle of August following his high school graduation, thanks to Monsignor Higgins' help, he feels, he finally received a letter stating that he had been accepted as a seminarian or student for the priesthood for the Diocese of Sacramento. A letter from Father Francis Rock, the President of St. Joseph's College in Mountain View California, which was the closest minor or junior seminary to Sacramento, arrived soon afterwards.

### SAINT JOSEPH COLLEGE, MOUNTAIN VIEW



Saint Joseph College, Mountain View, CA



Study Hall at Saint Joseph College

His first weeks at Saint Joseph College, which was both a high school and a two year junior college, were challenging being away from his home and parents for the first time. His classmates, though, about twenty-five in number, were fine young men, and the fact that they shared the same life goal gave them something special in common. His courses in languages, chemistry, rhetoric, the history of philosophy, poetry, apologetics, Catholic doctrine, etc., during those years, gave him, he thinks, a broad liberal arts background that would be a good basis for his future studies in philosophy and theology if and when he reached the major seminary.

At the end of the following three summers, as in schools of this type, some of his classmates, sensing that The Lord was calling them elsewhere, did not return to Saint Joseph's. He feels, though, that they would never regret whatever time that they had spent there. In fact, he has noticed from the Saint Joseph's alumni newsletters that some of the most dedicated alumni are those who were not ordained.

During those first summer vacations during the minor seminary, he worked for a few weeks at the Libby, McNeill & Libby Cannery in Sacramento. Doing so not only enabled him to make a little money but it also gave him a new appreciation for the life of the ordinary working man.

His job one summer was to stack peach cans as they came out of the cooker. The cans would roll down a track and fill a twelve-can frame. When a handle was pulled, the cans would be transferred to a wooden tray that he would then stack head high for the man in a gurney to cart away. Doing this for hour after hour during the eight hour night shift, with the rest breaks, of course, was a mind numbing experience.

Edward Browning, William Cane, Donald Casella, Dermid Cox, John Cox, William Dinelli, William Garvey, Timothy Goode, James Leiningner  
 Philip McGrillis, William McGuinness, Michael Barragan, Rev. Fr. John F. Mary, D.D., Webster Nolan, John Ring, Victor Schymeinsky  
 Edmund Shipp, Joseph Skillin, James Smith, Gary Tollner, Kevin White, Richard Wingell  
 Rev. Paul Parle, S.S., Rev. Francis J. Bark, S.S., Rev. James T. Campbell, S.S., Rev. William F. O'Connell, S.S., Rev. John J. O'Neil, S.S.

## St. Joseph's College

(Rhetoric) 1955

Don Book

Graduating Class of 1955



St. Joseph's College  
Class of 1955

✠

Michael Barragan  
 Edward Browning  
 William Cane  
 Donald Casella  
 Dermid Cox  
 John Cox  
 William Dinelli  
 William Garvey  
 Timothy Goode  
 James Leiningner  
 Philip McGrillis  
 William McGuinness  
 Webster Nolan  
 John Ring  
 Victor Schymeinsky  
 Edmund Shipp  
 Joseph Skillin  
 James Smith  
 Gary Tollner  
 Kevin White  
 Richard Wingell

✠

"Inquietum est cor nostrum,  
donec requiescat in te."

**SAINT PATRICK SEMINARY, MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA**

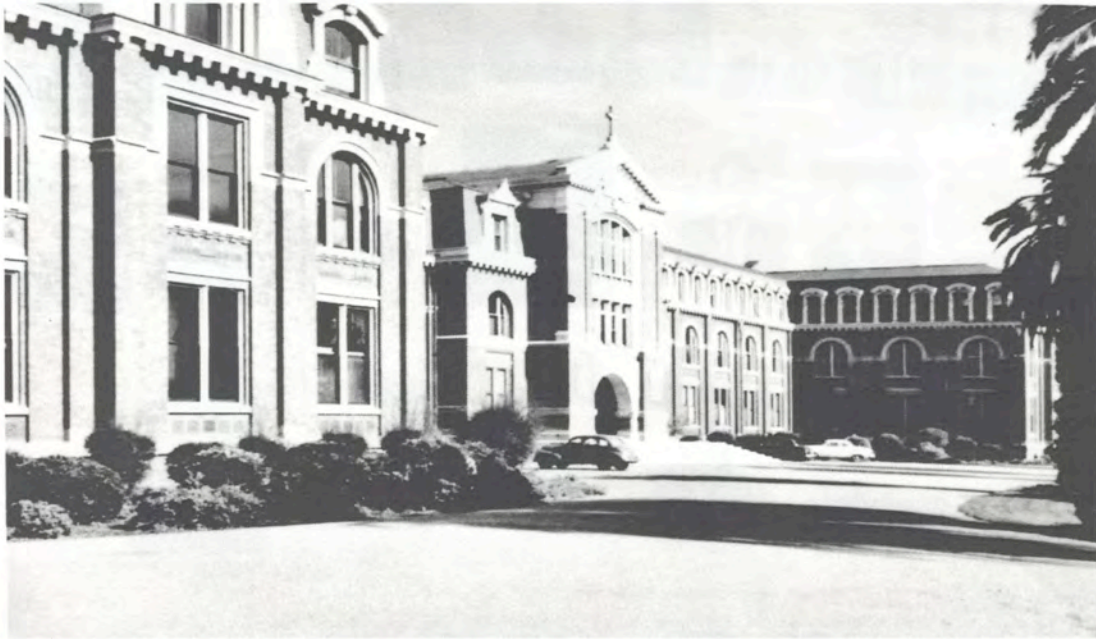


Photo by Bill Dinelli

**Saint Patrick Seminary 1956**



Photo by John E Boll

**Saint Patrick Seminary 2014**

After Saint Joseph's College, Bill and his classmates advanced to Saint Patrick's Seminary a few miles away in Menlo Park, California. It had been established early in the twentieth century to prepare diocesan priests for serving in the Archdiocese of San Francisco, which included a number of western dioceses, such as, the Diocese of Sacramento. Two of his classmates were from as far away as the Diocese of Agana in Guam.



Photo by Bill Dinelli 1956

#### First Year at Saint Patrick Seminary 1955-1956

His college major for his last two years of college at Saint Patrick's was philosophy. At the end of that period, he and his classmates were awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree, one that was recognized by the Western College Association, the accrediting agency. This aspect of the degree would be especially appreciated by students, although very few at this late stage, who might decide that their life calling lay elsewhere.

His last years at Saint Patrick's were spent on what was called the theology side of the house. Now he would be finally concentrating on the bread and butter subjects of his future priestly work, namely, dogmatic theology or what his future parishioners should believe as followers of Christ, and moral theology or how we should live our daily moral lives as his faithful members.

One aspect of the first three years of theology that he did not relish was being expected to write the answers to the theology exams in Latin. Fortunately, the answers in the other subjects, such as church history and scripture, could be given in English. During his fourth and last year, happily, everything was in English.

*"Your word is a lamp for my steps and a light for my path.  
I have sworn and made up my mind to obey your decrees." Psalm 119: 105-106*

*"I have called you friends." John 15:15*

SCENES FROM THE SEMINARY YEARS 1955-1961



Bill Dinelli, Sidney Hall and Gordon Johnson 1956

With Donald Casella 1956



L-R  
Manuel Simas, Tomas Camacho and Michael Winterer 1958



With Tomas Camacho 1958

L-R Manuel Quadrado-Avila, Bill Cane & Tomas Comacho



Back Row: Henry Sabog; Bill McGinnis; Brigido Arroyo; Walter Saunders

Front Row: Bill Dinelli, Robert K White; George Heeg

January 1957

*"As God's chosen people, holy and dearly beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another, if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgives you. And over all these virtues put on love which binds them all together in perfect unity."*

*Colossians 3: 12-14*



*"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."*  
*Proverbs 22:6*

TEACHING CATECHISM AT SAINT RAYMOND PARISH, REDWOOD CITY, CA 1958



Seminarians Frank Piro, John Cloherty, Bill Dinelli and Austin Keegan teach Catechism Classes in 1958



Bill's Catechism Class at Saint Raymond's

MONTHLY FAMILY VISITING SUNDAYS AT SAINT PATRICK SEMINARY



Photo by Sidney P Hall  
L-R Jerome, Rosemary & Mary Hall, Isabel & Bill 1955



With mother 1960



With Darlene Petkovich & Patty Esraeilian



With parents and Aunt Eva 1960



Photo by Russell Terra 1959

The Terra and Dinelli Families 1959

### SEMINARY FACULTY

His professors, who belonged to the Sulpician Order of priests, whose special ministry was preparing young for the priesthood, did not usually fraternize outside of class with their students, although a few of them would join the older seminarians in their after dinner stroll around the seminary grounds. His spiritual director, Father Edward Cronin, S.S., was always available, though, for talking things over. There was also the required monthly hour with him for spiritual direction and also the required weekly confession.



Top Row: Fr Leo Ruskowski, SS; Fr Michael Sheehy, SS; Fr Joseph Munier  
Second Row: Fr Eugene Nicholas, SS; Fr Frank Norris, SS; Fr Robert Giguere, SS; Fr Magner, SS  
Third Row: Fr Edward Cronin, SS; Fr Andrew Forester, SS; Fr John Mattingly, SS  
Front Row: Fr Edward Connelly, SS; Fr Girard, SS, Superior of Sulpicians; Fr Edward Wagner, SS, Rector

*"That men may know wisdom and instruction, understand words of insight, receive instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity." Proverbs 23:6*

SUMMER TIME TRIPS



To Mexico with Russ Terra 1960

Photo by Walter Sanders



On Echo Summit, CA with  
Brigido (Bibi) Arroyo 1960

Photo by Art Jackson

With Classmates at Monte Rio, CA,  
summer of 1960



### SUMMERTIME PASTORAL WORK

Now, during his summer vacations, he was expected to lend a hand around his home parish. One summer he taught a catechism class during the parish summer school for public school children. Another summer he helped to paint the church school. Another time he took the church census. His pastor, Monsignor Gerald J O'Driscoll, laughingly had this to say about his census work: "You're been causing quite a commotion in the River Park District, and we've been getting calls about it." Many people there thought that they were in Saint Mary's Parish, which was close by, until he told them that they really belonged to Sacred Heart Parish, which was further away. He doubts that the Saint Mary's priests took it so lightheartedly.

For a time, he also served in a unique way at the Sunday Masses that he and his parents attended. Around 1958, so as to increase the active participation of parishioners in their Sunday Masses, they were asked to join the altar servers in reciting the Latin responses to the priest's part from the altar. When his pastor asked him to lead the congregation in reciting the responses at the Sunday Masses that he and his parents attended, he gladly took part. Being asked to do so made him feel that he was on the right track with regards to his hope of a possible vocation to the priesthood.

What especially influenced him, he feels, during his major seminary summers were the three summer, two week session that he served, along with some of classmates and schoolmates, as a camp counselor at Sunshine Camp on the Russian River near Monte Rio, California, a small resort community a few miles from the California coast.

It had been established in the 1930's by Father Charles Philipps, a priest and pastor in Oakland, California to give children from poorer families in his parish of Saint Mary's and those living in San Francisco a chance to enjoy two weeks of fun and games, swimming in the Russian river, picnicking, evening campfires, and mass in the rustic chapel when a priest was available.

Photo by Bill Dinelli 1957

### THE INIMITABLE FATHER CHARLES PHILIPPS

Father Charles Philipps was a priest who was possibly ahead of his time, Father Bill feels, because he would leave his ninety-nine safe and secure sheep to go out looking for those who were in danger of being spiritually lost due to what he seemed to have felt were the predatory economic and social forces of their society. At least these fifty or so eight to twelve year olds each summer would, hopefully, have enough memories of fun-filled days and nights, and especially of being loved by God, by their camp counselors and staff, and especially by Father Philipps to last a lifetime.

#### Father Charles Philipps

Although he died in 1958, during the summer of 1956, Bill's first session, he was still living in his summer residence on the property so as to keep an eye on things. He would often join



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

On the recommendation of the faculty of the University and the  
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
the Trustees of The California State University and Colleges  
have conferred upon

William Joseph Dinelli

in recognition of the fulfillment of the requirements, the degree of  
MASTER OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY  
with all the rights, privileges, and honors thereto pertaining

Given at Sacramento this eighth day of June, nineteen hundred and seventy-three.



*Ronald Reagan*  
Governor and President  
of the Trustees

*Karl L. Weente*  
Chairman  
Board of Trustees



*James S. Donnell*  
Chancellor

*James G. Bond*  
President of the University

Duplicate

State of California

Nº 4412

Department of Professional and Vocational Standards  
Social Worker and Marriage Counselor Qualifications Board

Pursuant to Chapter 4 of the Business and Professions Code, this license as a

Marriage, Family and Child Counselor

is issued to:

WILLIAM DINELLI

and confers upon the holder all of the rights and privileges under said Chapter, including the right to use  
the title, engage in the business, and advertise to the public that he is a Marriage, Family and Child  
Counselor.

In witness thereof the Chairman and the Executive Secretary affix their  
signatures hereto and the Seal of the Social Worker and Marriage  
Counselor Qualifications Board this 15th day  
of October, 1970.



*Charles H. Miller*  
Chairman  
*Charles Addison*  
Executive Secretary

License Holder

*William J. Dinelli*

ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY  
MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA

THE PRESIDENT AND FACULTY OF ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY TAKE PLEASURE IN CONFERRING UPON

WILLIAM JOSEPH DINELLI

HAVING COMPLETED THE PRESCRIBED COURSE OF STUDIES AND HAVING DEMONSTRATED THE  
REQUIRED LEVEL OF COMPETENCE, THE DEGREE OF

MASTER OF DIVINITY



*Joseph D. Froscher, SJ*  
DEAN OF STUDIES

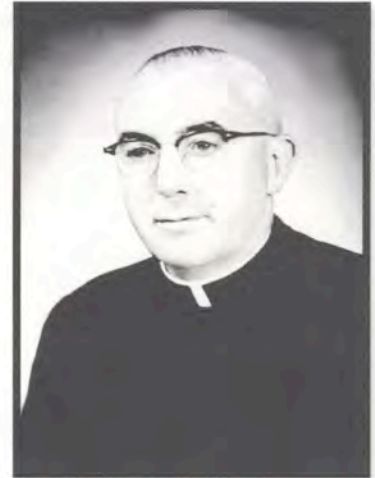
*Joseph J. Bonadiri, SJ*  
PRESIDENT

JUNE, 1975



Father Liam McSweeney

In 1972, Father Anthony Traynor was appointed to his first pastorate, Holy Family Parish in Portola, CA, and Father Liam McSweeney came to St. Mel's to take his place. In 1974, Father Horgan retired from the active priestly ministry while continuing to live in the church rectory, and Msgr. Cornelius P. Higgins, who had first paved Father Bill's path to the priesthood, became St Mel's new pastor while continuing to work in the bishop's office.



Msgr Cornelius P Higgins

### CONSIDERING A HOSPITAL MINISTRY

In 1973, the University of California at Davis took over the operation of the Sacramento County Hospital, where Fr. Ignatius Haran had ably and faithfully served as the Catholic chaplain for many years, and transformed it into its teaching hospital, the University of California Davis Medical Center, Sacramento. Sometime later, Father Haran left that institution and continued his chaplaincy ministry at the CA Medical Facility in Vacaville, California. His departure left the Medical Center without a Catholic chaplain.

When the notice of this chaplaincy vacancy first appeared in the *Catholic Herald*, the weekly newspaper for the Sacramento Diocese, Father Bill took little or no notice of it. About two weeks later, though, while sitting in the celebrant's chair in the church sanctuary after offering an early morning mass, that opening for a new Catholic chaplain suddenly struck his fancy. It was like the feeling that he felt during the high school lunch period when the idea of the priesthood first entered his mind.

That evening, the first thing that he did after returning to the parish was to call Father Patrick Corkell, the Pastor of All Hallows Church, who was also the Chairman of the Diocesan Personnel Board, that advised the bishop in making clergy appointments, to find out if anyone had applied for the position. When he said that no one had, Father Bill said that maybe he would, and he did. Fortunately for him, he feels, Monsignor Higgins also served on the Personnel Board, and when some concern was raised about his qualifications for the position, he, possibly, was able to put in a good word for him.

After the next Personnel Board meeting, he asked the pastor how things had gone at it, and he said that not only did he receive the position but that in view of his past work there (Bill presumes that he was referring to his years at Immaculate Conception Parish) plus his own efforts (he thinks that he was referring to his efforts at continuing education), it was felt that he would be the right one for the work. Fr. Bill feels that having had no competition for the position had also opened the door for him.

***"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; Knock and it will be opened to you."***

Matthew 7:7

the eight or so seminarian counselors for breakfast and occasionally comment crustily on pastors who abandoned their poorer sheep while catering to wealthier ones. Bill thinks that he would have perfectly agreed with Pope Francis' statement that pastors should have the smell of the sheep on their hands, and he hopes that one day The Church will declare Father Charles Philipps to be a Servant of God.

#### THOUGHTS ABOUT HIS SEMINARY TRAINING

On the whole, Bill found his nine year journey to the priesthood after high school to be spiritually fulfilling. It was obviously aimed, he thinks, at fostering in him and in his schoolmates growth in the divinely given baptismal gifts of faith, hope, and charity and in the practice of frequent prayer. With daily Mass and Holy Communion, with prayers before classes and before and after meals, a spiritual conference by the seminary president every evening before dinner, the daily prescribed rosary said privately, and night prayers in common with the with the whole student body, how could it not be so?



At the same time, he found that his personal situation was often psychologically stressful because he was never really sure if God were calling him to exercise his baptismal gifts in the



With Russell Terra 1960

priesthood or in another worthy life calling. This made his seminary spiritual journey also an uphill psychological climb often with little or no light at the end of the tunnel, but with just enough inner peace to make him feel that he might be on the right track.

At the same time, he knew deep down that all of his uncertainty was to be expected because, as the author of *Hebrews 10: 38* divinely teaches us, "my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." In fact, all of this, he now feels, was a good preparation for his future

priesthood that often offered its own brand of walking through the storm while keeping your head up high, as the song goes. At Saint Patrick's he just continued to hope and pray that, God willing, he might one day be numbered among the chosen few.

*"Oh, how great thanks am I bound to return to you for having shown me and all the faithful the right and good way to your everlasting kingdom! For your life is our life; we walk on to you, who are our crown. If you had not gone before and taught us, who would care to follow?"*

*The Imitation of Christ 3:18*



*"You have not chosen me; I have chosen you to go and bear fruit that will last." John 15:16*



**Saint Patrick Seminary Ordination Class of 1961**  
 Bill is first student on the left in the third row

Class of 1961	
<b>ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY</b> Menlo Park, California	
Archdiocese of San Francisco	
Michael F. Berrogan	William J. McGuinness
William E. Cane	+ James L. O'Shaughnessy
Donald A. Casella	Manuel J. Quadro-Avila
Manuel J. Costa	John K. Ring
+ John D. Cox	Edmund N. Shipp
+ John J. Cox	Manuel C. Simes
+ William P. Doyle	Joseph H. Skillin
+ Robert E. Dreher	+ Gary B. Tollner
George C. Heag	Robert K. White
+ Philip E. McCrillis	+ Richard J. Wingell
Diocese of Sacramento	
William J. Dinelli	
Diocese of Salt Lake City	
Glen M. Shrope	
Vicariate of Guam	
Brigido U. Arroyo	Tomas A. Camecho

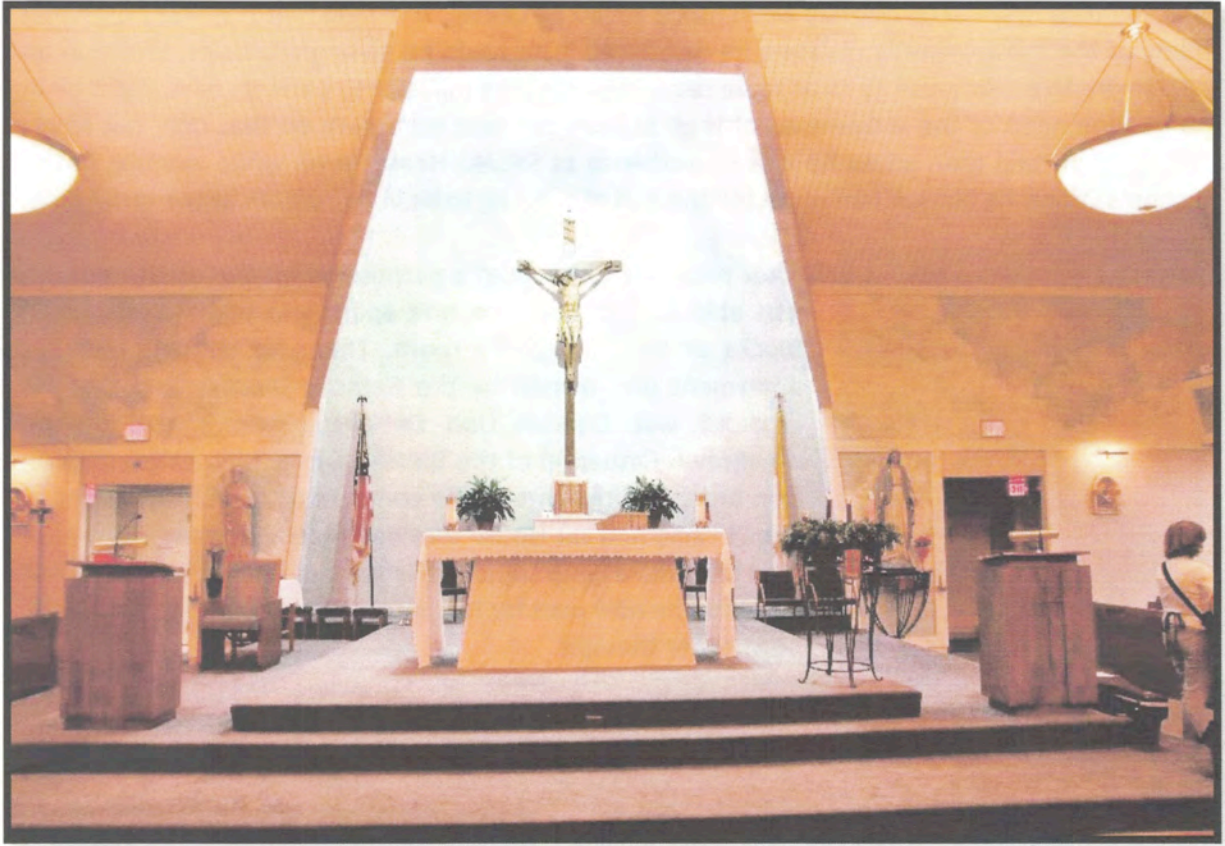


Photo by John E Boll

**Sanctuary of Saint Mel Church, Fair Oaks**

**Adoration Chapel**



*"Come Let Us Adore Him"*

*"Let us hear what the Lord will speak, since he will speak peace to his people, to his saints, to those who turn to him in their hearts." Psalm 85:8*

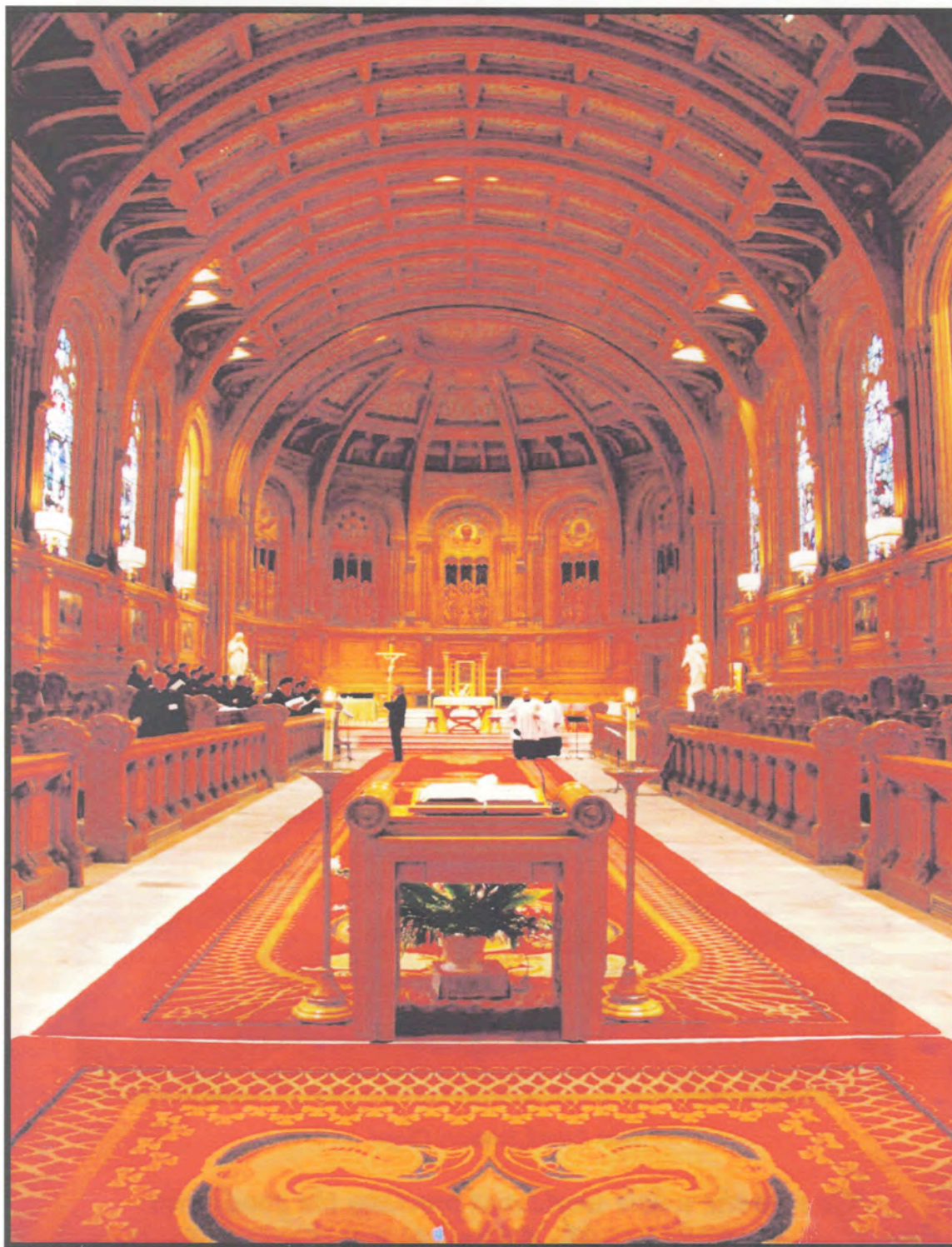


Photo by John E Boll

*Saint Patrick Seminary Chapel*



*Saint Patrick Seminary Chapel*

*"Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to all creation. The one who believes in it and accepts baptism will be saved; the one who refuses to believe in it will be condemned."*

*St Mark 16:16*

## PART II

### ORDINATION AND FIRST ASSIGNMENTS OF FATHER WILLIAM DINELLI

#### ORDAINED A PRIEST FOR THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

On June 3, 1961, in the presence of his parents, relatives, friends, former classmates and parishioners, Bill, who from now on would be, Father Bill, was ordained to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ by the Most Rev. Joseph T. McGucken, Bishop of Sacramento. Assisting the bishop in the sanctuary were, among others, his pastor, Msgr. Gerald J. O'Driscoll and Msgr. Cornelius P. Higgins, whom, he believes, had more than anyone else made this day possible for him. During this ceremony, the bishop also ordained his cousin, Russell G. Terra, to the transitional diaconate, which would precede his own priestly ordination the following year.

From now on, Father Bill would be assisting the pastors of the churches to which he would be assigned in the spiritual care of the parishioners who had been entrusted to their care. Someday his bishop might ask him to be a pastor in his own right. Somewhere along The Way he could also be assigned to a special ministry for parishioners who happened to be in special situations, which happen in his case when his future bishop, Alden J Bell, appointed him to a hospital chaplaincy.

*"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." Isaiah 56:7*



Photo by John E Boll

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Sacramento, CA

*"I will go to the altar of God, the God of my gladness and joy." Psalm 43:4*



Photo by John E Boll

**Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Sacramento, CA**

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1961

## June 3 Ordination For Father Dinelli

### Cathedral Ceremony Includes Conferral Of Subdiaconate

Reverend William Joseph Dinelli, a native of Sacramento, will be raised to the dignity of the priesthood at ordination ceremonies to be held in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on Saturday morning, June 3, at 9 o'clock.

Bishop Joseph T. McGucken will officiate at the ordination rites, which will also include the conferral of the subdiaconate upon Russell Terra, another Sacramentan and cousin of Father Dinelli.

Seven students studying in Ireland will be ordained there during the month of June for the Sacramento diocese, bringing to eight the number of priests to be added to the ranks of the local clergy during 1961.

#### Faithful Invited

The faithful are cordially invited to witness the impressive ceremony of ordination which will be attended by a large number of the priests of the diocese who will be present in the Cathedral sanctuary to observe the imposition of hands by the Bishop and the descent of the Holy Ghost upon Father Dinelli, making him a priest forever.

Father Dinelli, son of Mr. and Mrs. William O. Dinelli of Sacramento's Sacred Heart parish, received his elementary education at Fremont public school and Sacred Heart parish school. He graduated from Christian Brothers High School in 1952, and entered St. Joseph's College, preparatory seminary for the Archdiocese of San Francisco. In 1955, he entered St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park.

Father Dinelli will celebrate his First Solemn Mass in Sacred Heart Church, Sacramento, on Sunday, June 4, at 11 AM.

#### Mass Ministers

The newly ordained priest will be assisted in his First Mass by Msgr. Gerald O'Driscoll, Sacred Heart pastor, as archpriest; Father Michael Cormack as deacon and the Rev. Mr. Russell Terra as subdeacon.

The sermon will be delivered by Msgr. Cornelius P. Higgins, Chancellor of the diocese and pastor of the parish of the Presentation.

Russell Terra, son of Mr. and



FATHER DINELLI  
June 3 Ordinand

Mrs. George S. Terra of St. Mary's parish, Sacramento, who will receive the order of the subdiaconate at the June 3 Cathedral ordination ceremony, is studying for the priesthood at St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park. He will be ordained a priest for the Sacramento Diocese next year.

#### Important Step

The subdiaconate is the decisive step in the life of a cleric. At the time this office is conferred, the subdeacon assumes the obligation of observing perfect chastity in the unmarried state and of reciting the Divine Office, both for life.

The following young men will be ordained to the priesthood in Ireland during the month of June: Michael Dillon, William Storan, John Carroll, St. Patrick's Seminary, Thurles; Stephen Canney, Michael Fadden, John R. O'Leary, All Hallows College, Dublin; and Denis Keany, St. John's College, Waterford.

They will study in Sacramento in September for assignment in the local diocese.

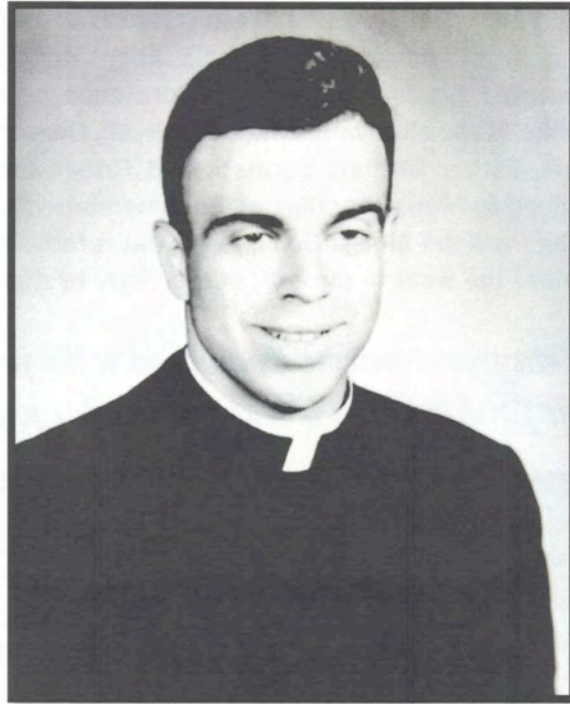
*"Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins." Hebrews 5: 1*



**Ordination to the Priesthood by Bishop Joseph T McGucken on June 3, 1961  
Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Sacramento**

I-R, Msgr Cornelius P Higgins, Bishop Joseph T McGucken, Msgr Gerald J O'Driscoll, Fr Leo McAllister, Fr William J Dinelli, Ordinand, and Deacon Russell G Terra





*As My Father has sent Me, so also  
I send you. Go preach the gospel to  
the whole world.*

*St. John*

*A Remembrance  
of my Ordination  
to the Holy Priesthood  
June 3, 1961  
and First Solemn Mass  
June 4, 1961  
William J. Dinelli*

**Ordination Card**

**FATHER BILL CELEBRATES HIS FIRST MASS AT SACRED HEART CHURCH, SACRAMENTO, CA**

On the Sunday following his ordination, June 3, 1961, at the noon Mass in his home parish of Sacred Heart, he celebrated his first Mass in the presence his family, friends and fellow parishioners. Assisting him at the altar were Msgr. O'Driscoll, Deacon Russell Terra, and the two parish associate pastors, Father Michael Cormack and Father Louis Donnelly. Although the sermon or homily was given by Monsignor Higgins, he remembered just one line from it. Towards the end, he said, quoting from the Bible, "God chose what is foolish in the eyes of the world to shame the wise, God chose the weak in the eyes of the world to shame the strong (1 Cor. 1:28)."

*"May your priests be clothed with justice,  
Let your faithful ones shout merrily for joy." Psalm 132:9*



Photo by Johanson Studio, Sacramento, CA

**Father William Dinelli celebrates his First Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Sacramento, on June 4, 1961**  
Assisting him at the altar are Monsignor Gerald J O'Driscoll, Father Michael Cormack and Deacon Russell G Terra



Johanson Studio, Sacramento, CA

First priestly blessing at Sacred Heart Church, Sacramento, June 4, 1961

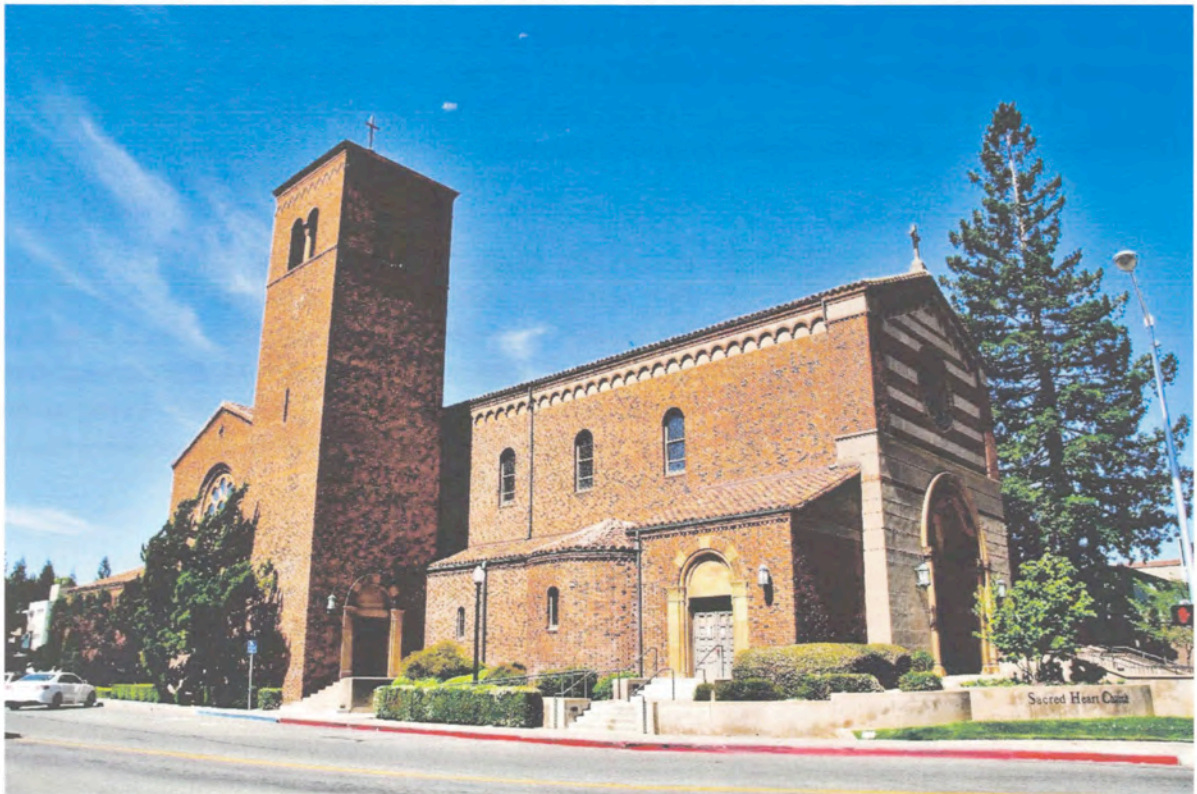


Photo by John E Boll

Sacred Heart Church, Sacramento



Sirlin Studio, Sacramento

### Diocese of Sacramento Ordination Class of 1961

Standing, L-R, Fr Steve Canny, Mr Vince Stanich, Serra Club, Bishop McGucken, Fr Michael McFadden, Fr Denis Keeney, Fr Michael Dillon  
Sitting: Fr Sean O'Leary, Fr John Carroll, Fr William Storan and Fr William Dinelli

During the following week, accompanied by his mother, he offered morning mass for three groups of religious sisters: for the Sisters of Mercy in Sacred Heart Parish, for the Discalced Carmelite Nuns, and for the Sisters of Social Service. He then returned to St. Patrick's Seminary so as to help with the transportation of his classmates to St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco where they would be ordained on the following Saturday.

### FIRST WEDDING CELEBATION



Within two weeks of his ordination, he officiated at his first marriage, that of Robert H. Meyer, another one of his former classmates from David Lubin School, who had become a lifelong friend, and Isabel M. Goncalves at her home parish of St. Joseph in Lincoln, CA. Later, after their two children, Suzanne and Christopher, were born, he baptized them.

Incidentally, Bob, after finishing up at David Lubin, Sacred Heart, and Christian Brothers High School, received his Doctorate in Literature from the University of California, Davis. He eventually became the Dean of Humanities at Sierra College in Rocklin, California until his retirement. By that time, Suzanne and Christopher had become university professors themselves, she in

literature like her father, and he in biological science. Sadly, their father died in 2016 of complications following a surgery.

Having intellectually gifted classmates and friends like Victor Bertolani and Bob Meyer, along with the examples of his mother and godmother, who had been public school teachers, eventually motivated him, he feels, to take advantage of any opportunities for continuing education that came his way. To have done any less, he feels, would have indicated a lack of regard for those who would later look to him for help, comfort, and counsel.



Eva and Isabel Graduate from Chico State College 1930

## FIRST ASSIGNMENT - SACRAMENTO 1961-1966

### Clerical Appointments

The Reverend William J. Dinelli, recently ordained, has been appointed Assistant Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Del Paso Heights.

#### *Catholic Herald Announcement*

Ten days after his ordination, he reported to his first pastor, Father John Terwilliger, the founding pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in the Del Paso Heights area of North Sacramento, where he would serve for the next five years.



Photo by John E Boll

### Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Sacramento

Everything was new and exciting as it always is for the newly ordained, such as offering the daily Mass, bringing Holy Communion on the First Fridays of the month to the elderly and infirm in their home, training the new altar boys how to serve mass. One of the older servers, Norman Pacheco, after graduating from Christian Brothers High School, went on to become a priest himself, a Maryknoll missionary. Another link to Norman's family was officiating at the marriage of his older brother, Gilbert, and his bride, Bonnie.



Father John Terwilliger

### OUT AND ABOUT IN THE PARISH



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Meeting

Although looking after the youth group himself, Father Terwilliger asked Father Bill to work with the parish's catechism classes. These were held on Saturday mornings in the parish hall with the help of dedicated catechist parishioners and two Sisters of Loretto, whom he would transport to and from their convent at St. Philomene Church. Classes were also held at the same time in the second half of the parish in Rio Linda, a few miles to the north. These classes were held in parishioners' homes. During the summers, both parts of the parish worked together to have a

two week summer school in religious education with a big emphasis on arts and crafts. He feels that the teachers had as much fun during these summer sessions as their students did.

One activity that he tried to do in Lourdes and in his next two parish assignments was taking the parish census for four days each week, walking from house to house, ringing doorbells, and asking if there were any Catholic people living there. From time to time on these walks he would meet people who had not been married validly in the eyes of their church. With a little encouragement, though, a number of them were willing to go through the relatively simple process of having their marriages rectified. Once reconciled, they would often then become involved with one of their parish's ministries themselves.



With Mr James Watson



Tinkling the Ivories



With Mr Clarence Robinson, 1963



Santa Cruz 1963

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ORDINATION WITH PARENTS & PARISHIONERS





## HANDS CREATE AT SUMMER SCHOOL

*"Our Lady of Lourdes Summer School of Religion, which concluded its two week program last Friday, is typical of vacation schools which have been conducted throughout the diocese in recent weeks.*

*"This year, six lay teachers and six lay helpers, members of the CCD, put special emphasis on crafts, a follow-up of the recent crafts workshop conducted in May by Sister Marie Vandenberg, RC.*

*"Two heighten the interest and creative powers of the students, Sister Vandenberg was invited to judge the finish products and award ribbons to each class. According to Father William Dinelli, school coordinator, the crafts' portion of the school was "in a small way the answer to the new liturgy for lay participation. Through the creative processes, children apply what they have learned in the doctrine classes.*

*"Mrs Adeline McLaughlin, who directed the crafts, brings it closer to the message of the New Testament. She said, "Christ was a carpenter, who used his hands. Seems logical that children should learn to do the same things." From the Catholic Herald, July 1, 1965*



### Mothers Pay A Call

Parents of students were invited to the final day of summer school last Friday so they might view some of the handcrafts of the children. Father William Dinelli, who directed

ish, is pictured with Mrs. John Barcena, principal and chairman of teachers. They are greeting two mothers, Mrs. Roy Leibhan, and Mrs. Edward Wanner, right.



### Top Prize Winners In Crafts

To add zest to Summer School classes at Lourdes parish, special time was devoted to crafts so that students might interpret what they had learned into handmade articles. Mrs. Adeline McLaughlin, chairman of CCD Helpers who was in charge of crafts,

looks over some of the winning entries. To her left, at the back, is Arthur Gonzales, 5th grader, and to her right, Robert Alexander, 6th grader. Seated in front are Hans Friedrich, 3rd grader, and Pamela Wanner, 1th grader. Sirlin Photo



### Vacation Classes Add To Children's Knowledge Of Faith

Miss Irene Montano, 5th grade teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes Summer School of Religion, emphasizes

the moral lessons to be found in the Old Testament. Sirlin Photo



Sirlin Studio Photo

*"Darlene Valdez, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes Summer School of Religion, lines up her young charges following a doctrine session in which they learned about God and why he made them." Catholic Herald*



**Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Sacramento**

## SECOND ASSIGNMENT, IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, SACRAMENTO, 1966-1969



Photo by John E Boll

Fr. Bill's new pastor, Fr. Michael Fitzgerald, was a kindly priest who was respected and loved by his parishioners of all ages. The church rectory was a large two story building that had been built soon after the parish had been established in 1915. Besides the pastor and his other assistant, Fr. Joseph King, two other priests, who served in special ministries, also lived there: Fr. James Church, who taught at Bishop Manogue High School, and Fr. Ignatius Haran, who was the Catholic chaplain of the Sacramento County Hospital. After having lived with just one priest for five years, Fr. Bill especially enjoyed his new living arrangements, especially their evening dinners together, their tasty meals having been prepared by the parish housekeeper and Fr. Fitzgerald's sister, Miss Lena Fitzgerald.



Father Michael Fitzgerald

The pastor asked Bill to look after the altar boys and the catechism classes for the public school children, while Fr. King took care of the teenagers. He also sat in on the weekly meetings of the Legion of Mary, a dedicated group of parishioners who regularly visited the sick and home bound of the parish. What made his association with this group special was that its president, Miss Eva Miller, was also his aunt and godmother, Immaculate Conception being her parish. Whatever



Immaculate Conception Altar Boys Picnic 1966

might come his way at I.C., he felt, there would always be someone special in his corner rooting and praying for him.

Not long after his arrival, Fr. Eugene Lucas, who served the Hispanic church members at Our lady of Guadalupe Parish in Sacramento, asked him if he would like to attend a Cursillo weekend at St. Mary's Parish in Stockton, CA. After explaining what it was about, Fr. Bill agreed to attend it and also to bring the pastor of his home parish, Msgr. O'Driscoll, who also wanted to come.

It turned out to be a memorable experience for him and, he thought, for the thirty or so laymen who also attended it. The different talks that were usually given by laymen like themselves, seemed to motivate them to want to become more involved in the spiritual and temporal works of mercy in their own parishes. Later, when asked to, he himself served on two Cursillos that were conducted in Sacramento for English speaking parishioners and gave the talk on *Sanctifying Grace* that was always given by one of the attending priests. About forty years later, when he himself was a pastor, he found that an offshoot of the Cursillo movement called *Search* was equally helpful in helping Catholic youth to become more involved with their faith and to be more imbued with its missionary spirit.



Monsignor Gerald J O'Driscoll



Immaculate Conception Sanctuary, Sacramento

## CATECHETICAL MINISTRY



One of the Immaculate Conception Parish Catechism Classes

## BAPTISMAL MINISTRY



Besides the catechism classes that were held during the regular school year and were taught by a group of dedicated parishioners and some of the Sisters of the Holy Name, who taught in the parochial school, he especially remembers the summer of 1967 when, with the

Sister Henry and the Sekul family



pastor's consent, I.C. parishioners joined their Protestant Sunday school confreres in three other Oak Park churches in sponsoring an ecumenical church vacation school for the children. During so convinced him that whenever possible Christians should work together ecumenically on one

another's behalf, especially when it came to helping one another's children. Another ecumenical venture was a Saturday school of religious education for children with learning disabilities. These classes were also held I.C. with the help of various church members, who wanted to give special needs children, too, a chance to know, love, and serve The Lord.

### **HOSPITAL MINISTRY**

A new priestly ministry that came his way when he first came to Immaculate Conception Parish was on-call hospital duty at the Sacramento County Hospital that was located close by. He and Father King would take the emergency calls on Father Haran's day off and also during the nights, Father Joe being on call for one week and Father Bill the next. Father King, thankfully, took the night duty his first week there. His own first call eventually came within two weeks of his arrival on Fr. Haran's day off, and it could not have been worse.



**Fr Ignatius Haran**

Arriving at the hospital emergency room, he found that one of Father Terwilliger's and his former parishioners, who had helped him to train the altar boys, had hung himself at his home leaving a wife and school age children. Sadly, in the small room where they had put his gurney, after noting the rope burn around his neck, he offered the Church's prayers for the departed soul, since he had been dead for too long to receive the Sacrament or Anointing of the Sick even conditionally, which would have been the case, as they had been taught, had he died within the last two hours.

Although he had always been squeamish at the sight of blood, having fainted twice as a boy at the sight of it, he tried to serve the critically sick and the dying persons that he encountered on those hospital emergency calls during the next three and a half years of his assignment with faith and courage. He and other priests who served in hospital ministries knew that they had been well armed with spiritual gifts and graces stemming from their priestly ordinations as well as with the prayerful support of their Church's living and deceased faithful members everywhere. Their duty was simply to act in the person of Christ the Lord on behalf of one of his suffering and possibly dying members, bestowing upon them His blessings that would fortify them for what might be their final spiritual journey home. Their loving and merciful Lord, they knew, would take care of whatever else needed to be done in person.

Another responsibility also stemming from Father Haran's duties when he was away was serving at the Discalced Carmelite Monastery. Since the Sacramento County Hospital and the monastery were within walking distance of each other, the hospital chaplain automatically also became the nuns' chaplain.

When he was a boy, his mother and aunt with him tagging along had often visited them to bring groceries. As his mother had told him, the only thing that they could buy for themselves at that time was coffee, and all the other groceries had to be supplied by members of the laity, a situation that had given rise to the Carmelite Auxiliary in the mid-thirties.

After placing the bags on the turn, that was a revolving container that could then be then turned their way, they would step into the reception room for a brief chat with Mother Seraphim, the

superior or prioress. When Bill's turn came to say, hello, she would pull back the curtain a little so that they could see each other, which she would not do with adults, to say hello and ask him how he was.



**CARMELITE AUXILIARY**—The Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Auxiliary will mark its 25th anniversary at the annual luncheon Saturday in the Dante Clubhouse. Special guests will be the women who organized the group, including left to right, Gladys Latham, Mrs. William Dinelli, Mrs. Francis L. Rooney and Eva Miller. Mrs. Rooney was the charter president and Miss Miller was the charter secretary-treasurer. Organizing members not pictured, who also will be honored at the luncheon, are Mary Doyle, Hazel Hanford and Mrs. Margaret Brady, Marian Powers and Eva Francis.

Sacramento Bee Photo 01-30, 66

### Founding Members of the Sacramento Carmelite Auxiliary

Now, twenty or more years later, when it was his turn to offer the daily mass for the sisters, the curtain behind the grill in the monastery chapel would be fully drawn back so that their whole community, include Mother Seraphim, who was still living, could see the altar on which their daily mass was being offered and also through a small opening in the grill receive Holy Communion. He saw his priestly ministry to them over the next three and a half years as a way of thanking them for what he felt they had made possible for him, namely, his own priestly vocation, the seed of which, he thinks, may have been planted in him by their prayers for a young boy who had briefly sat on the other side of another open curtain when visiting Mother Seraphim.

*"Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:38*



In fact, it seemed to him that there was a Carmelite connection to a number of priestly vocations from Sacred Heart Parish. Fr. Leroy Peters, for example, as a youth maintained their extensive lawn. Fr. Sidney Hall's father looked after their vegetable garden. Mrs Sylvia Terra, his aunt and Monsignor Terra's mother, and also Mrs Folmer, Father John Folmer's mother, he believes, were close to the nuns, Fr. Bill's own mother being one of the founding members of the Carmelite Auxiliary. For this reason, he would advise any parent who would like to have a priest in the family to call the closest Carmelite monastery of nuns and ask them to pray for that intention.

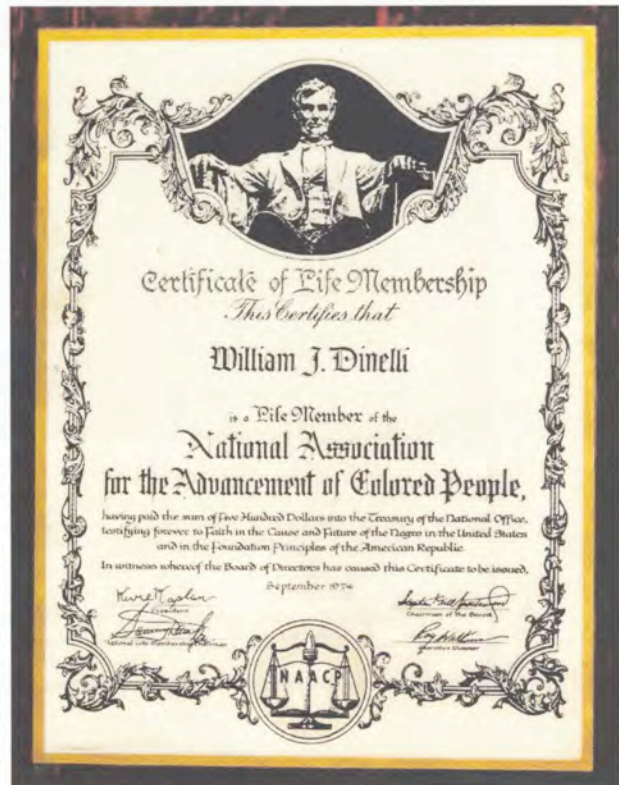
#### FATHER McALLISTER SUCCEEDS FATHER FITZGERALD AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH



In 1968, Father Fitzgerald died in his sleep while on vacation, and Bishop Bell assigned Father Haran to be the interim pastor. Later, Father Leo McAllister, who had been serving in the diocesan youth ministry, was assigned to Immaculate Conception Parish as his first pastorate. Around this time, Fr. Gordon Johnson, who had been serving in Vallejo, CA and now having been assigned to teach at Bishop Manogue High School, also came to live at I.C. One of Fr. McAllister's first changes in parish procedures was with the night coverage for emergency hospital calls: instead of just two priests handling them as before, now everyone including himself took a weekly turn, a change that Father Bill appreciated.

#### OAK PARK OUTREACH

Since the Oak Park District had a large number of African American people, although relatively few of them belonged to the Catholic faith, and since the civil rights movement was alive and strong, Father Bill tried to understand better the social situation that seemed to be seriously hurting them. To do so he read whatever he could about their hardships, books such as, *Black like Me* by John Howard Griffin and *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. For a greater understanding, he also started to take courses in sociology at California State University, Sacramento, or, as is usually know, Sacramento State, and continued doing so for the next five years. Some of the three unit courses that were offered once a week could be worked into his days off. For the two-days-a-week courses, again using his day off for one of them, the pastor had given his O.K. for him to be way from the parish for a couple of hours a week for the other one. During this period, he also started to attend the monthly meetings of the Oak Park Neighborhood Council, whose goal was to improve the lives of the Oak Park citizenry.



This led to his joining three other members of that group in forming what they hoped would be a new civil rights group, *The Oak Park Federation of Organizations*. It would try to get the various civic and church groups to work together so as to achieve needed community improvements. They would achieve such goals, unlike some organizations such as, *The Black Panthers*, by non-violently applying political pressure on the powers that be who would then, in theory, be pressured to *Let My People Go!* Unfortunately, they never really got off the ground, but just working with some fine people whom he would not otherwise have met, he feels, made his efforts worthwhile. It also gave him some ideas about rocking the boat and boiling the pot himself when he found it necessary to do so down the line.



FLEDGLING ORGANIZATION — These are the officers of the newly formed Oak Park Federation of Organizations which was created to unite the Oak Park Community by active participation of all the organizations in the community. From left are: Mrs. Alice Lancaster, secretary, and also a member of the Oak Park Neighborhood Council; Edward H. Talley, treasurer, and vice president of the Pyramid Clubs, Inc.; the Rev. William Dinelli, vice president, and assistant pastor of the Immaculate Conception Church, and Herman Keys, president, who also is president of the Pyramid Clubs.

Bee Photo

Sacramento Bee Photo, 02-12-68

### Oak Park Federation of Organizations

*"May the mountains bring forth peace for the people and the hills justice. May he defend the poor of the people and save the children of the needy and crush the oppressors."*

Psalm 72: 3-4

**Father Bill and Father Gordon Johnson on a Fishing Trip at the Ellis Louie Ranch, Siskiyou County, CA**



In 1969, after having taught for a year at Bishop Manogue High School, Father Johnson asked Bishop Bell to be relieved of his teaching duties so that he might serve as one of Immaculate Conception's assistants. This, Bill thinks, would then have given him the chance to serve minority people more directly, which seems to have been one of his dreams, which meant, as Father Bill saw it, that his own term there was over. Although Immaculate Conception Parish had been for him a coat of many bright and a few dark colors, The Lord, as he saw it, was now calling him to serve elsewhere. Besides, he and Father Gordie, he knew, could still take their vacation fishing trips together every summer.



*"He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day for my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink." John 6:54-55*



Immaculate Conception School Photo

**First Communion Class, Immaculate Conception Church, 1967**

**With Father Bill, Sister Kathleen and Father Ignatius Haran**

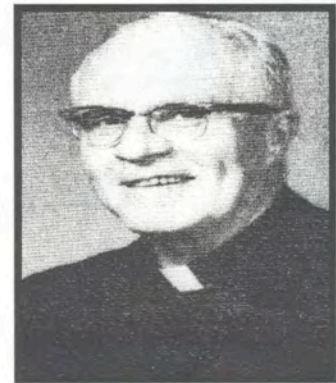
**ASSOCIATE PASTOR, SAINT MEL PARISH, FAIR OAKS, CA 1969 - 1975**



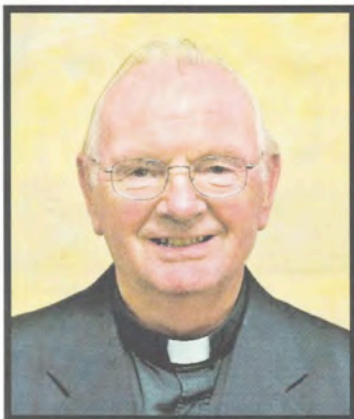
Photo by John E Boll

**Saint Mel Church, Fair Oaks**

Saint Mel Parish, that had been named after an Irish saint, was quite different from Immaculate Conception Parish in that most of its parishioners seemed to be financially well off. The church's Sunday collections, for example, were among the highest in the diocese. It also had a fine parochial school that was ably staffed by five religious sisters who belonged to an Irish branch of the Sisters of Mercy, along with a few lay teachers. Father William Horgan was the pastor, and Fathers Anthony Traynor and Bill would be his new assistants.



**Father William Horgan**



**Father Anthony Traynor**

Since the number of public school students in the parish religious education program was large, Father Tony took charge of those who came on Monday after school, and Fr. Bill, those who came on Tuesdays. Each group also had its own set of teachers. Father Tony also looked after the youth group ably assisted by Mrs Hinline, a parishioner. Moreover, after Fr. Horgan had decided that this was the time to start building their long awaited new church, Father Tony was also charged with getting the parish organized for it.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

At this time, Father Bill also renewed his association with the Legion of Mary when he was asked to be a co-moderator, along with Sister Enda, R.S.M. and later Sister Patricia, R.S.M., of the parochial school's *Junior Legion of Mary*. Every Friday afternoon after school was over they would all gather together around a table to pray the rosary, after which he enjoyed listening to and being moved by what were possibly some of their first efforts in exercising their missionary mandate stemming from their baptisms to restore all things in Christ.

*"Dear young people, let yourselves be taken over by the light of Christ, and spread that light wherever you are."* Pope John Paul II, *Downview Address 5, World Youth Day 2002*

Page Four CATHOLIC HERALD Thursday, February 13, 1975

### Students essential to Legion

The Junior Curia of the Legion of Mary is composed of members 18 years of age and under. There are also Junior Praesidia (parish units) within the Curiae of Yuba City-Marysville, Solano County and the North Area. Wherever their location, the Juniors are an active and essential branch of the Legion in the Sacramento Diocese.

President of the Junior Curia is Joan Lovisa of Carmichael and spiritual director is Rev. Father Dinelli. According to Mrs. Lovisa, girls and boys in the Curia range from fifth grade students to high school students, and they perform a variety of apostolic works.

Those in convalescent and rest homes know that many hands have been busy at Saint Patrick's Day, Valentine's Day, Easter and Christmas when their residences have been decked in the timely decorations of the holiday.

The Juniors help their parish priests by straightening the churches after Masses, folding Sunday bulletins and putting out the monthly missalettes. They also babysit children for Sunday Masses and encourage Mass attendance especially during Lent. The missions are even blessed



**Junior League of Mary** Girls from Presentation, Sacramento cutting stamps to send to the Salvatorian Fathers in Wisconsin, to raise money for their mission.

ed with stamps clipped and saved by the Juniors as are the Handicappeds at whose functions and luncheons the Juniors often help to serve.

"We are edified by the excellent work the members of the Junior Curia and Praesidia faithfully perform week after week" says Mercedes Poole, Comitum President. "These works include the promoting of membership in Sodalties, the CYO, the Apostleship of Prayer and other spiritual devotions."



### Presentation Parish Branch of the Junior Legion of Mary 1975

Father Horgan proved to be, like Father Fitzgerald at Immaculate Conception Parish, a kindly and patient pastor very loved and respected by his parishioners and also known for his traditional views and ability to get things done. The first Fair Oaks church, for example, had been a very small building in the older part of town. The land that he had purchased for the new site, though, was

on a hilly street so that the parish plant ended up being built on three levels, which, along with all the Oak trees in the neighborhood, made everything very scenic.

On the lowest level the temporary church was built, which eventually became the parish hall. On the middle level was the parochial school, also on two levels, along with the sisters' convent, and at the top of the hill was the rectory, which was adjacent to the empty plot of land where the foundation of the new church was laid in 1973.

#### FATHER BILL AND MONSIGNOR MAURICE O'CONNOR MEET AGAIN



Monsignor Maurice O'Connor

Something unique about Father Bill's six years there was driving the pastor's priest friend, Msgr. Maurice O'Connor, to the rectory from his home in Sacred Heart Parish in Sacramento for dinner every two weeks and then back to his home later that evening. He had first met the then Fr. O'Connor when he first attended Christian Brothers High School. At that time, the priest was residing in the Brothers' residence at the former Christian Brothers High School at 21<sup>st</sup> and Broadway in Sacramento. When he was not working in the bishop's office downtown where, as a canon or church lawyer, he processed marriage cases, he taught Latin to the students.

His Latin classes were unique in that he usually taught only the top five students that showed the most promise for learning the language. These five then took their places in the first seat in each of the five rows in his classroom. Incidentally, Vic Bertolani and Bob Meyer, Bill's friends and classmates from David Lubin and Sacred Heart, belonged to this select group along with Mack White, Alex Woycheshin, and Bill Wexted. The rest of the forty or so students were taught by Brother Damien.

After a few months, sadly, Brother Damien became seriously sick due to a heart condition and eventually died. Father O'Connor then also took charge of his class. One day he complained to his new students that their ignorance of the Latin language had caused Brother Damien's death, which did not set well with some of them. One of his classmates, Bill Chambers, he remembers, saying to the others when class was over "He can't say that to us!"

The next day, though, the priest was back in his usual good frame of mind, and both he and his new students went on peaceably if not successfully in Father O'Connor's mind, to finish their first year of Latin. Later, Father Bill was especially grateful to him during the summer following his high school graduation for preparing him and another future seminarian and priest, George Wolf, also from Sacred Heart Parish, for his Latin placement exam when he first entered Saint Joseph's College. With Father O'Connor's help, at least he did not need to start Latin all over again. Strangely, though, on those drives back to his home from the Saint Mel's rectory during those six years, he never called Father Bill, Bill, but, Boy. As he would say in a friendly way when leaving his car, "Take it easy, Boy."

*"Who has learned thy counsel unless thou hast given wisdom and sent thy Holy Spirit from on high? And thus the paths of those on earth were set right, and we were taught what pleases thee."*

The Wisdom of Solomon 9:18

Needless to say, the parishioners went out of their way to try to make their new parishioners feel welcome and appreciated. As Father Bill heard Bishop Weigand say at the time, "Now our diocese is well anchored spiritually with the Trappists (who are the Cistercians of the Strict Observance) at the northern end of the diocese and the Cistercians (of the Common Observance) at the other." For his part, Father Bill remembered how the Trappists had grabbed his attention at the start of his spiritual journey to the priesthood, and now the other branch of that order had entered his life as its active phase was coming to an end.

#### RETIREMENT FROM ACTIVE MINISTRY

In July, 2006, knowing that a year from then he would have completed his six year term as pastor of St. Anthony's, Father Bill asked Bishop Weigand if, when the time came, he might retire from the active priestly ministry. Since he would then be seventy-two years old, he felt that both he and his parishioners would profit from the change. Besides, he might then sometimes be asked by other pastors who needed his help. To him, it seemed like a win-win situation for everyone involved.

#### FATHER TABIOS SUCCEEDS FATHER BILL

The Bishop agreed with his proposal and suggested that the date of his last Mass there should be at the end of August in 2007. He then appointed Father Walter Tabios Parochial Administrator of both Saint Anthony's and of St. Therese Parish in Isleton CA, another riverside parish nine miles to the south. Bishop Weigand also appointed Father Bill Pastor Emeritus of Saint Anthony Parish, a title that he feels especially honored to have received.

Father Walter Tabios



His active priesthood had been filled with many joys and a few sorrows, as is everyone's life. The prayers of the people whom he had served for forty-six and a half years had helped him and would continue to do so more than he would ever know. He hoped that his priestly ministry to them had also helped them to draw ever closer to him who is for all of us, whether we realize it or not, *our way, our truth, and our life.* (Jn. 14:6)



*My soul is sorrowful unto death; remain here and watch with me.  
And going a little further, he fell on the ground and prayed."  
Mark 14:34-35*

Sanctuary window in Saint Anthony Church, Walnut Grove

**RETIREMENT LUNCHEON AT SAINT THERESA PARISH, ISLETON, MAY 19, 2007**



L-R front, Bea Valine, Rogers Morgan  
L-R back, Esther Flores & Barbara Gregory

Photo by Edward Concepcion



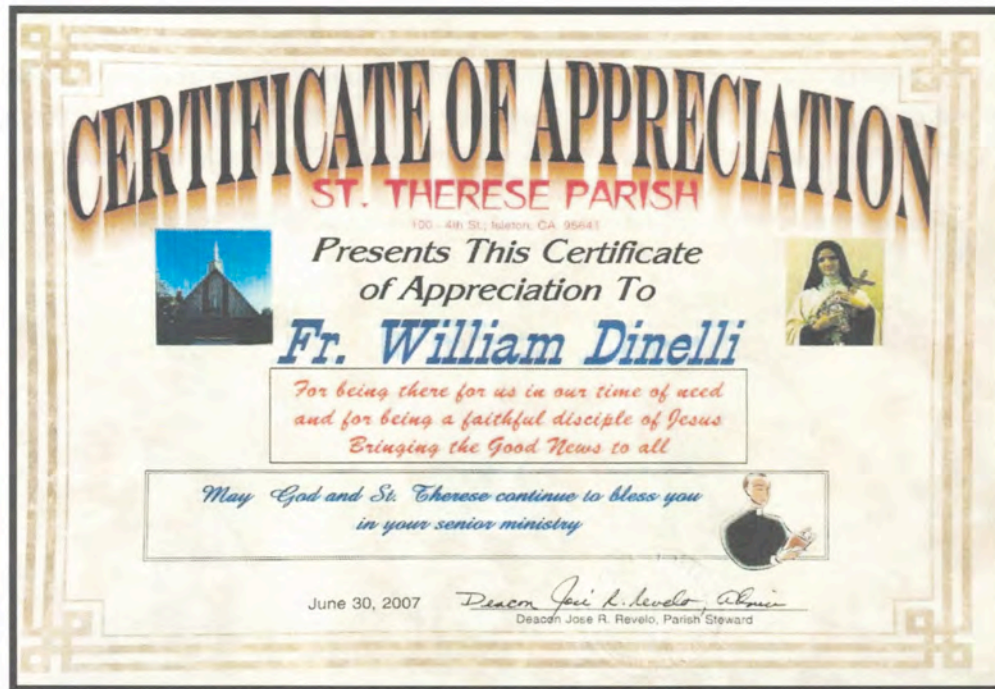
**Retirement Cake**



Photo by Edward Concepcion

**Deacon Jose Revelo, Father Bill, Mrs Betty McGinnis and Mr Urban Gaspari 2007**





Saint Therese Parish Certificate of Appreciation

MINISTRY TO SAINT ROSE PARISH AND ELSEWHERE



Saint Rose Church, Sacramento



Photo by Dr Louis DeSouza

With Father Guillermo (Memo) Hernandez

Since his retirement, Father Bill has been living in his family home located in Sacred Heart Parish, Sacramento and helps out regularly at Saint Rose Church in Sacramento on weekdays and on Sundays and also in other parishes when they call upon him.

When he offers Mass, he tries to make every word count for himself and for the parishioners who are there. He also tries to be in the confessional before every mass that he offers, both on weekdays and Sundays. St Rose Parish's two former pastors, Monsignors Kavanagh and Church, taught him by word and example the importance of doing so. He also tries to spend more time

preparing his Sunday homilies now that he has more time. He would also like to better take Fr Koller's advice twenty years ago of always coming back to Saints Teresa and John of the Cross, who were the co-founders of the Discalced Carmelite order. "Hopefully tomorrow, though," he says. "As Scarlet O'Hara said at the end of Gone with the Wind, 'Tomorrow is a brand new day.'"

Blessing the Holy Water at Saint Rose Church, Sacramento, 2016 with Mr Leslie Allen



*"You became mine, says the Lord God. Then I bathed you with water, washed away your blood." Ezekiel 16: 1-9*



Photo by Olga Escoto

**Weekday Morning Mass at Saint Rose Church in November 2016**  
Priests, L-R, Father Bill, Father Memo Hernandez and Father Alfredo Serrano



Photo by Gabriel McAuliffe

**Weekday Morning Mass with the Missionaries of Charities (If) and Adorers of the Holy Cross Sisters (RT)  
July 2016**



Photo by Gabriel McAuliffe

**Weekday Morning Mass, Saint Rose Church, July 2016**



Harris Studio

Sunday morning Mass, October 2016, with Sister Anita, SJS and parishioners



Photo by Lupe Portillo

L-R, Mr John Sanchez, Fr Bill, Fr Francis Lawlor, Dr Louis De Souza and Mrs Maureen Wright 2016



Photo by Rita Muñoz

**Sunday morning Mass 2016**

L-R, Mr Ralph Merlitti, Mr John Sanchez, Father Bill, Father Brent Nall, Mr Louis Maucieri



Photo by Victor Herrera

With Monsignor Edward Kavanagh 2012



Photo by Victor Herrera

James Meyer, Fr Pat Lee and Mrs Julia Meyer 2012

*"Always live and instill profound love of the Church, and loyal adherence to all its teachings. Convey certainties of faith, not uncertainties. Always communicate the truths that the Magisterium states, not ideologies that come and go. To build up the Church, love holiness. It will lead you, if necessary, to the supreme test of love for others, because greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."*

*Pope Saint John Paul II, Peru, 1985*



First time Mass servers, Coleman and Bennett Woolfolk and Julianne and James Meyer in 2016



With Victor Herrera & Dominic Hartkopf 2012



Photo by Dr Louis DeSouza

With Mr Eduardo Corral and Mr Fred Cousin 2016



Photo by Dr Louis DeSouza

Morning Mass with the Missionaries of Charity on left and Sisters Servants of the Blessed Sacrament 2016



Photo by Yolanda Orozco

Saint Robert Parish, Sacramento in July 2016



Photo by Saby Guzman

Saturday Vigil Mass at Saint Anne Church, Sacramento 2016



The Guzman Family at Saint Anne Church 2016



OUT AND ABOUT WITH CONFRERERS AND FRIENDS NEW AND OLD



Photo by Fr Michael Ritter  
With Bishop Jaime Soto 2016



With Msgr Edward Kavanagh 2016



With Monsignor James Church, Mrs Lily Pryor (center) and her family 2013



With Monsignor James Church and Mrs Lily Pryor 2012

FATHER GUILLERMO'S (MEMO) BIRTHDAY PARTY 2016



Photo by Donna Causin

Father Bill, Mr & Mrs Zinn and Fr Memo's Sister and Mother and Father Memo 2016



Photo by Fred Causin 2016

Father Memo's birthday party 2016



Photo by Theresa Correale

With Mrs Margaret Mullen 2016



With Joseph Giles 2015



The Herbert Kennedy Memorial Service 1995



Photo by Joseph Giles  
With Father Sidney P Hall, 2014



Fellow Seminarian Vincent E Medeiros 1953



Photo by Carol Britto  
Bishop Francis A Quinn Blesses the Discalced Carmelite Monastery, Georgetown, CA 1983

*“Every true prayer is a prayer of the Church; by means of that prayer the Church prays,  
since it is the Holy Spirit living in the Church, who in every single soul  
“intercedes in us with sighs too deep for words.”* Romans 8:26

Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, O.C.D.

THE CONVOCAION OF PRIESTS AT SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, OCTOBER 2015



Convocation Group Photo of the Priests with Bishops Jaime Soto and Myron Cotta



Bishop Jaime Soto Addresses his Priests



Photo by John E Boll

**Morning Mass at the Convocation with Bishops Jaime Soto and Myron Cotta 2015**



Photo by John E Boll

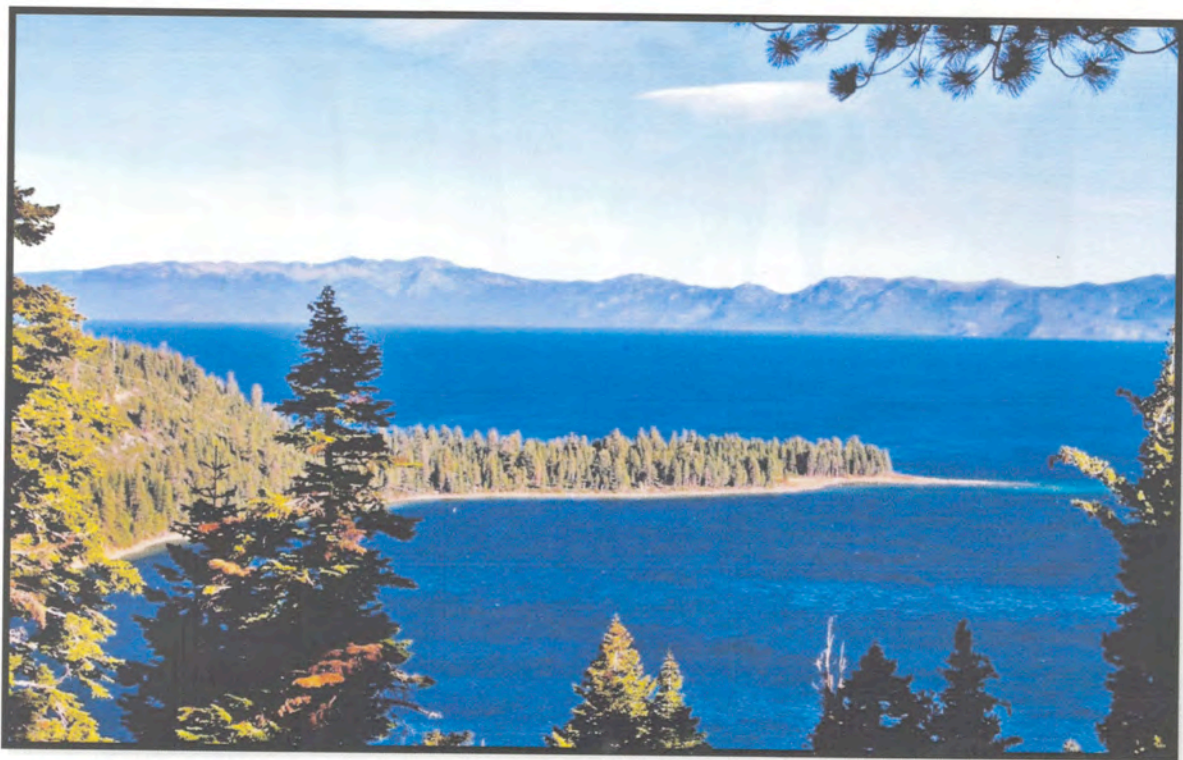
**Breakfast at the Convocation with Fathers Jacobo Cáseres and Rodolfo Delgado**



Photos by John E. Boll

Waiting for a Conference Session to Begin

## *Majestic Lake Tahoe*



*"And God said, 'Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together  
Into one place, and let the dry land appear. And it was so.'" Genesis 1:7*



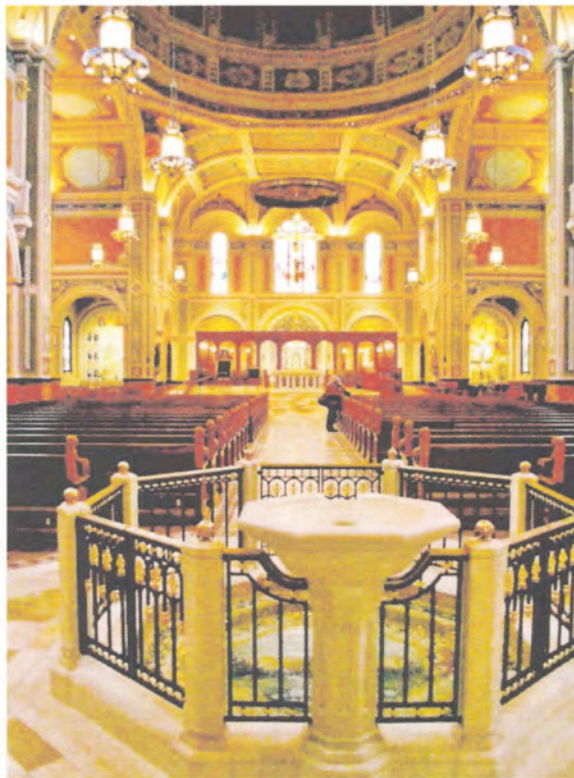
MEMBERS OF THE PRESBYTERATE OF THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO 2007



Photo by Cathy Joyce

*"No Man is an Island"*

John Donne, 1570 – 1631

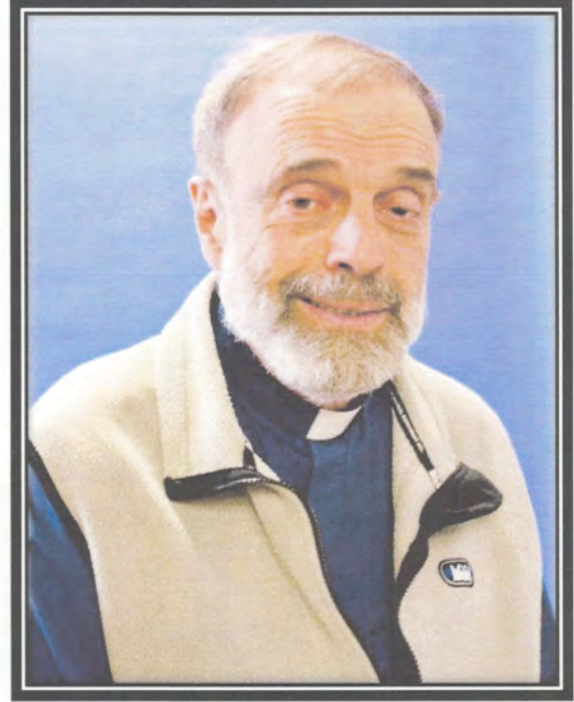


*The Baptismal Font:  
Blessed Sacrament on  
Tabernacles here and*

*Our Gateway to the  
our Altars and in our  
throughout the world.*



1970



2013

#### **ARCHIVIST'S COMMENT**

After fifty-five years of priestly ministry, Father Bill now has the time to savor the good things of the Lord. He generously served in hospital ministry for twenty-five years. Father Bill has always had a gentle and compassionate spirit in his dealings with people. He continues to give his time to serve the parishes of the diocese as he is called upon and he is always willing to give a hand to his brother priests.

Thank you Father Bill, for your generous spirit. May the Lord give you good health and a joyful spirit as you continue your life of service to God and His people. We wish you blessings on your continued journey.

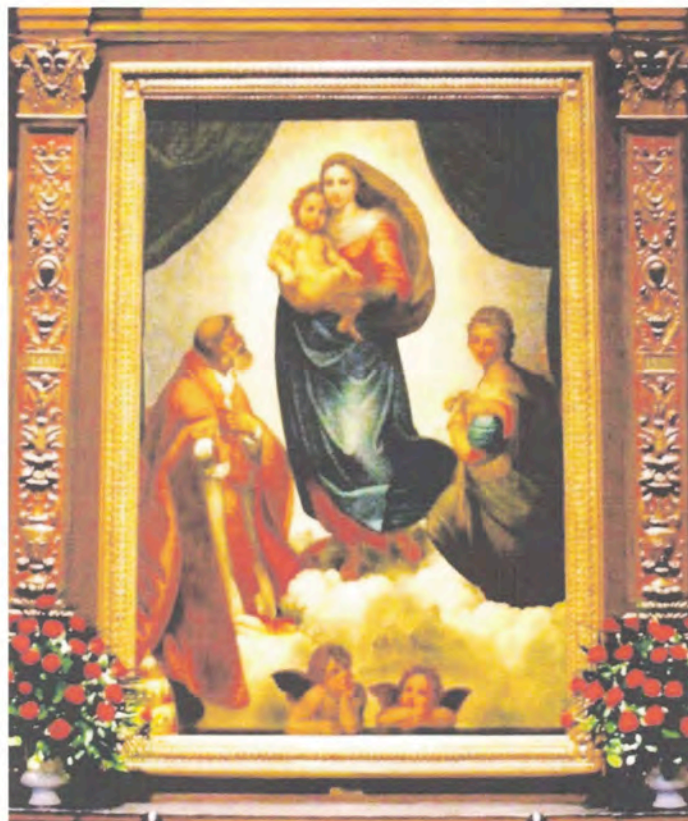
#### **FATHER BILL'S WORD OF THANKS TO FATHER JOHN BOLL, DIOCESAN ARCHIVIST 2016**



Father John, I would also like to thank you for giving me this chance to reflect on my life in a way that might help others on their spiritual journey, if not to the priesthood, then to another type Christian discipleship, such as to marriage in the Lord or to the single life in the Lord. Since we are all using the same Christ-given tools, such as the Mass and the Seven Sacraments, to help us on our own unique way, it is just a matter of motivating others to use them. As Pope Francis has told us, we became our Lord's evangelists or proclaimers of his Good News at our baptism.

You have given me and all our senior priests a unique way of getting at least some of his Good News out to those whose lives can only be linked to ours by means of this wonderful God given gift of the Internet. Sadly, we know how it has been hijacked to a great extent by those who use it to drag their neighbors down spiritually for their own purposes, such as, by Internet Pornography. As the Word of God directs us, though, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21 Your project on our behalf has empowered us, I think, to do so in a way will continue to influence people's lives for the better long after we are no longer personally here to do so.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Blessed Virgin Mary, the spiritual mother of all who are trying to walk in the footsteps of her Divine Son. As a true mother, she is always reminding us, lest we forget, "Do whatever he tells you." John 2:5



Raphael's *Sistine Madonna*, the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Sacramento

*Ora Pro Nobis*

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**  
**BEARING ON THE LIFE OF FATHER WILLIAM J DINELLI**

- 1 *Catholic Voice's* article, *Remembering Father Charles Philipps*, October 22, 2007
- 2 Bishop Francis A Quinn's Newsletter to the Priests, June 14, 1991
- 3 Letter from Father Maurice Lans, O.C.D.S., June 14, 1952
- 4 Letter from Monsignor Thomas A Kirby, Chancellor, August 19, 1952
- 5 Letter from Bishop Joseph T McGucken, December 1, 1960
- 6 Letter from Bishop Joseph T McGucken, April 14, 1961
- 7 Letter from Bishop Alden J Bell, September 2, 1975
- 8 Letter from Paul J Donald, MD, Chief of Staff, May 14, 1984
- 9 Letter from Wilhelmina C Stewart, RN, October 14, 1985
- 10 Letter from Bishop Francis A Quinn, August 26, 1986
- 11 Letter from Bishop Francis A Quinn, May 20, 1987
- 12 Letter from C A Terhune, Director, Department of Youth Authority, July 10, 1987
- 13 Letter from Bishop Francis A Quinn, November 4, 1987
- 14 Letter from Father William Dinelli, November 5, 1987
- 15 Letter from R G Borg, Warden, California State Prison, Folsom, November 16, 1987
- 16 Letter from Father William J Dinelli, November 19, 1987
- 17 Letter from Bonnie Lighty, February 9, 1988
- 18 Letter from Ms Sue Tveten, RN, April 20, 1989
- 19 Letter from Father Michael Buckley, O.C.D., July 24, 1997
- 20 Letter from Bishop Francis A Quinn, June 5, 2002
- 21 Letter from Bishop William K Weigand, June 11, 2002
- 22 Letter from Bishop William K Weigand, April 27, 2007
- 23 Father Bill's Ancestral DNA Roots

## Remembering Father Charles Philipps: activist for farmworkers and urban poor

By Deacon Jeffrey Burns

Who is Father Charles Philipps? There was a time when this question could have been answered by almost any Catholic in the Bay Area. Today, however, the memory of Father Philipps has faded, though his legacy has not.



Father Charles Philipps

Gerald Cox has done the local Church a great service by providing a splendid memoir/biography of this great priest, who was an uncompromising advocate for the poor and a champion of the Church's teaching on social justice.

Born Sept. 17, 1881 in Stundwiller, Alsace, France, Charles Philipps was ordained a priest in 1911 and immigrated to the United States the same year. When he arrived in San Francisco, the archdiocese covered a vast expanse — 13 Bay Area counties which included a good deal of farm land. From his first pastorate in Hughson in 1921 to his final pastorate at St. Mary's in West Oakland (1936-1950), Father Philipps stood up for the small farmer, family farms and the migrant farmworker.

Upon his arrival as pastor in Sebastopol in 1930 at the outset of the Great Depression, the priest encouraged farmers to establish cooperatives and was instrumental in the creation of the Farmers Protective League.

In 1933 he became director of the archdiocesan Catholic Rural Life Conference, a position he held until 1952, and was actively involved in the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. Father Philipps regularly

advocated for family farms, encouraging a 160-acre limit and decrying California's massive agribusiness and corporate farming. He regularly testified before state and federal agencies with characteristic bluntness.

Cox dubbed Father Philipps "the radical peasant," as his strident views on farming, grounded in the papal social encyclicals, rankled many.

One farmer in Sebastopol observed, "If he wasn't a Catholic priest, he would have been tarred and feathered a long time ago."

NCRLA Director Luigi Ligutti wrote to Philipps, "I am very happy that you have been accused of being a Communist again. After all, such accusations must come your way now and then, or you would be failing in the main purpose of your life. Keep it up. I think we'll meet a lot of Communists like you in heaven."

Continued...

Philipps also was a strong advocate for the appropriate care of the migrant farm-worker. He was known as the Godfather of the Spanish Mission Band, four priests assigned to minister directly to the migrant worker. The Band was instrumental in the success of Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, leaders of the United Farm Workers union.

Philipps' most memorable quip evolved from his work with the Heifer International project which sought to provide cows for a decimated Europe following World War II.

When the rector of the St. Patrick's Seminary suggested Philipps would do better to send tractors and farming equipment instead of cows, Philipps responded, "Well, Father, that is not a bad idea, but the fact is that tractors don't s—t." Manure was an important aspect of European farming. The response has lived on in clerical lore ever since.

Father Philipps was also an advocate for the urban poor and immigrants in Oakland. Unlike many pastors of the era, he did not insist immigrant parishioners learn English, rather he learned their language. He sent his assistant pastor to Mexico to learn Spanish. Father Philipps spoke six languages fluently.

In addition, while he was at St. Mary's he brought in the Sisters of Social Service for settlement work, established a soup kitchen, a free breakfast program for children, and most significantly, Sunshine Camp, a summer camp for inner-city youth on the Russian River. Each year children from West Oakland and the Fillmore in San Francisco escaped to the beloved camp on the river. The camp was staffed by seminarians and survived on donations alone. It was built by hard work.

As Cox observes, "Charlie considered human sweat almost as a sacramental sign of wholeness and holiness." He would ask the seminarians, "Are you here to smile or to sweat?" At the camp, hundreds of boys and girls had an experience of the Church that was hard to duplicate or forget.

The priest died on July 18, 1958, at the age of 76. As Cox admits, "Whenever I am confronted with the injustices of society, Charlie's face looms up in front of me." Philipps' life and example inspired many to become social activists.

Cox has written a loving biography of a priest whose story needs to be better known. The book is available directly from Gerald Cox at P.O. Box 337, Navarro, Calif., 95463, (707) 895- 3955 or e mail: [kcox@mcn.org](mailto:kcox@mcn.org).

*(Deacon Jeffrey M. Burns serves St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish in Oakland and is archivist for the Archdiocese of San Francisco.)*



Diocese of Sacramento

# NEWSLETTER

Serving 20 Counties In Northern California

June 14, 1991

May Priest Council Minutes California Catholic Conference Commentary

## LISTING PRIESTS FOR SUPPLY

Available for August or September -- *A friend of Fr. Innocent Emechete at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish (916) 481-5115.*

Available from 12/18/91 to 1/15/92 and for the summer of 1992 -- *Fr. Robert Sickler, 33 Prospect Hill Road, Cromwell, CT 06416-0903, telephone: (203) 632-3039.*

## JOURNEY TO THE CENTER: FACING THE BLOCKAGE TO UNION

July 14-19

A five-day contemplative retreat presented by the Friar Team and Sr. Carole Marie Kelly, O.S.F. at San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville, (415) 837-9141.

The retreat is structured with conferences, quiet time, and liturgical prayer.

St. Teresa of Avila said: "The beginning of holiness is self-knowledge." If we are in touch with ourselves, we will soon recognize that we are not complete when alone. We will soon admit that there is a very deep longing, hunger, thirst, for union with another (the Other). Or as St. Augustine said: "Our hearts are restless until they find rest in Thee."

## CALENDAR

**June 25** 10 am - 3 pm  
Day of Recollection  
for Priests  
Rev. Eugene Konkel, S.S.  
Christ the King Retreat Center

**Sept. 17** Day of Recollection,  
too!  
Rev. Gerald Hanley  
Christ the King Retreat  
Center

**September 26\*** 10:00 to 12:30  
Faculty Workshops for Priests  
and those in pastoral ministry  
at St. Patrick's Seminary,  
Menlo Park, CA:

*Divorce and Remarriage in the  
Catholic Church*

Rev. Gerald D. Coleman, S.S.

**October 24\*** 10:00 - 12:30  
Faculty Workshops for Priests  
and those in pastoral ministry  
at St. Patrick's Seminary,  
Menlo Park, CA:

Rev. Richard M. Gula, S.S.

*To Treat or Not to Treat: Ethical  
Perspectives on Care for the  
Dying*

(\* - in honor of the  
Bi-Centennial year of the  
Suplicians)

## THIRD ORDER CARMELITE GROUP FOR PRIESTS

Fr. Bill Dinelli contacted the Carmelite House of Prayer in Oakville about forming a support group of diocesan priests to meet once a month.

Carmelite Spirituality is highly regard in the Church and among all Christians who take their relationship with the Lord seriously. Both Saint Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross are considered universal teachers, that is, they have a teaching that is valid for all the followers of Christ. Practically every spirituality author today quotes from or refers to John and Teresa.

The solidity of their teaching is authenticated by personal experience and by a sound Scriptural basis. Their purpose in writing was surely not to "hit the writer's scene" but undoubtedly to help sincere Christians to move beyond the beginning stage of devotion and meditation to contemplation and eventually to transforming union.

Contact Rev. David Costello, O.C.D. at the Carmelite House of Prayer, Oakville, CA 94562, (707) 944-2454.



Abbey of Our Lady of the Holy Trinity

HUNTSVILLE - UTAH

June 14, 1962

Dear Bill:

Your good letter has arrived and I am happy to answer it. In rereading your questionnaire I noticed that you have only had two years of Latin. From past experience we have learned that this is not sufficient and especially so where this Latin was taken a couple of years before the postulant enters which may be the case with you, if you took your Latin in your Freshman and Sophomore years of high school.

We have admitted postulants without the necessary Latin but now we find that we do not have the teachers for this subject and so have decided that we can admit only those who have completed sufficient Latin to be able to begin their philosophical course immediately after their two years of novitiate. Of course, if one desired to be a lay brother, then he need not have any Latin at all.

We feel that if you desire to become a choir religious, it would be better for you to attend a seminary or catholic college for a couple of years in order to perfect your knowledge of Latin. But before we made any final decision in regard to your petition to be admitted we would have to obtain the testimonial letter that is needed from your pastor.

I hope that you will understand our reasons for what has been written above. But do not hesitate to correspond with us about this. We will be happy to do all we can to explain it and to help in any way we can.

These keep us in your prayers.

Sincerely in Our Lady,

*J. M. Maurice Lane*

Abbot





## Diocese of Sacramento

### The Chancery

1119 K Street - P. O. Box 1706  
Sacramento 8, California

August 19, 1952

Mr. William Dinelli  
957 Santa Ynez Way  
Sacramento, California

Dear Bill:

I am happy to inform you that His Excellency, the Most Reverend Bishop, has this day accepted you as a seminarian for this diocese.

The application has been sent to Father Rock, President of St. Joseph's College. You should hear from Father Rock within a few days.

With every good wish for your success, I remain

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Kirby', written over the typed name and title.

Very Rev. Msgr. Thomas A. Kirby  
CHANCELLOR

t



Diocese of Sacramento

The Chancery

1119 K Street - P. O. Box 1766  
Sacramento 8, California

December 1, 1960

Mr. William Joseph Dinelli  
St. Patrick's Seminary  
Menlo Park, California

Dear William:

We were all very pleased to learn that the Faculty of St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park has recommended you for promotion to the sacred orders of Subdiaconate and Diaconate. On the basis of this recommendation, which has my fullest confidence, I hereby give you your official call to these sacred orders.

With the Holy Priesthood already in sight, I wish to assure you of a special place in our prayers that God may prepare your soul with very precious graces for the wonderful apostolate that lies before you.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph T. McGucken".

Joseph T. McGucken  
Bishop of Sacramento

t



# Diocese of Sacramento

## The Chancery

1119 K Street - P. O. Box 1706  
Sacramento 8, California

April 14, 1961

Reverend Mr. William Joseph Dinelli  
St. Patrick's Seminary  
Menlo Park, California

My dear William:

I am very happy to hear that the President and Faculty of St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park have approved you for advancement to the Holy Priesthood. It gives me great pleasure, therefore, officially, by this letter, to call you to the Sacred Order of the Priesthood.

This I do with the hope that you will be a devoted and holy agent and channel for the various graces which God will extend to souls through your future work. I pray that you will grow to love the Priesthood more and more as the years go on, and be increasingly grateful to God for having given you not only the wonderful honor and dignity of the sacred office, but especially the opportunity, through it, to serve Him and the souls for whom He died.

Praying God to bless you, I am

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Joseph T. McGucken  
Bishop of Sacramento

t

THE CHANCERY



Diocese of Sacramento

September 2, 1975

The Reverend William J. Dinelli  
4439 - V Street, Apt. 5  
Sacramento, California 95817

Dear Father Dinelli:

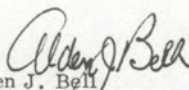
Effective September 3, 1975, we are happy to appoint you Chaplain to the Sacramento Medical Center, in accordance with the wishes expressed by you to the Personnel Board.

Since the Center is in Immaculate Conception Parish, we also appoint you Assistant Pastor of that parish so that you may have parochial jurisdiction for all things, including marriages.

May we take this opportunity to thank you for the outstanding work which you have done at St. Mel's Parish over the last six years. Your dedication and apostolic spirit give us every hope that the Medical Center will be more than well taken care of.

We wish you every success and blessing in your ministry to the sick and to the Carmelite Nuns, whose Chaplain you will also be.

Sincerely yours in Christ

+   
Alden J. Bell  
Bishop of Sacramento

1

cc: Rev. Leo McAllister

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



DEPARTMENT OF OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY  
— HEAD AND NECK SURGERY  
4301 X STREET, ROOM 208  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95817

TELEPHONE AREA CODE 916  
OFFICE 453-2801  
CLINIC 453-2666

May 14, 1984

Father William Dinelli  
Catholic Chaplain

Dear Fr. Dinelli:

I deeply regret Msgr. Corkell's unfortunate experience on April 29 in reference to Mr. . This was a grievous error committed by the attending Emergency Room personnel to Mr. in his final moments. There is no question that the Monsignor should have been able to administer the rite of the Anointing of the Sick during this patient's final hours. I am sure this was a most unusual circumstance, which hopefully will not be repeated. As Chief of Staff, I offer you my most sincere regrets for this incident, and trust it will never happen again.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Donald, M.D., F.R.C.S.(C)  
Chief of Staff

PJD/ab

cc: Msgr. Patrick Corkell, Pastor of All Hallows Church  
Charles Fisher, Jr., M.D., Emergency Medicine Services  
Caroline Dare, R.N., Director of Nursing  
Frank Loge, Deputy Director

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

UC DAVIS MEDICAL CENTER  
2315 STOCKTON BOULEVARD  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95817

October 14, 1985

TO: Father William Dinelli  
Catholic Chaplain

FROM: Wilhelmina C. Stewart, R.N. *WS*  
Associate Director, Nursing Services

SUBJECT: PASTORAL CARE FOR CATHOLIC PATIENTS IN CRISIS SITUATIONS

There has been an indepth research process associated with the issues outlined in your memo of August 12, 1985. This was accomplished by a small Nursing ad hoc committee, contacting Della Knowles, soliciting policy and orientation materials from Mercy Hospital and assessing UCDCM's orientation process as it relates to the Chaplaincy Program.

The findings have generated universal recommendations from resolution to some of the problems which have been associated with pastoral care for all patients at the Medical Center.

1. An Awareness program concerning religious needs of patients should be conducted for direct patient care providers (physicians and nursing).
2. A revision in the new employees' orientation program to include the entire Chaplaincy Program with handouts.
3. A specific mechanism must be established in the Emergency Department, Operating Room/Recovery Room and Critical Care units to include notification of appropriate clergy in urgent and emergent situations.
4. A brief presentation at a Department Head meeting when the newly-developed policy and procedure packet is implemented.
5. Documentation by clergymen on the Interdisciplinary Care Plan regarding pastoral care or any other associated information pertinent to the religious needs or requirement of the patient.

The recommendations address the specific concerns that you related and the process has assisted in determining some of the breakdowns in the system. A Critical Care Head Nurse and the Assistant Director of Nursing of the Surgery Department were actively involved and are investigating various mechanisms to alert and instruct their staff members in the importance of providing pastoral care and support to both patients and families.

Continued . . .

Father William Dinelli  
Page Two  
October 14, 1985

Finally, a meeting with Shelton Duruisseau, Ph.D., Chair of the UCDMC Chaplaincy Program, has facilitated the implementation of all of the above recommendations. I will continue to be the Nursing contact person to provide an exchange of concerns, ideas, and progress in implementing these changes. You can reach me at extension 3648 or at anytime on beeper 604.

I look forward to working with you on a regular basis. Thank you for sharing the difficulties you have encountered which has allowed each of us specifically in the Nursing Department and at UCDMC to interact in the provision of spiritual care for our patients.

WCS/fk

c: Bishop Francis Quinn  
Frank Loge  
James Lieberman, M.D.  
✓ Shelton Duruisseau, Ph.D.  
Caroline Dare, R.N.  
Judy McGuire, R.N.  
Sue Tveten, R.N.

THE CHANCERY



Diocese of Sacramento

May 20, 1987

Reverend William Dinelli  
4439 V Street, Apt. 5  
Sacramento, CA 95817

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your note of May 15th, and the copy of your memo to Mr. Robert Berg and Mr. Daniel McCarthy regarding the pastoral care of the inmates during their period of hospitalization at the U.C. Medical Center. I also wish to thank you for your subsequent note of May 19th, with the copy of the memorandum from Captain Knowles of Folsom State Prison.

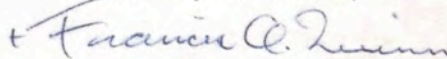
You have stated clearly and in detail your ministry at the center, giving your concerns about the spiritual care of the patients who are brought there.

You should get in touch with Father Denis Keaney to get a clarification on the directive by Folsom Prison. He may be able to give you some reasons why the policy is in effect.

I appreciate the moderate, insightful tone of your memo, and hope that the policy at the U.C. Medical Center regarding inmates will be such as to give adequate access to the patients who wish to see a Catholic priest.

With gratitude for your dedicated ministry to the sick and suffering, I am

Sincerely in Christ,



Francis A. Quinn  
Bishop of Sacramento

t



DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AUTHORITY  
4241 Williamsborough Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95823  
(916) 427-4816



July 10, 1987

Reverend William Dinelli  
4439 V Street, Apt. 5  
Sacramento, California 95817

Dear Reverend Dinelli:

This letter is in response to your inquiry concerning the procedure for pastoral visits to Youth Authority wards housed at University of California Davis Medical Center.

We agree with you that our policy needs to be revised. In the future, any chaplain on the staff of the University of California Davis Medical Center who has the proper identification will be allowed to visit Youth Authority wards.

Please accept our apology for any inconvenience this may have caused you. We do appreciate your concern for our wards and your desire to be of service. Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. A. Terhune".

C. A. Terhune, Director

**THE CHANCERY**



**Diocese of Sacramento**

"Love God,

Love One Another"

November 4, 1987

Reverend William Dinelli  
4439 V Street, #5  
Sacramento, CA 95817

Dear Bill:

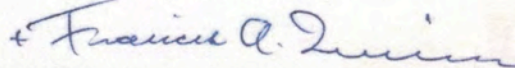
Thank you for your letter of November 2, 1987, informing me of the authorization you have received to minister to Folsom prison inmates who are patients at the Medical Center.

I know, besides the prayers of many good people, your own perseverance and patience in dealing with the personnel at the hospital had much to do with the final result.

I wish you my prayerful support in working out similar arrangements with the County officials.

With prayerful best wishes, I am

Sincerely in Christ,



Francis A. Quinn  
Bishop of Sacramento

t

*Good work, Bill.*

November 5, 1987

Mrs. Bonnie Lighty, Manager of Community Services  
 UC Davis Medical Center  
 2315 Stockton Boulevard  
 Sacramento, California 95817

Dear Mrs. Lighty:

Thank you for letting me know that I had been authorized by the Folsom Prison authorities to minister to critically sick Folsom inmates who are patients here. I will strictly comply with their wishes in this matter. We agreed that written authorization from the prison authorities wherein they spell out the extent and limits of my authorization would be most helpful. I hope that it will be quickly forthcoming.

Special thanks, I think, is due to Mrs. Eva Slingerland, Clinical Nurse II, North 6, who, perhaps, more than anyone else got things rolling. Should she ever seek greater nursing responsibilities here or elsewhere, I hope that her concern for the spiritual side of nursing care, her willingness to take the initiative and to be actively involved in the holistic process will be recognized as an indicator of her leadership potential.

I find it encouraging that large scale organizations such as the ones that were involved in this case, which are sometimes accused of being insensitive to the concerns of their individual members, can work cooperatively to iron out areas of potential conflict. Since they all have something important in common, the individual patient, perhaps more interaction at least at the upper administrative levels would be helpful.

Best wishes to you in your efforts to keep your chaplains happy, an impossible task, and to improve the quality of spiritual care at the Medical Center.

Respectfully,

*Fr. William Dinelli*  
 Fr. William Dinelli  
 Catholic chaplain

cc. Mr. Robert Borg, Warden, Folsom State Prison  
 Mr. Robert Briggs, Chief Deputy Warden, Folsom Prison  
 Mr. George C. Jackson, Associate Warden, Professional Services,  
 Folsom Prison  
 Fr. Denis P. Keaney, Catholic chaplain, Folsom Prison  
 Ms. Wanda A. Briscoe, Chief of Education, Department of Corrections  
 Ms. Susan E. Poole, Assistant Deputy Director, Department of Corrections  
 James W. Holcroft, M.D., Chief of Staff, UC Davis Medical Center  
 Mr. Frank J. Loge, Director of Hospital and Clinics  
 Shelton Duruisseau, Ph.D., Associate Director, Hospital and Clinics  
 Ms. Caroline Dare, R.N., Associate Director, Hospital and Clinics  
 Mrs. Della Knowles, Coordinator of Volunteer Services  
 Mrs. Claudia Jo Weber, Chairperson, Pastoral Care Advisory Committee  
 Mrs. Eva Slingerland, R.N., Clinical Nurse II, North 6  
 Most Rev. Francis A. Quinn, D.D., Ed.D., Catholic Bishop of Sacramento

November 5, 1987

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 UC Davis Medical Center  
 2315 Stockton Boulevard  
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*Fr. William Dinelli*  
 Fr. William Dinelli  
 Catholic chaplain

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 Mr. Robert Briggs, Chief Deputy Warden, Folsom Prison  
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 Folsom Prison  
 Fr. Denis P. Keaney, Catholic chaplain, Folsom Prison  
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 Mr. Frank J. Loge, Director of Hospital and Clinics  
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 Ms. Caroline Dare, R.N., Associate Director, Hospital and Clinics  
 Mrs. Della Knowles, Coordinator of Volunteer Services  
 Mrs. Claudia Jo Weber, Chairperson, Pastoral Care Advisory Committee  
 Mrs. Eva Slingerland, R.N., Clinical Nurse II, North 6  
 Most Rev. Francis A. Quinn, D.D., Ed.D., Catholic Bishop of Sacramento

#15

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

CALIFORNIA STATE PRISON AT FOLSOM

FOLSOM, CA 95671  
(916) 985-2561



November 16, 1987

Mrs. Bonnie Lighty  
Manager of Community Services  
U. C. Davis Medical Center  
2315 Stockton Boulevard  
Sacramento, California 95817

Dear Mrs. Lighty:

ADMINISTRATION OF ROMAN CATHOLIC SACRAMENTS TO MORIBUND FOLSOM  
PRISON INMATES

In those circumstances wherein a Folsom Prison Catholic inmate patient has been determined by the prison's Chief Medical Officer to be moribund and the prison's Catholic Chaplain cannot be summoned in time, the U. C. Davis Medical Center Catholic Chaplain is authorized to administer the appropriate Roman Catholic Sacraments to that inmate patient.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

R. G. BORG  
WARDEN

RGB:rl

cc: R. D. Briggs  
G. C. Jackson  
D. Keane  
W. Dinelli ✓  
File

November 19, 1987

Mr. Robert G. Borg, Warden  
California State Prison At Folsom  
Represa, California 95671

Dear Warden Borg:

I would like to thank you and the members of your staff who have helped to ensure that Catholic Folsom Prison inmates at the Medical Center will not die without the spiritual supports of their church. Two biblical passages especially, I think, apply to you and to your associates because of your efforts to be fair in this matter: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy (Matthew 5:7)" and "Whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me (Mt. 25:40)." I hope that the coming Christmas season, wherein we celebrate the coming of Him who leaves the ninety-nine "good" people so as "to go in search of the one that went astray" and expects us to do the same, fill your lives with its unique blessings of peace and good will toward men.

It would be very helpful to me and to the other Catholic chaplains who are assigned to the Medical Center in the future if the prison guards would have us paged when an inmate needs our services. Otherwise, getting to them will be a hit and miss proposition. I am thinking here of patients who are brought in critical condition into the emergency room and those already admitted to the hospital who suddenly take a turn for the worse. We would have no way of knowing about their condition unless their guards tell us. Perhaps, you would relate my concern to them. To help them know if the patient is Catholic, one's religious preference, if any, is often noted on the patient's doctor's and nursing charts in the space provided for that information. If his religion is not known, I would hope to be called anyway, since it is my policy to give the Sacraments of the Sick to these patients as well.

Yours truly,

*Fr. William Dinelli*  
Fr. William Dinelli  
Catholic chaplain

cc. Mr. Robert D. Briggs  
Mr. George C. Jackson  
Fr. Denis P. Keaney  
Mrs. Bonnie Lighty  
Most Rev. Francis A. Quinn, D.D., Ed.D.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

COMMUNITY SERVICES  
(916) 453-5441/2282

UC DAVIS MEDICAL CENTER  
2315 STOCKTON BOULEVARD  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95817

February 9, 1988

TO: Father William Dinelli  
Catholic Chaplain, UCDCM

FROM: Bonnie Lighty  
Manager, Community Services

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF CHAPLAINS

Thank you for your letter dated February 5, 1988 regarding your concern of not being contacted to provide spiritual support to

In response, I spoke with Linda Moore, RN, Head Nurse CCU. She indicated Mr. [redacted] had been admitted on Wednesday at approximately 5:30 p.m. and was taken directly to the special procedure lab where he remained until approximately 10:30 p.m. His condition was "stable" and there was no indication that his condition might deteriorate during the course of the evening. Thus, staff did not feel it appropriate to request your presence at 11:00 p.m. Mr. [redacted] experienced an unexpected cardiac arrest at approximately 3:30 a.m.

I also contacted Sharon Degner, RN, Assistant Director of Nursing, who was part of the team involved with Mr. [redacted] the morning he "coded." She indicated you should have been called at that time but due to an unintentional oversight, the call was not made.

Attached is the written protocol to follow in situations of this nature. Ms. Degner will distribute the procedure along with a letter of explanation. I feel confident this will preclude a recurrence of this type in the future.

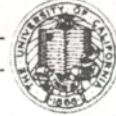
Thank you for bringing your concern to my attention.

BL/amr  
Enclosure

cc: Carolyn Dare, RN  
Sharon Degner, RN  
Linda Moore, RN  
Bishop Quinn

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

COMMUNITY SERVICES  
(916) 453-5441 2282

UC DAVIS MEDICAL CENTER  
2315 STOCKTON BOULEVARD  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95817

April 20, 1989

Ms. Sue Tveten, R. N.  
Nurse Manager of MICU  
UCDMC

Dear Ms. Tveten:

I would like to thank you for bringing the matter of our efforts to minister to patients in emergency situations in the different units to the attention of the staff. I would also like to thank you and Ms. Barbara Howes, R.N. for developing the 1986 nursing procedures, Procedure For Notifying The Clergy In Case of Patient Emergency, which directly pertains to this matter, and also for its reaffirmation on May 31, 1988, and again on March 15, 1989. Your efforts have not only made ours easier but also, I think, have helped to sensitize the staff to the reality of pastoral care at the Medical Center.

Best wishes and continued success to you and to your co-workers at both the staff and line levels.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fr. William Dinelli".

Fr. William Dinelli  
Catholic Chaplain

CC: Reverend Timothy A. Little, D. Min.  
Manager Clinical Pastoral Services

Most Reverend Francis A. Quinn, D.D., Ed.D.  
Catholic Bishop of Sacramento





*Secular Order Discalced Carmelites*

July 24, 1997.

Dear Father William,

Thank you for your letter. I am pleased to know that you have received the Carmelite habit. And I know that you will wear it with great devotion, discretion and care.

Thank you for all you do for the Secular Order. I am confident that you will be a signal help and inspiration to all the members of the group.

My good-wishes to all and every blessing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr Michael OCD". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Father Michael Buckley OCD.

*Central Office, O.C.D.S.  
Western Jurisdiction, U.S.A.*

*P.O. Box 3079  
San José, CA 95156-3079*



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

2110 Broadway • Sacramento, California 95818-2541 • 916/733-0200 • Fax 916/733-0215

June 5, 2002

Reverend William Dinelli  
St. Anthony's Parish  
P. O. Box 436  
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Dear Bill:

I just want to send you this brief note to thank you for your warm hospitality on the occasion of your Confirmation at St. Anthony's.

Please relay my thanks to all of your co-workers who planned the occasion. The liturgy was beautiful and the candidates well prepared.

I want to commend you for the excellent leadership you are giving at St. Anthony's.

With prayerful best wishes, I am

Faternally in Christ,

*+ Francis A. Quinn*

Francis A. Quinn  
Bishop Emeritus of Sacramento

*It was good to see Julian and Mario again*



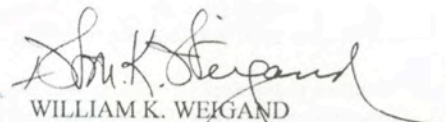
CONFERRAL OF THE OFFICE OF PASTOR  
UPON  
THE REVEREND WILLIAM DINELLI

As Bishop of Sacramento, one of the most important duties attached to my pastoral office is that of appointing as pastor to parishes which are vacant, priests who will carry out the duties of pastor in a praiseworthy manner.

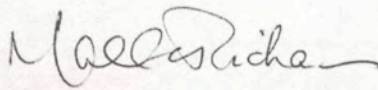
I judge you to be suitable by life, moral character and professional knowledge to govern the parochial community of St. Anthony Parish, Walnut Grove.

Therefore, I WILLIAM K. WEIGAND, Bishop of Sacramento, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, entrust to you the pastoral service of God's holy people as pastor of St. Anthony Parish, Walnut Grove. This pastoral service is to begin June 11, 2002, and I ask that you take a personal and special interest in promoting and praying for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life in our diocese.

In the prayers of ordination to the priesthood, the Church prays that the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit will renew in you the grace of holiness of life. As you take up this new service as pastor, I pray that in and through this ministry you will grow in priestly holiness, sharing the joy and peace of the Risen Christ, His first gift to His apostles.

  
WILLIAM K. WEIGAND  
Bishop of Sacramento

Given at Sacramento on this  
11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2002

  
Rev. Mark R. Richards  
Chancellor



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

2110 Broadway • Sacramento, California 95818 • 916/733-0200 • Fax 916/733-0215

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 27, 2007

Rev. William J. Dinelli  
St. Anthony Parish  
P.O. Box 436  
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Dear Father Bill,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated March 1, 2007, as well as your previous letter written in June 2006, both requesting permission to retire from active ministry effective May 22, 2007. By all means, I accept your request to retire on May 22, 2007. The Priests Personnel Board is in full agreement. Certainly your years of dedicated priestly ministry are deserving of a less hectic schedule.

Also, in recognition of your priestly ministry to St. Anthony Parish, Walnut Grove, I am pleased to appoint you Pastor Emeritus of the parish, effective May 22, 2007.

Bill, I give thanks to God for your faithful ministry over the years in the Diocese. Diocesan records show that you were ordained in 1961 and began your first assignment at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in North Sacramento, where you gained valuable experience as a parochial vicar until 1966. You were then assigned to Immaculate Conception Parish, Sacramento, 1966 to 1969; assigned to St. Mel Parish, Fair Oaks, from 1969 to 1975; in 1975 you were asked to be Chaplain to the Sacramento Medical Center (later U.C. Davis Medical Center), which was a new position, where you served with distinction and dedication for the next 26 years. Hospital personnel from all levels knew you and loved you in your dedicated ministry to the sick and dying in the hospital, as well as to their families. Finally, in May of 2001 you were asked to serve in the delta area of the Diocese at St. Anthony Parish, being named pastor in 2002.

Needless to say, looking back on your years of faithful priestly service, I am moved to express my utmost admiration and thanks in the name of the Diocese and the whole Church. I am also grateful that in retirement you will continue to do priestly ministry as needed and to be the Chaplain of the Christian Brothers community. I pray that the Holy Spirit give you your heart's desire in your retirement and fill you with peace. Be assured of my prayers and best wishes.

Fraternally in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. K. Weigand".

WILLIAM K. WEIGAND  
Bishop of Sacramento

cc: Rev. Charles Kelly, Dean  
Rev. Msgr. Murrrough Wallace

kc

# Welcome, William.

Thank you for registering with Ancestry. Discover your unique story by building a free family tree and accessing family records. With your AncestryDNA test you will discover more about your ethnicity and your living relatives.

## Build a Family Tree



ADD FATHER



ADD MOTHER



WILLIAM DINELLI

START A FREE TRIAL

Now that you've taken a DNA test, build a family tree and follow each leaf to find more information about your family.

## William Dinelli DNA



- 48% Italy/Greece
- 23% Great Britain
- 13% Iberian Peninsula
- 7% Europe West
- 9% Other Regions

VIEW FULL RESULTS

- Shared Ancestor Hints
- DNA Matches
- DNA Circles

West Asia 4%

Africa (NORTH) 3%



Hundreds of years ago

Genetic Communities™

Portuguese

Connection: Very Likely

Northern Italians

Enjoying Ancestry? Subscribe to access our full collection of records.

VIEW SUBSCRIPTIONS

Search Record Collections

START NEW SEARCH

New Collections

- Pennsylvania, Federal Naturalization Records, 1795-1931

Shoebox 0

Message Boards

*"The heavens declare the glory of God,  
And the firmament proclaims his handiwork."*

*Psalm 19: 1*



## *Joie de Vivre*

### *Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi 1182-1226*

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.*

*Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy;*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled but to console;  
To be understood, as to understand; to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive, it is pardoning that we are pardoned,  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

## ADDENDA

### ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo by Mary Tarango

Father Bill Blesses Mrs Lilian Caruska assisted by Mr Fred Causin 2017



Photo by Mary Tarango

With Mrs Lilian Caraska and Mr Victor Herrera 2017



With Father Paul Schroeder 2015





Harris Studio 2015

Saint Rose Parish Luncheon in honor of Monsignor Edward Kavanagh



Harris Studio 2015

**Sacramento Junior Traffic Patrol**


*An Award of Merit to*

William Dinelli

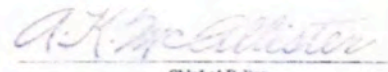
In recognition of his valuable and faithful service  
as a member of the patrol in protecting his fellow  
students from accidents at the

Fremont School.

In Witness Whereof, we have hereunto signed our names this  
14<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1946.

  
Superintendent of Schools



  
Chief of Police

  
Principal

  
Director of Patrols

*“Son of man, I have made you a watchman  
for the house of Israel;  
Whenever you hear a word from my mouth,  
you shall give them warning from me.”*

*Ezekiel 3:17*

## SPIRITUAL ASSOCIATIONS

*"If two of you agree on earth about anything they ask,  
it will be done for them by my Father in heaven."*

*Matthew 18:19*

**ARCHCONFRATERNITY  
OF SAINT JOSEPH**  
MODEL AND PATRON OF THOSE WHO  
LOVE THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

### CERTIFICATE OF ENROLMENT

FR WILLIAM J. DINELLI  
(Name in full)

on 2ND OF SEPTEMBER 1997  
(Date)

### CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

1. To be enrolled in the special register of the Archconfraternity.
2. Recite each morning and evening: "*Saint Joseph, Model and Patron of those who love the Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us.*"
3. To give good example in one's Christian duties to recommend the Holy Father and all the members to the protection of Saint Joseph and to obtain his assistance during life and especially at the hour of death

### PRIVILEGES

1. The members are especially protected by Saint Joseph.
2. Masses and prayers are offered for all the intentions and necessities of the members.
3. They share in all the prayers and good works of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

Ref No. 110297/346 (Priests  
Book)

*Confraternity of Mary  
Queen of All Hearts*

This is to certify that

Fr William J Dinelli  
has made the St. Louis de Montfort Act of  
total consecration to Jesus through Mary on

11-5-97

and is hereby enrolled as a member of the  
confraternity of Mary Queen of All Hearts.

Fr Roger M. Charut, S.M.M.  
National Moderator

### INDULGENCES

On the occasion of the initial consecration (using the De Montfort formula) or, on the occasion of its renewal, a PLENARY INDULGENCE is granted, under the usual conditions (Confession, Communion and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father.) Also, a PLENARY INDULGENCE on the following days: 1- The day of enrollment in the Confraternity; 2- Holy Thursday; 3-Christmas; 4- Feast of the Annunciation; 5- Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8); 6- St. Louis de Montfort's Feast day (April 28); 7- Every First Saturday of the Month.

Members of the Confraternity also share in the satisfaction, prayers and good works of the Missionaries of the Company of Mary.

*In answer to a petition by the Montfort Missionaries to the Sacred Penitentiary in Rome, the above indulgences were granted for a period of 10 years (as of Oct. 10, 1986), to the two Confraternities (Priests of Mary, Queen of All Hearts and the Confraternity of Mary, Queen of All Hearts), thus bringing them in line with the conditions laid down in the new ENCHIRIDION of Indulgences.*

### FEASTS OF THE CONFRATERNITY

The Annunciation March 25th, is the principal feast of the Confraternity, because that is the day on which Our Lord came to us through Mary and set us an example of complete dependence on her. The secondary feast is that of St. Louis De Montfort, April 28th. Other special feasts are: the Immaculate Conception, Christmas, the Visitation, the Purification, the Assumption and the Feast of St. John the Evangelist.

### MORNING OFFERING

*I am all Yours and all I have is Yours,  
O dear Jesus, through Mary,  
your holy Mother.*

**SORROWFUL AND IMMACULATE  
HEART OF MARY,  
PRAY FOR US**

Illustrious Virgin and Martyr, Saint Philomena, rose empurpled in thine own pure blood shed for Christ. Beloved daughter of the Mystical Rose, powerful Protectress of the Living Rosary, may thy virginal hands present to the Queen of the most Holy Rosary, the crown of Aves which we are about to lay at her feet. AMEN.

O Saint Philomena, Virgin and Martyr, whom God glorifies by so many miracles, whom the Vicar of Jesus Christ has named the Protectress of The Living Rosary and the Children of Mary, manifest, more and more plainly from the heights of Heaven, that a voice holy as thine cannot be denied and that we have the right to rely upon thine aid. Obtain for us the grace to be faithful to Jesus Christ, even to death. AMEN.



*Rev. William Dinelli*  
UNIVERSAL LIVING ROSARY  
ASSOCIATION OF SAINT PHILOMENA  
founded by Ven. Pauline Jaricot

Begin your decade On: 11-27-2010

Enrolled In Rosary No 5631

YOUR ASSIGNED DECADE IS:

**THE SCOURGING**

Obligation of members is to say their decade everyday for the following intentions:

THE TRIUMPH OF THE  
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY  
THE HONOR OF SAINT PHILOMENA

*“People will come from the east and west and from the north and south and will sit at table in the Kingdom of God.”* Luke 13:29



Photo by John E Boll 2015

Street Scene in Kolkata, India

The Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Grants to

*Rev. William Dinelli*



Dated Sept. 26, 1962

In Perpetual Membership  
all its spiritual privileges and a share in  
the prayers and merits of the missionaries  
as well as in the 15,000 Masses offered  
every year for the Living  
and Deceased Members



+ *Anton Sheu*  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

*Raymond Benwell*  
DIOCESAN DIRECTOR

*“You are the garment which covers our nakedness,  
and in our hunger you are a satisfying food, for  
you are sweetness and in you there is no taste of  
bitterness, O Triune God.”*

*Saint Catherine of Siena*  
*The Liturgy of the Hours, Vol 2, page 1795*



*“And God said, ‘Let the earth put forth plants yielding seed and fruit trees bearing fruit in their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth. And so it was.’”*

*Genesis 1: 11*

### PART III

## FR BILL'S NEW MINISTRY: CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN OF U.C. DAVIS MEDICAL CENTER



Photo by John E Boll 2016

### U.C. DAVIS MEDICAL CENTER, SACRAMENTO

# UPDATE

THE SACRAMENTO MEDICAL CENTER  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

Volume 11, Issue 6

September 15, 1975

-Page 2-

#### FATHER DINELLI IS NEW SMC CHAPLAIN

Father William Dinelli began serving as SMC's Catholic chaplain September 3. He is at the hospital six days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is on-call 24 hours a day. He may be reached by calling the hospital operator. On Tuesday, his day off, another chaplain is always on-call who may also be reached through the operator.

Father Dinelli will hold mass for patients each Sunday at 10 p.m. in the auditorium. Employees who may wish to attend mass, are permitted to do so on their own time.

Father Dinelli has served in parish ministry for the past 14 years and has been assistant pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes, Immaculate Conception and St. Mels churches in Sacramento. He received his master of divinity degree from St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park and his master of arts degree in sociology at California State University, Sacramento. Presently, he is a part-time student at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. He also is a licensed marriage and family counselor.

#### NEW HOSPITAL FORMULARY AVAILABLE

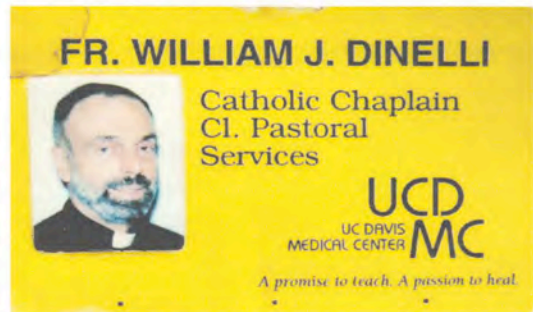
A new hospital formulary is available to SMC physicians in the hospital's pharmacy. Supplements to the formulary will appear in the Pharmacy Service Bulletin.

Hospital Newsletter

## PASTORAL DUTIES AT UC DAVIS MEDICAL CENTER, SACRAMENTO

He especially remembers his first day on hospital duty in early September, 1975. Since the gas in his apartment had not yet been turned on, he headed to Sambo's Restaurant that was nearby for an early breakfast. A little later, after his father had driven his mother over to be there the when the P.G. & E. person came by to turn on the gas, he headed for the hospital. There he introduced himself to Mr.

Kelly, the hospital administrator whom, he thought, would be the person he would be checking with if he had any problems. A few days later, though, the office of Mrs. Berg, the Director of Social Services, became his home base when he was on duty.



Around noon on that first day he returned to his apartment where his mother had prepared a lunch for them. He then returned to the hospital to look around some more and to meet some of the nursing staff. After leaving there around 4 P.M. and picking up his mother, they headed to Sambo's for dinner. He knew that she would be praying a lot for him in the days ahead as she always did, and he knew that, in view of what probably lay ahead, he would need every one of them. While they were there, they ran into Father John Folmer's parents, also members of Sacred Heart Parish, Fr. John being the priest who had been on temporary hospital duty for him there during the past summer.

Instead of waiting for patients to come to him, as would happen in emergency situations, he felt that his routine should be one of going out and looking for them, meaning any who might appreciate a visit, which he would only know if he knocked on his or her door, introduced himself as the Catholic chaplain, and ask if he could come in. He would basically be doing what he tried to do for four days a week when he took the parish census.

## CATHOLIC HERALD ARTICLE AND PHOTOS 1976



Photos by Jeanette Curby for the *Catholic Herald*, Thursday, September 23, 1976

### Starting his day with the hospital census



From these visits, he learned who would like to receive daily Holy Communion, and there were always a few...

*"Gives us this day our daily Bread" Matt 6:11*



Catholic Herald 1976

and also those who should be given the Sacrament of the Sick, and there were usually many.



Catholic Herald 1976

*"Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven."*

*James 5: 14-15*

Sometimes he met patients who for years had thought that they could not receive Holy Communion for some reason or another when all that they really had to do was to make a worthy confession. Sometimes he encouraged patients to look into the possibility of having their marriage rectified by their church when they got home.

*"A word fittingly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver. Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise rebuke to a listening ear." Proverbs 25:11-12*



*Catholic Herald 1976*

In short, as he saw it, he was simply doing what all faithful pastors tried to do, namely, get out of their offices and get to know who their parishioners were, becoming a part of their everyday lives whether or not they came to church regularly.

He left a small prayer book with them if they were in their room when he arrived, and a psalm prayer leaflet telling them that the Catholic chaplain had been by if they had been away. Besides the time that he would be called specifically to the emergency room for Catholic patients, he also tried to routinely visit that area three times a week when he would introduce to the those waiting to be seen as one of the on duty chaplains, which they probably surmised from his clergy shirt, and to offer to them a bible verse leaflet to read while they were waiting. Recalling the saying that you never found an atheist in a foxhole, he never found an atheist in a hospital emergency waiting room.

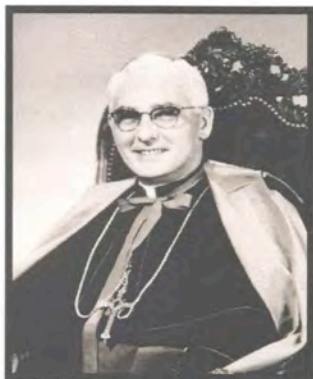
To help him to know that critically ill Catholic patients needed his presence immediately so that they might receive their church's rites of the sick, namely, the Sacrament or Anointing of the Sick, the Sacrament of Penance or absolution for their sins, and the Apostolic Blessing for the moment of death, if that were to be the outcome of this crisis, he was provided with a pager so that he might be at their side as quickly as possible. If he were not on the hospital premises, living within two blocks of the emergency room enabled his to be there at the drop of a hat.

*"Let the children come to me and do not hinder them. It is just such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs." Mark, 10:14*



**The Madere Family 2000**

What also enabled him to do so was not also being saddled with parish duties. Although also very important, such duties would probably have often come between him and those who needed his priestly help the most, namely, those who would soon be meeting their Lord and God face to face. By allowing him to serve these special members of their flock unimpeded by worthy but conflicting parish responsibilities, his Bishops, namely, Bell, Quinn, and Weigand, made it possible, Father Bill feels, for many of their critically ill Catholic patients to have received the healing gifts of their church before they had drawn their last breath. To have arrived at their bedside too late would probably have too often been the case if he had been in the midst of parish duties when emergency calls came. As he often reminded the hospital staff, "Our Last Sacraments are meant for the living. For those who have already died, we must offer a different set of prayers."



**Bishop Alden J Bell**



**Bishop Francis A Quinn**



**Bishop William K Weigand**

### TEAM MINISTRY

One change that he made in Father Haran's way of doing things was to be solely responsible for any emergency night calls. Since he would not be living in the parish rectory and contributing to some of its activities, how could he expect its priests to cover for him? Instead, he arranged with Father Thomas Prendergast, the Sutter Hospitals Catholic chaplain and later with his successor, Father James Sheets, both priests of the diocese, to cover for him on his day off as he would also cover for one of theirs. He had a similar arrangement with Father John Healy at Mercy Hospital. The fact that their four hospitals were all in East Sacramento made it easy for them to work together, which helped to ensure that their Catholic patients would be well served.



Father James P Sheets



Father John Healy

During those first few weeks there, since he had been given no office, maybe because they thought that he would come and go as called rather than be there all day, he made one of the smaller hospital waiting rooms his office. Later, the hospital provided him with a small room on the ground floor in the physical rehabilitation area. It had been a restroom and then a storeroom, and he was happy to now have somewhere to hang his hat. They also installed a phone, shelves, a small desk and two chairs, and carpeting for the tile floor. Although it was not air conditioned, he always left the door half open when he was there. Whenever it felt stuffy, he turned on a portable fan.

### WELCOMING SPIRIT OF THE NURSES

During those first days on the job, he sometimes felt like a fish out of water, as probably happens with any new situation that priests face. What made it easier was the kindness and helpfulness of the nursing staff, although there were a few exceptions. Although some of the Catholic nurses had tried to attend Sunday mass, which was offered every Sunday in one of the meeting rooms, having only fifteen minute breaks whereas mass lasted about twenty minutes made it hard to do.

*"Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received. This is where the respect and the love and the devotion come in: that we do it to God, to Christ, and that's why we try to do it as beautifully as possible." Mother Teresa of Calcutta*



**Father Bill joins the nurses for lunch**

About fifteen people from different departments along with a few ambulatory patients, however, would be there, which was really all that it took. As The Lord had said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name there am I in the midst of them (Mt. 18:20)." He felt that having mass offered on the hospital premises every week no matter how many or few attended it would be a source of blessings to everyone: staff members, patients, family members, in short, to whomever would be open to receiving its graces.

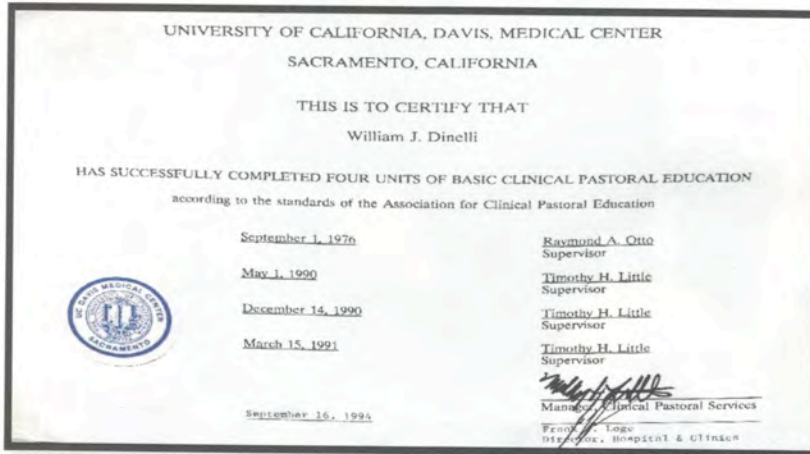
#### **ONGOING HOSPITAL PASTORAL AND GRADUATE EDUCATION**

He soon met the Protestant chaplain, Rev. Raymond A. Otto, a fine gentleman who, along with four or five volunteer chaplains looked after the spiritual needs of the Protestant patients. Fr. Bill would join them at their monthly meetings where they could all learn from one another's experiences. During the following summer, he became a member of Rev. Otto's summer unit of Clinical Pastoral Education along with five other Protestant ministerial students. It was time well spent, he feels, and helped him to better serve the patients whom he would be visiting.

He had thought, for example, that he had always been a good listener until the day when he mistakenly told a seriously sick patient that she would soon be returning home, which elated her, except that she was too sick to be released. Rev. Otto was a little upset with him over this, and Bill apologized to her and to her doctor for giving her false hope. Her doctor, though, seemed to take it in stride and told him that at least he had made her feel happy for a while. Bill felt that having to deal with the mistakes of medical students had prepared him to deal with mistaken student chaplains.

*"The beginning of Wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction." Wisdom of Solomon 6:17*

Twelve years later, long after Reverend Otto had left for chaplaincy work in Missouri, the hospital hired another Protestant chaplain, Rev. Timothy H. Little, who restarted the Clinical Pastoral Education Program for seminary and ordained priests and ministers, in which the diocese' Catholic seminarians regularly took one summer unit. Fr. Bill was then able to take three more basic units besides his first one with Rev. Otto, four units being considered to be the required number for hospital chaplains.

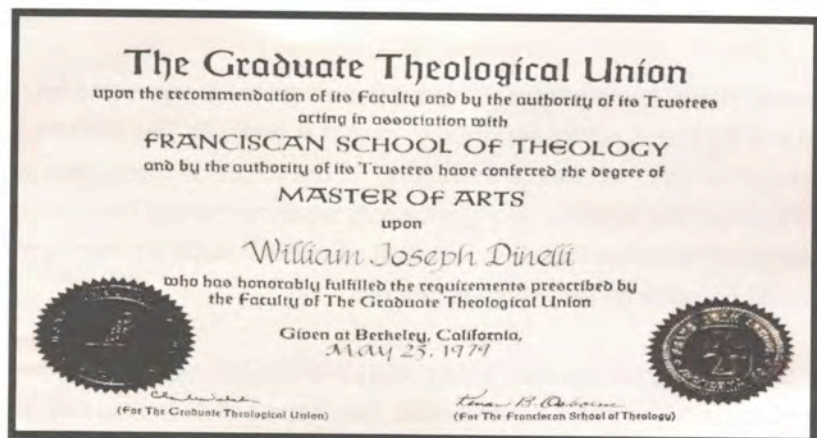


*"Set your desires on my words, long for them, and you will be instructed."*

*Wisdom 6:11*

*"Thou dost correct little by little those who trespass and dost remind them of the things wherein they sin that they may put their trust in thee, O Lord."*

*Wisdom 12:2*



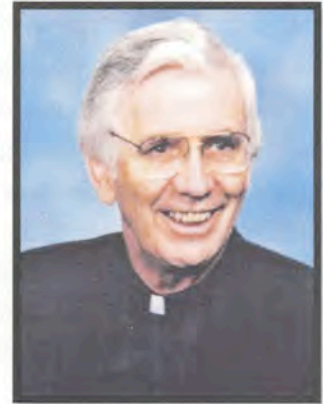
*"Keep watch over yourselves, and over the whole flock the Holy Spirit has given you to guard."*

*Acts 20:28*

### STANDING UP FOR PATIENTS' RIGHTS

Everything was not all sweetness and light, though. During those first years, he often felt that the Medical Center fell short in seeing to the needs of its Catholic patients because there were no guidelines for the medical staff to follow when it came to making room for the priest's presence in life and death situation. Such patients, it seemed to him, were at the mercy of whomever was in charge of their medical emergency. Some doctors would welcome a priest's presence at such times, and a few would not. It was not because he or they were getting in the way or hanging around to see what was going on, but because they were simply trying to do what they had been ordained to do.

On one occasion, for example, when Father Patrick Corkell, the pastor of All Hallows Parish in Sacramento, was called to the emergency room to offer the Sacrament of the Sick and other needful blessings to one of his parishioners, someone on the staff there would not let him enter. When Father Bill heard what had happened, he wrote a memo to the emergency room department with plenty of copies to go around. Father Corkell later, thankfully, received a letter of apology from the hospital. The same thing, though, had more than once happened to him and would continue to happen, he felt, unless he tried to do something about it.



Father Patrick Corkell

It was time, he felt, to start rocking the boat and boiling the pot so as to bring about a needed social change, namely, ready access to critically sick patients and prisoners on the part of their Catholic chaplains and pastors. He started to write memos to the offending parties with copies to go around so as to raise awareness in every part of the hospital to the obvious injustice of the situation. He also sent a copy of these memos to Bishop Francis A. Quinn, his bishop at the time, so as to keep him posted on what he was trying to do.

The Bishop always responded supportively with a letter of approval except for one time, on the occasion of what must have been an unusually “nasty” memo. That time he got a call from Father Robert P. Walton, the bishop’s secretary: “The bishop is asking you to cool it. He’s afraid that they will ask you to leave!” He must have done so because the hospital authorities never asked him to leave, and the Bishop never again asked him to cool it.



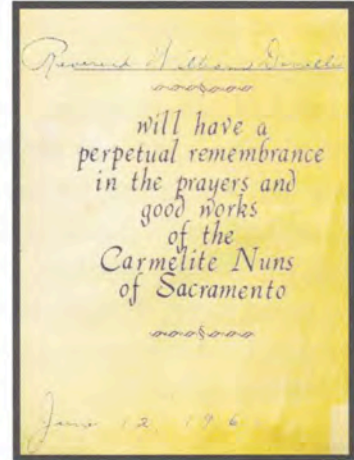
Photo by Linda McCrory, RN

With the Neo-natal ICU Nurses in 1995

A day finally came when he felt that he was starting to see a little light at the end of the tunnel. A nursing supervisor stopped him in the hall and said, “Father Dinelli, you’ve been written into the new nursing procedures: a) we do this; b) we do this; c) we do this; and when we get to f, we call Father Dinelli.” He thanked her and her staff for what they had done and, as he walked away thought to himself, “Well, better late than never!”

### THE DISCALCED CARMELITES RE-ENTER FATHER BILL'S LIFE

When he had first come to the Medical Center, he had also, like Father Haran before him, automatically become the chaplain to the Discalced Carmelite nuns whose monastery was a few blocks away. During the next five years, until their move in 1980 to the Loomis area while their new monastery was being built in Georgetown CA, he offered their weekday masses and their Sunday afternoon benedictions. He is sure that their prayers for his many special intentions during that time and after they had left, helped him as well as the Catholic patients and members of the nursing staff and doctors, in fact, any of the hospital personnel who might have needed their prayerful help.



**Ms Carol Britto, O.C.D.S.**

Photo by Teresa Esparza

During his time at the monastery in Sacramento, he would sometimes run into Ms Carol Britto when she visited the monastery. She belonged to the Cathedral Parish and was also a member of the Secular or Third Order of Discalced Carmelites. Later, he and Ms Britto started to meet on a fairly regular basis to discuss the spiritual life or our life in Christ and what helps and what hinders its growth in ourselves and in others.

Over a period of time, after listening to her describe her work as a Secular Carmelite, having herself served as its President for a term, and hearing that diocesan priests can also become Secular Order members, he thought that the time had come for him to try again to fulfill his youthful hope of belonging to a contemplative religious order, since third or secular order Carmelites were considered to be actual members. Ms Britto, for her part, used her influence with the Carmelite priests whom she knew to make his dream come true.



**Father Joseph of the Cross, O.C.D.S.**

Photo by John E Boll

Father Thomas Koller, O.C.D., told him in November, 1996 when receiving him into the local Secular Order in a simple ceremony following Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at The Cathedral in downtown Sacramento, "Wherever you go, we'll be at your side," which Father Bill found to be very reassuring. Later, he wrote to Father Michael Buckley, the Director of the Discalced Carmelite Third Order for the California-Arizona Province, asking him if he might be



given the privilege of wearing a Carmelite habit in private for devotional reasons. The priest then sent him the full five piece habit along with the request that he always wear it, "with devotion, care, and discretion," which he has always tried to do.

When he then asked Father Koller if he had any suggestions for spiritual reading, he said, "Keep coming back to Saint Teresa of Avila and to Saint John of The Cross." Bishop Quinn, Father Bill remembered, had written something along the same lines in his monthly newsletter to his priests a few years before that. Father Bill had mentioned to him that if there were other diocesan priests who also might like to become Third Order members, Father David Costello, O.C.D., from the Carmelite House of Prayer in Oakville, CA or others there would also show them the way. The bishop had then written in his newsletter that, since Saint Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross were universal doctors of the Church, they had something to teach all of us. However, there were no other takers.



Photo by Pamela Myczek

### Secular Carmelites with Father Reginald McSweeney, O.C.D. 2000

#### CHAPLAINCY TO THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

In the summer of 1986, another religious order reentered his life, this one after a twenty-five year absence. Brother Bede, F.S.C., the religious superior of the Christian Brothers who taught at Christian Brothers High School, asked him if he could offer daily mass for the Brothers during their summer school session that year, which he did. That was the start of his priestly ministry to them as their chaplain that would last until the end of their 2011 school year. At that time, they turned over the day to day operations of their thriving student body to their lay teaching staff and left the Sacramento area completely.



L-R, Brothers Christopher, FSC, Donald, FSC, George, FSC, and Thomas, FSC

**Christian Brothers School**  
Sacramento, California

**W**e it known that **William Joseph Dinelli** having completed the Course of Study prescribed for the High School Department of this institution is awarded this

**Diploma**

and is entitled to all the honors and privileges belonging thereto

Given at Sacramento in the State of California  
this eighth day of June, A. D. nineteen hundred and fifty-two.



*Brother Hackett*  
HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT  
*Brother Bestrom*  
PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL

### THE LOSS OF MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY

Another especially significant event for him during those hospital years was the death of his parents, his mother in 1986 at the age of ninety of congestive heart failure at home where she wanted to be, her mind as sharp as ever, with his father and him at her side. That morning, his father, maybe sensing that her time with them was getting short, said, "The Lord has blessed us. We've been together for a long time," fifty-one years to be exact.



Isabel Virginia Miller Dinelli  
December 23, 1895 – June 10, 1986



College Graduate



Teaching



Retirement



Uncle Frank Machado

Aunt Eva N Miller  
1958

Isabel V Dinelli

*"In my Father's House there are many dwelling places. I am going to prepare a place for you."*

*John 14:2*



Isabel's class somewhere in Northern California circa 1927



Isabel, front row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left and Eva, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right, with fellow teachers circa 1927

# The State of California

To all to whom these Letters shall come Greeting

The Department of Education of the State of California through the  
**State Teachers College of Chico**  
on recommendation of the Faculty of the College has conferred upon

**Isabel Virginia Miller**

who has satisfactorily completed the Requirements therefor the Degree of  
**Bachelor of Arts**  
with all the Rights Privileges and Honors thereunto appertaining

Given by the Department of Education of the  
State of California at Chico this fifth day  
of June nineteen hundred and thirty



*C. M. Osulbaugh* President of the College

*W. Jersey* Director of Education  
of the State of California

# The State of California

**A**wards this  
Life Diploma to **Isabel V. Miller**

It authorizes the holder to teach in any Elementary or Junior High School in the State. It shall remain valid during the life of the holder unless sooner revoked.

By order of the State Board of Education,  
at Sacramento, California, this first day of July,  
1930, and attested by



*C. L. Will Lane*  
President State Board of Education

*W. Jersey*  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
and ex officio Secretary State Board of Education

### THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER

His father's turn came six and a half years later at the age of ninety-two in the emergency room of Mercy Hospital in Sacramento. His heart, too, had been giving him trouble, but, at least, he had been able to be at home until almost the very end. Fr. Bill was glad that he could be at his side, too. After their deaths, he started to live in the family home, since it was just five minutes away from the Medical Center, and has lived there ever since. He only wishes that he could keep the place as neat and tidy as they did, but at least he does not need to look far for exercise.



**William O Dinelli**  
July 21, 1900 – January 8, 1993



Bill, Sr circa 1931



Dinelli Family Reunion, 1968



Southern Pacific Pipe Shop, Sacramento, CA 1946

Bill, Sr, first row, third from left

*"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."*

*John 11:25*



**DEATH OF HIS AUNT AND GODMOTHER, EVA N MILLER**

His aunt and godmother, Miss Eva Miller, had died in 1976. She had always been an important part of his life from the time of his baptism. She always seemed to be among the first to come to his defense, even when the criticism directed his way in the parish may have been justified.



**Eva N Miller, College Grad 1930**



**Grandma Mary & Aunt Eva 1947**

THE SACRAMENTO REE, SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1952



DEFENSE SURVEY — Rickie Jones, Ray Lewis and Earlene Lockhart, left to right, are among 7,680 Sacramento school children who were given questionnaires for their parents to answer in a civil defense survey. The questionnaires are designed to determine the willingness and ability of Sacramento residents to provide temporary shelter for displaced persons in the event of an enemy attack on other cities when Sacramento is not threatened. Eva Miller of the Newton Rose School distributed the survey sheets. Bee Photo

IN MEMORY OF

EVA N. MILLER

A Native of Redding, California  
Born on February 11, 1898  
Passed away in Sacramento  
June 28, 1976

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL  
Wednesday 10:00 A. M.  
June 30, 1976  
Immaculate Conception Church

OFFICIATING  
REVEREND WILLIAM DIHELTI

ROSARY  
Tuesday, 8:00 P. M.  
June 29, 1976

N. G. CULJIS & SON  
CHAPEL OF THE VALLEY

INTERMENT  
St. Mary's Cemetery



Eva N Miller with her students in Maxwell, CA circa 1927

**FIRST SABBATICAL**

*“You will find rest for your souls”* Matthew 11:29



Oakville Community – Serving the Napa Valley since 1953

l-r: BRO. MARK MORAN, FR. MARK KRISTY  
FR. MICHAEL BUCKLEY, FR. DAVID COSTELLO  
FR. GERALD WERNER, BRO. ROGER LARRE

His twenty-five year hospital ministry seemed to pass quickly, and then the millennium had come and the start of a new century. About half way through that year, he started to feel that the time had come for him to serve elsewhere. He had the idea that a new hospital chaplaincy at different hospital might fit the bill. First, though, he wanted to take a three months sabbatical, his first one, and hoped to spend it with the Discalced Carmelite fathers at their House of Prayer in Oakville, CA, which in the heart of the Napa Valley wine country.

Bishop Weigand readily agreed with his proposal as did the Carmelites, and Fr. Brendan O’Sullivan, who looked after priests’ sabbaticals, suggested ways to cover the expenses during the period and saw to it that another priest would replace him while he was away. Bishop Weigand said that he would keep the position at the Medical Center open for him should he wish to return there.

The Discalced Carmelite Order had purchased the old mansion and property for their House of Prayer in 1948 for a reasonable price. The members of the Oakville community lived on the first floor, and the retreat guests on the second in nicely furnished rooms. There were also a number of separate cottages for guests who preferred them. The Carmelite Community consisted of five priests and a lay brother who cooked for them and for their guests. Fr. Reginald Mc Sweeney, O.C.D. was the religious superior of the community as well as the priest moderator of the Sacramento secular order.

Father Bill's main community duty while he was there, besides joining them in their daily community exercises, was to offer the daily mass for the retired Christian Brothers who lived at Mount La Salle in Napa, CA, which was eight miles away. Most of his former teachers by now were dead, although his former principal and senior year religion teacher, Brother Bertram, was alive and as active as ever. After having had breakfast with them one morning, he took a short walk up a hill to the cemetery where he paid his respect to the Brothers who were buried there, one of whom was Brother Damien, his former Latin teacher, who had died so suddenly.



**Carmelite House of Prayer, Oakville, CA**

### **FIRST PASTORATE**

A few days after his sabbatical had ended, Bishop Weigand called him to say that Fr. Cornelius O'Donnell, the pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Walnut Grove, CA, which was located thirty-five miles south of Sacramento and was adjacent to the Sacramento River, had suddenly taken sick and had to return to his home in Ireland. Fr. Bill would take his place as the Priest in Charge. He later visited with Father Con, whom he had known for many years, and as he was leaving, the priest said, "I'll be back." Sadly, though, he died about a year later. And so, at the age of sixty-six, Father Bill would be the one in charge, and he suddenly felt like a fish out of water.

*"Preach the word, stay with the task whether convenient or inconvenient, correcting, reproof, appealing, constantly teaching and never losing patience." 2 Timothy 4:2*

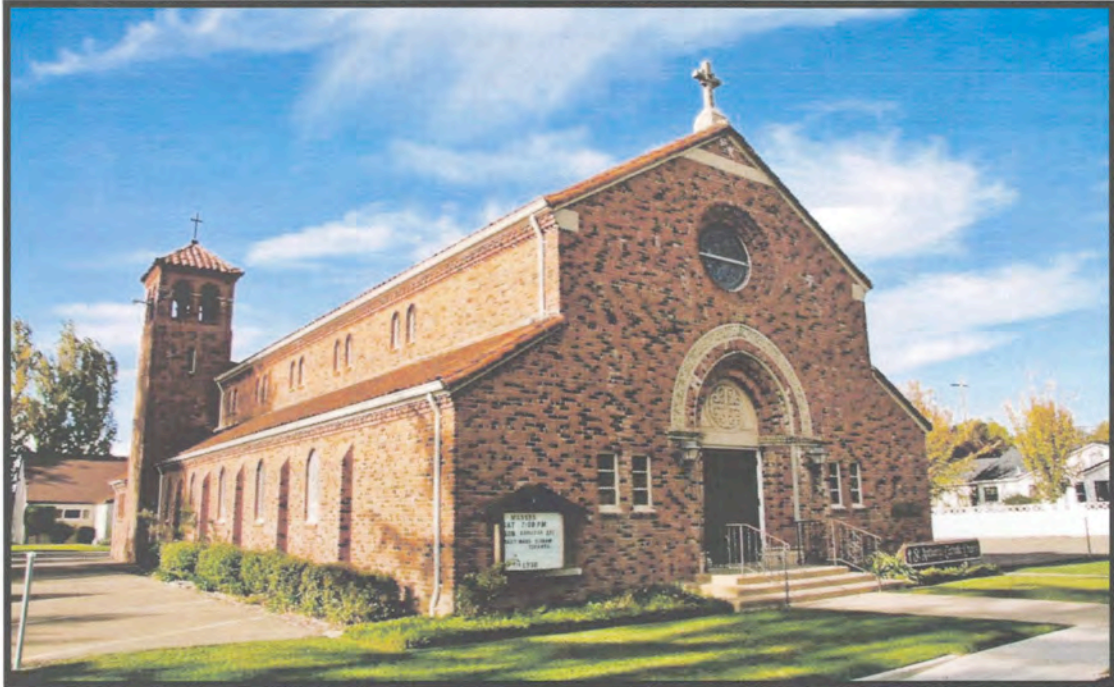


Photo by John E Boll

### Saint Anthony Church, Walnut Grove, CA

It did not help matters when, about a year after his arrival, a small delegation from the parish met with Father Thomas A Bland, Bishop Weigand's Vicar for Priests, asking that he be replaced by someone whom, they felt, would better serve the youth of the parish. Around the same time, he had received a letter from the bishop stating that he had been appointed pastor. Thinking that, if worse came to worse, it might be easier to worm his way out of being a parochial administrator than a pastor, who was expected to serve a six year term, he asked the bishop if he could be made a parochial administrator instead. The bishop wrote back saying that he was a pastor by ordination.

*"Through you Jesus wants to continue the Sermon on the Mount. He wants to see the Kingdom of God proclaimed, heal the sick, convert sinners, bless children, work for the good of all people, and always obey the will of the Father who sent him. In you, the church and the world must see the living God."*

Pope St John Paul II, Great Britain, May 29, 1982



Photo by Nelson Harding

**Brad Papalardo, Parish Council  
Bishop Weigand & Father Bill 2002**



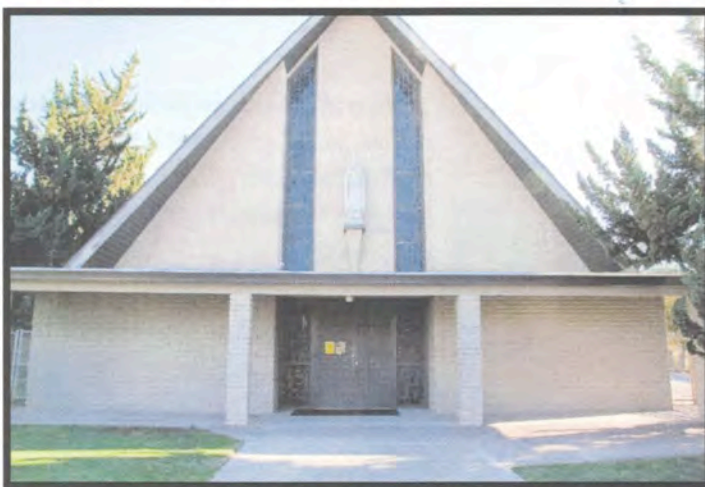
With Parishioner Mr Michael Goulet 2004

Everything, at least as regards to the Catholic youth of the area, if not of the parish, eventually seemed to work out for the best. This happened when a member of the Search team, that offered Cursillo type weekends for youth between sixteen and twenty-four years of age, called to ask if they could hold a Search weekend at St. Anthony's. They felt that the large hall with a kitchen, with large meeting and sleeping rooms, and the spacious grounds would be ideal for the young people to share for a few days.

#### **YOUTH MINISTRY: SEARCH PROGRAM**

The first group arrived on Friday afternoon a few weeks later. What especially impressed Father Bill right away was seeing one of their adult moderators, Lorena, in the church praying for them during their first conference in the church hall that evening. Although he did not attend the sessions, the various talks being given by members of the Search team, one of his duties was to hear confessions on Saturday afternoon, to open and to close the Holy Hour for them that evening, during which they themselves took the initiative as to what to say to The Lord and to one another as they held lighted candles in the darkened church. He also offered mass for them on Sunday afternoon, giving to each one, at the end of mass, a small New Testament. Then, before they left, a group picture was taken in front of the church, and Lorena asked Father Bill if he would join them, saying, "You were one of us."

#### **SAINT THERESA CHURCH, ISLETON, CA**



Two more Search weekends were held while he was there. To him, this is the only type of youth ministry that truly works. During these weekends, the social, instructional, and spiritual aspects of their Catholic faith are brought together and lived together in the Spirit. Hopefully, these young people would later find ways to incorporate these facets of their faith into their relationships with God and with those whom they would be living with and serving in His name.

PASTORAL MINISTRIES



*"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptize them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."  
Matthew 28: 19*

Baptism of Joji G Jensen, March 16, 2005

*"Jesus said to them, 'I am the Bread of Life: He who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst.'  
John 6:51*



First Communion of Renee & Tonya Mignione 2002



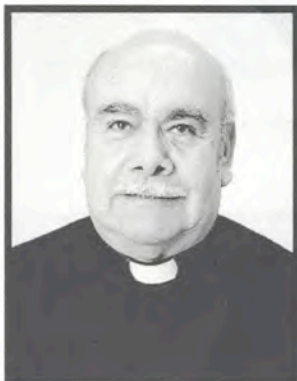
*"A Man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh... What, God therefore, has joined together, let not man put asunder."  
Matthew 19: 506*

Wedding of Ian and Jennie Shewmaker on September 29, 2001

During his years at St. Anthony's he also helped out on Sundays at St. Therese Parish in Isleton, CA, another riverside parish nine miles to the south. Fr. Mario Nunez was its pastor and also offered St. Anthony's Saturday vigil mass in Spanish for the considerable Spanish community in Walnut Grove. Fr. Bill, in turn, offered the 10 A.M. Sunday mass in English for his parishioners. He often enjoyed the priest's Mexican cooking. Every two weeks during his first two years there, Fr Mario invited him over for lunch. In fact, he seemed to make cooking for his parishioners one of his ministries to them in that after offering morning weekday Masses for them he would invite them over to the rectory where he prepared their breakfast, Mexican style, of course. He was truly, Fr Bill feels, a people's padre, and his parishioners loved him for his fatherly care. After he returned to Mexico, the bishop appointed



Deacon Jose Revelo, Parish Steward, with Mrs Revelo



Father Julian Medina

Deacon Jose R. Revelo to be Saint Therese's Deacon Administrator. He also helped with Saint Anthony's Hispanic baptisms and Quinceañeras. The Saturday Spanish Vigil Masses were then offered by Father Julian Medina and later, by Manuel B Soria, pastors of Saint Joseph Parish in Rio Vista.



Father Manuel Soria

### CISTERCIAN ORDER OF THE COMMON OBSERVANCE COMES TO WALNUT GROVE



Father Dominic Tran, O.CIST., Prior

Another especially bright spot in his six year term at St. Anthony's was the coming to the parish of the Cistercian Order of the Common Observance. In 2006. After checking out other places to establish their new Monastery of Chau Son Sacramento, Father Domenic Tran, O. Cist., the prior and his small group of monks decided upon the purchase of fifty acres of prime farm land on Leary Road in Walnut Grove. They bought this property from the members of the Giovannoni family, long time Saint Anthony's parishioners, who had farmed the land for many years.

*"Silence is vital space devoted to the Lord, in an atmosphere of listening to his word and Assimilating it; it is a sanctuary of prayer, the hearth of reflection and contemplation."*

*Pope St John Paul II, Sorrento, March 19, 1992*



Gloria & Anita Giovannoni Transfer Property to the Cistercian Order in Walnut Grove 2006



70th Anniversary of the Foundation of Chau Son Abbey, 1936 -2006.  
Saint Anthony's Church, Walnut Grove, CA 95690, U.S.A.

Bishop William K Weigand Celebrates the Foundation of Chau Son Abbey 2006