

RECOLLECTIONS ON THE VOLUNTEER SERVICES OF THE IRISH AND  
IRISH AMERICANS IN THE THIRTIES AND FOURTIES TO CHRISTIAN  
BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL AT 21st & Broadway, Sacramento

Brother Bertram Coleman, F.S.C.

On the occasion for honoring Msgr. Ed Kavanagh, Father Dan Madigan and Dan Delaney last year as Irish Americans of the Year, I could not help but recall the men and women of my early days in Sacramento who were of great help to Christian Brothers School.

These were the years of the Depression when CBS had difficulty meeting its monthly bills. Brother Patrick Halligan, a native of Claremorris, County Mayo, was the Principal and Brother Joseph Buckley, born in Glenleigh Kilcorney, County Cork, was the Vice-Principal.

These two grand Irishmen had no trouble getting the tremendous support from Fire Chief Terry Mulligan. Firemen like the late Jim Cooke gave of their free time to provide many hours to repair and renovate school buildings and grounds. For the annual fund raiser Bar B Que and Bazaar, Chief Mulligan and Brother Joseph would travel down the River and collect donated beef and produce for the event.

Bill Flaherty, an Irish American plumber, who later was a City Inspector for plumbing, devoted many hours not only making repairs but hustled up volunteers from Luppen and Hawley to put in an entire hot water system throughout the Brothers' residence and the student boarding department. Electrical problems were resolved by the volunteer services of Perry Duhain.

The initial meetings of the La Salle Club, a boosters group for the support of the athletic program, consisted of such Irishmen as Dr. Leo Farrell, Jack Ryan, Tom Armstrong, Bill McQuillan, Bill & Jim Keating joined by men like Hiney Finklestein, Cy Puliz, Al Westlake and Clarence Johnson.

Support for the sports program also came from Tom and Manogue Gormley and Jim Mangan.

Women who assisted the Brothers with sewing, cooking, running whist parties, driving students and faculty to games were Irish or wives of good Irishmen - Tillie Creegan, Bea

McQuillan, Ida Ryan, Mrs. Belke, Mrs. Dunphy along with Alice Dupzyk and Mary Johnson.

The Irish priests were very supportive of the Brothers: (two were chaplains, Msgr. Maurice O'Connor and Father James O'Shea); Msgrs. Horgan and O'Driscoll of the Cathedral, Father O'Sullivan of Immaculate Conception, Msgr. Lyons of Sacred Heart, Msgr. McHugh of Holy Spirit (and the Catholic

Register), and Father McGoldrick of All Hallows; the young priests of the time who volunteered to hear the students' confessions before each First Friday; Fathers Richard Dwyer, Walter Albrect, John Terwilliger, Ed Kavanagh, Raymond Renwald along with the good Portugese priests Msgr. Azevedo, Msgr. Fagundes and Father Ed Mello.

The Irish Sisters of Mercy, who not only staffed St. Joseph's Academy but most of the feeder schools for CBS, were great collaborators with the Brothers in Catholic education in Sacramento.

There were many other men and women who were most helpful during these Depression years of the late thirties and early fourties which escape my memory. If I were to research these years, I could fill a volume with names. But this is just a personal reminiscence off the top of my head associated with the awards currently honoring persons of the 80's and 90's by the Irish American Club of Sacramento.