

# SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

Vol 4

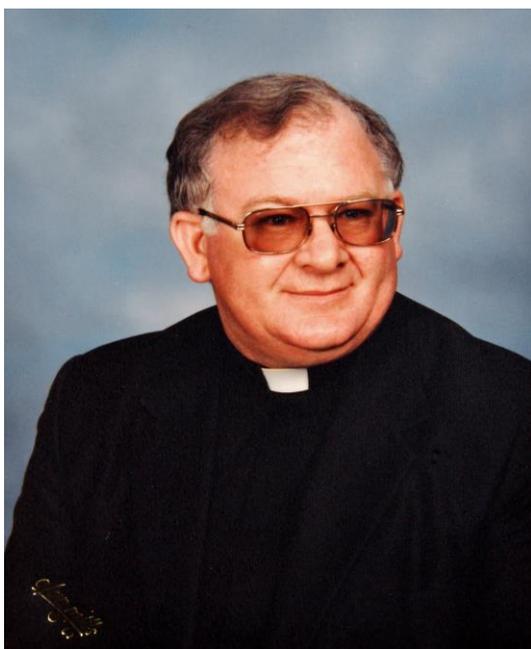
Father John E Boll, Archivist

No 43

## PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS OF THE DIOCESE COMPLETE THE MAT PROGRAM IN 1973

This article is compiled by the Diocesan Archivist from an article in the *Catholic Herald* and a Memorial Booklet from the MAT Program

February 1, 1972 marked the beginning of an incredible achievement for the priests and religious of the Diocese of Sacramento. On that date, the first class was held for a Masters of Arts in Teaching for forty six priests and religious of the diocese.



**Father Patrick McGrath**

The MAT program, as it was known, was created through the persistent hard work of Father Frank Murphy from the University of San Francisco and Father Patrick McGrath, associate director of CCD for the Diocese of Sacramento. It was Father Pat's conviction that ongoing education for clergy in the post Vatican II church was essential. He worked with Father Frank Murphy to begin a dialogue with the University of San Francisco to see if the University would be willing to partner with the Diocese of Sacramento to provide an accredited theological and teaching program for the priests and religious of the diocese. The plan was to create an extension program from the Jesuit University of San Francisco in Sacramento. The professors would travel from San Francisco to Sacramento to teach the weekly class.

Working with Father Frank Murphy at USF, Father McGrath spent hundreds of hours with many different entities – the University of San Francisco, Bishop Alden Bell, the Priests' Senate and the clergy and religious of the diocese before this program became a reality. Paying for the program was a joint venture: 1/3 paid by the diocese; 1/3 by the parish or diocesan department; 1/3 by the priest or religious.

The course of studies took a year and a half with class held once a week at the Sacramento Newman Center. A number of priests who served in the more remote areas of the diocese had to drive to Sacramento each week for class. This travel entailed an additional commitment to

the program including travel time and expense but these dedicated priests made the sacrifices necessary to complete the course of studies.

The MAT program concluded on December 28, 1973 with a Mass and graduation celebration at the Cathedral. At that Mass, the University of San Francisco presented Father Patrick McGrath with a distinguished service award for his work in spearheading the creation of a master's degree program for the priests and religious of the diocese. In part, the citation given to Father McGrath read: "An authentic far-sighted priest, he has devoted many, many hours of his valuable time to ensure the validity of the Program which is essential for the continuing education of clergy and religious. His real concern and contagious enthusiasm have been indispensable ingredients to the success of an educational experience which will be a model in the University's apostolate of service to the Church in other dioceses."



**Fr Patrick McGrath receives a Service Award from USF by Fr John Martin, SJ, Fr Frank Murphy, and Dr Edward Griffin for his dedication to establishing the MAT Program in Sacramento**

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In the January 3, 1974 issue of the *Catholic Herald*, the paper's staff wrote a lead article about the MAT program which now follows:

## **MAT PROGRAM IS CALLED A GREAT SUCCESS**

Folsom State Prison chaplain Father Denis Keaney says it will help him to be a better “conscience” to the warden’s staff. Sister Mary Hartnett, a teacher in Carmichael, learned that the role of the religious educator “is not to indoctrinate, but to guide the student in developing his own individuality.” Father Sean Carrigy, from Saint Catherine parish, Vallejo, acquired an interest in helping the mentally retarded. “I found they can add another dimension to life,” he said.

Three of the participants thus stated the merits of an unusual venture in graduate education, which ended last week in Sacramento. At a special ceremony at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, 34 priests, 11 nuns and a religious brother received from the University of San Francisco the degree of Master of Arts in Teaching of Religion.

After two years of studies in education methods, theology, communication and the behavioral sciences, the 46 graduates are unanimously in praise of the program. Especially because the USF faculty did most of the traveling, holding weekly classes in Sacramento’s Christ the King retreat center and the Sacramento Newman Center.

The educational “outreach” effort was the first of its kind in the US. Starting On February 1, 1972, it was a combined operation, administered by the USF Graduate Division and the School of Education. The professors were specialists in education, theology, communication, psychology, and sociology. The Diocese of Sacramento, which had requested the program, lent local direction through its office of religious education, in the person of Father Patrick McGrath, associate director.

Says Father McGrath: “Since the Second Vatican Council in 1964 the Catholic Church has been telling its religious personnel the education they got in seminary or convent is not enough. This is an age of fantastic change – technical, cultural, and theological. Anyone in a pastoral or teaching position has to understand the process of change in order to remain effective, and therefore has a responsibility to continue to acquire further education. Thus prepared, pastors and teachers can carry on the critical job of proving that human needs do not stop at the physical, that people also need a sense of values, of community, of ultimate goals.”

Since priests, sisters and brothers can’t just close shop and go off to school, USF’s “University to You” program made it possible to realize Vatican II’s advice, Father McGrath declared. For a number of the 46 graduates, it was a matter of meeting the USF community faculty half way.

Father John Healy drove to weekly classes from Sacred Heart Parish in Red Bluff. The round trip was 500 miles for Father Michael Dermody, pastor of the mountain parish of Saint Joseph in McCloud. Sister Rita Carney came up from Stockton, and Father Patrick Lanigan from his pastoral duties at Saint John’s Parish in Chico.

Of the degree recipients, 42 are natives of Ireland recruited to staff the Catholic parishes and schools of the Sacramento diocese. For the more recent arrivals, the USF master's program had the additional value of acculturating them to the process of change, American-style. Says Tipperary-born Father John Cantwell of Holy Spirit parish in Sacramento: "We were educated for a particular Western European culture. This course allowed us to appreciate the American system. It made us more open."

Other comments from the group include these: "It helped synthesize the search for purpose, by desacralizing the "sacred" and "sacralizing the profane."

"A broadening experience compared to the party line of the past."

"Superior to the courses we had in the seminary."

"A builder of community!"

"Gave me a feeling of stability and understanding of the church in an unstable world."

Nearly all the graduates say they plan more education. Most will put their insights to work immediately: in expanded adult education classes, in teaching and counseling grade and high school students, in special ministries.

Folsom's Father Keany says frankly, "it won't help me in teaching religion to inmates, but the degree provides confidence and expertise in my role of counseling the warden and staff on moral problems."

The Friday night commencement homily was given by Father Frank J Murphy who founded the MAT/Religion program at USF and launched the outreach phase in Sacramento. Father Murphy is now superintendent of Catholic Schools in Washington, DC.

USF Graduate Division Dean Father John H Martin, SJ, conferred the degree. In January the University of San Francisco will send faculty members to Monterey, to open a similar program leading to the master's degree in teaching religion. The classes are open to lay persons as well and are pointed toward qualifying teachers of public high school and college teaching classes dealing with religion and moral values.

One of the Sacramento graduates, Chico's Father Patrick Lanigan says he hopes to teach in the religion department of Chico State University next fall.

#### **THOSE WHO RECEIVED THE MAT DEGREE IN 1974**

Reverend John E Boll  
Brother John Brickell  
Sister Clare Buckley  
Reverend John Cantwell  
Sister Rita Carney

Reverend John K Carrigy  
Reverend James F Church  
Reverend Andrew V Coffey  
Reverend John G Cuffe  
Reverend Michael Dermody  
Reverend Michael Dillon  
Reverend Nicholas Duggan  
Sister Margaret Fitzgerald  
Sister Angela Fleming  
Sister Mairead Galvin  
Sister Jane Golden  
Sister Mary Hartnett  
Reverend John Healy  
Reverend Denis P Keaney  
Reverend John J Kyne  
Reverend Patrick J Lanigan  
Reverend Brendan Lawlor  
Reverend Frank Lawlor  
Sister Imelda Lawlor  
Reverend Patrick Vincent Lenehan  
Reverend Daniel A Looney  
Sister Anne Lucey  
Reverend Liam macCarthy  
Reverend Michael C McKeon  
Reverend Thomas J Maguire  
Reverend John J Moloney  
Reverend James Moroney  
Monsignor Patrick M Nolan  
Reverend Maurice J O'Brien  
Reverend Michael O'Connor  
Reverend Michael O'Keeffe  
Reverend P Colm O'Kelly  
Reverend Sean R O'Leary  
Reverend Vincent P O'Reilly  
Reverend William Spring  
Sister Oliver Sullivan  
Reverend Russell G Terra  
Reverend James B Walsh  
Reverend Michael Walsh  
Reverend William K Walsh

Photos from the MAT Book of Memories

Courtesy of Father Maurice O'Brien

THEREIN LIES THE  
NOBILITY  
OF THE  
FAITH.

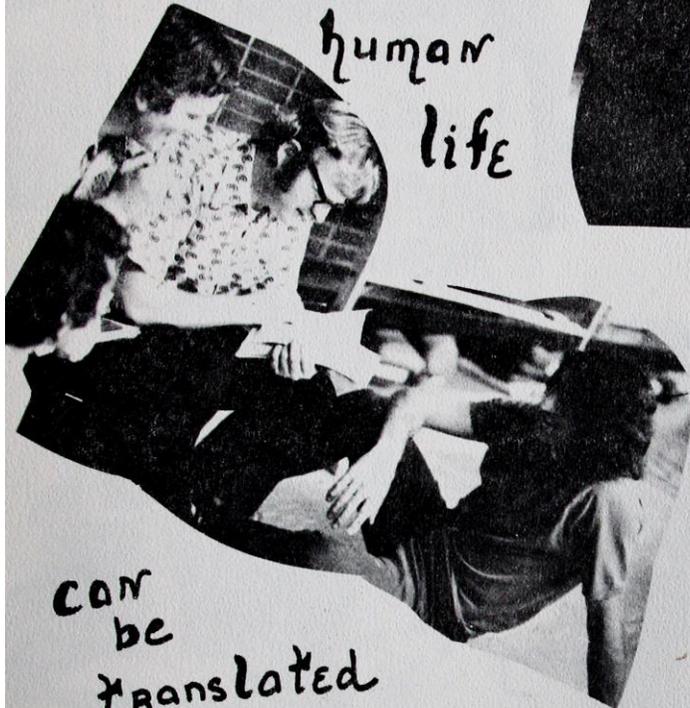
THAT  
WE  
HAVE  
THE  
HEART  
TO DARE  
SOMETHING.



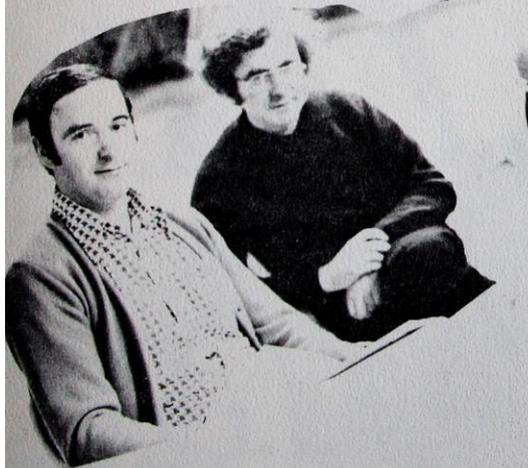
*Cardinal Newman*



"EVERY  
SENTENCE  
of  
human  
life



can  
be  
translated

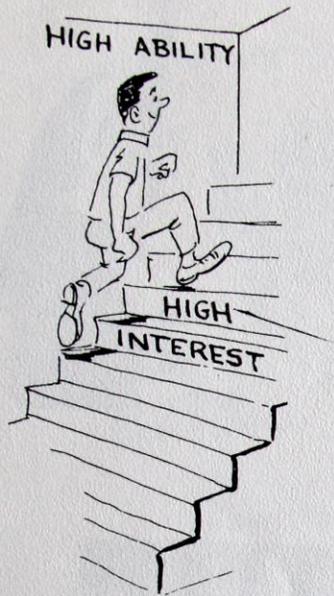


into  
a  
sentence

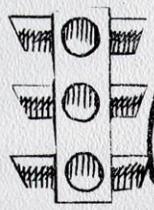


about  
God."

G. Baum.

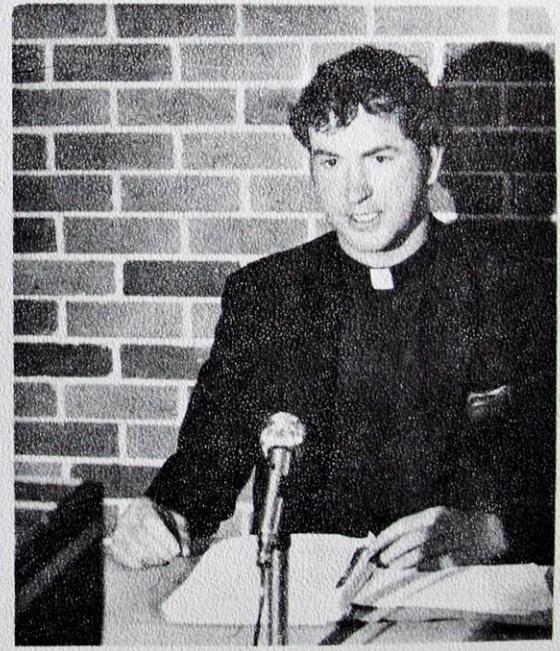


By virtue of  
the Creation,  
and still more  
of the Incarnation,  
nothing here below  
is profane  
for



those who  
know how to see

*piere teilhard de Chardin*



## Professors of the MAT Program

### ECCLESIAL; ECLECTICAL; ECLOGUES

*Sydney Simon met a sister  
Going off to teach,  
Said Sydney Simon to the sister  
"That's quite beyond their reach.  
Give over your dry speculation  
On eschatalogical expectation.  
The here and now revelation  
Lies in Values Clarification."*



*Jim Mackey from Erin's green isle  
In response to a student opine  
On the symbols of bread and wine  
Gave a measured sardonical smile.*



*Hallowed were the Gold Dust Trails,  
The Mother Lode.., such talk;  
Gene Schallert says "such effort fails,  
You'll find your God in chalk."*



*Wildiers of the comely angelic pate,  
views Teilhard in contra-distinction to fate.  
"Now--ledge", says he, of God's infinite plan  
shows process from "any-mal" to man.*



*From the flotsam and jetsam a flare!  
Kevin Gordon in colors so rare;  
If you're flutzin' around  
With your feet off the ground  
The faithful will frown on your fare.*

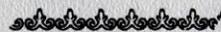


## Professors of the MAT Program

*Kenan Osborne from Theological Union,  
brought erudite worlds to our vision.  
His hellenist world of abstrusion  
left students in utter confusion.*



*Mix Rogers Brunner and Skinner,  
Liz says you come up with a winner.  
If you want to be sheek,  
with elite do not speak  
Of man as a grace-needing sinner.*

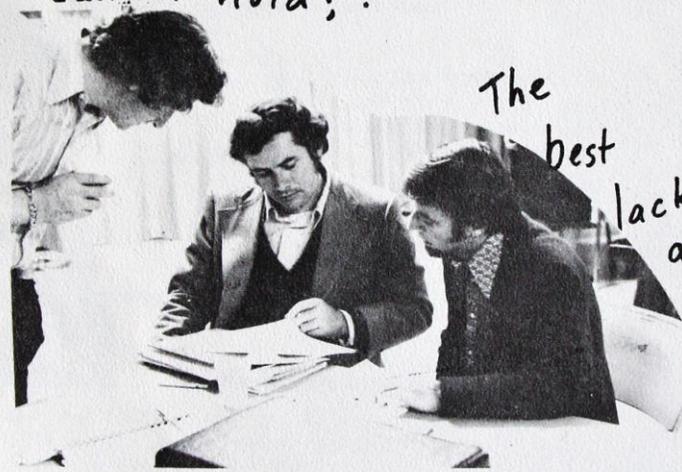
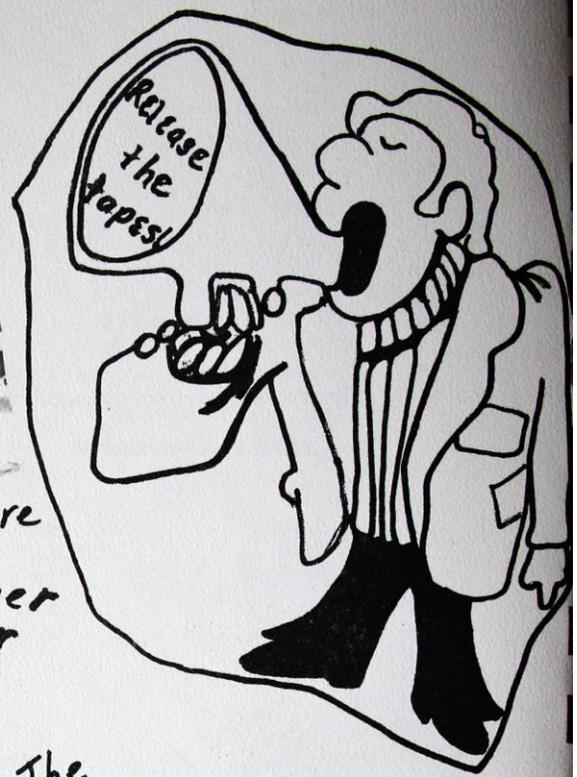


*Matthew, Mark and Luke  
were very simple men.  
They wrote a simple script.  
The gnostics came  
to save mankind.  
(Neo-platonists, Neo-Thomists  
and a Blue Army.)  
In these days came Carl Lyons.  
He de-mythologized the ages  
with hand-outs and electronic syncopation.*





Turning and turning in the widening gyre  
The falcon cannot hear the falconer  
Things fall apart; the center  
cannot hold; .



The best  
lack  
all  
conviction

while the worst  
are full of  
Passionate  
intensity.



W.B. Yeats

*S*LOW ME DOWN, LORD



*and inspire me to  
send my roots deep into the soil of life's enduring  
values*



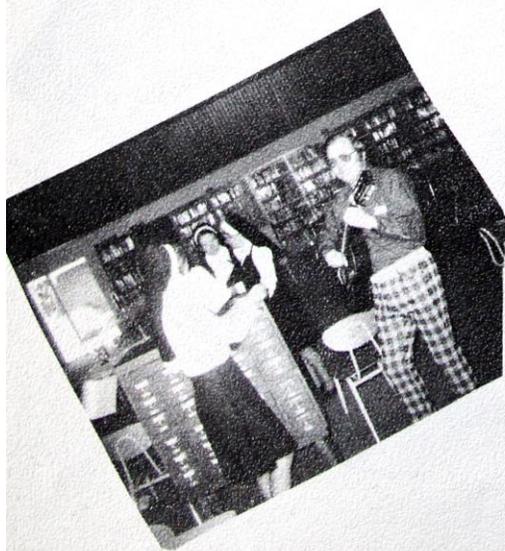
*that I may grow toward the stars  
of my greater destiny.*





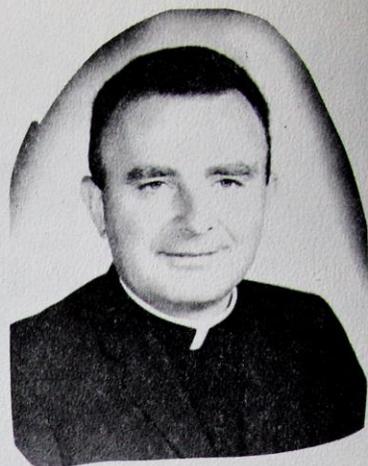
Service  
to the  
World

Pursuit  
of  
Truth



Some day  
after mastering the  
winds, the waves, the tides  
and gravity,  
we shall harness for God  
the energies of LOVE.  
And then  
for the second time  
in the history of  
the world  
man will have discovered  
FIRE  
Teilhard de Chardin

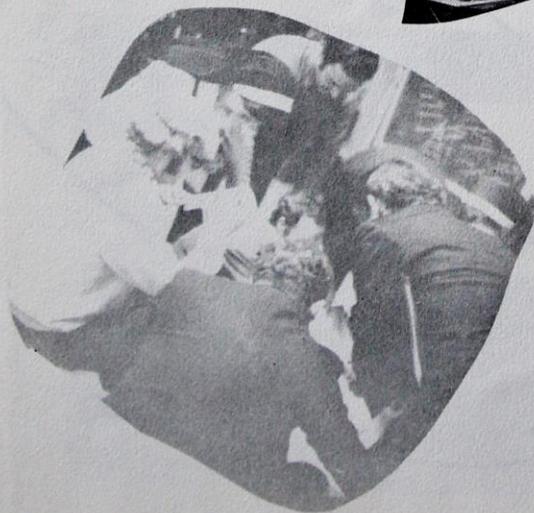
Success  
is NEVER  
final.



Failure  
is NEVER  
fatal..

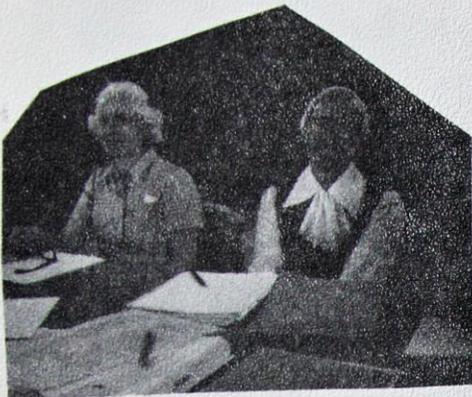


It's  
COURAGE  
that  
counts



Whatever ultimate meaning  
life may have,

this much can be said already—



*Life is a call to share  
in the world's making.*

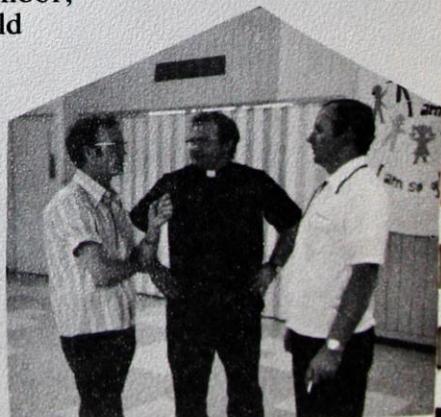
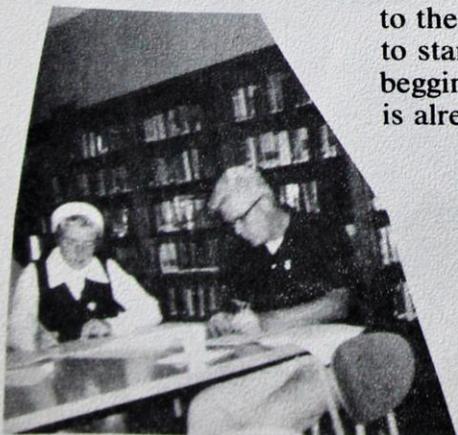


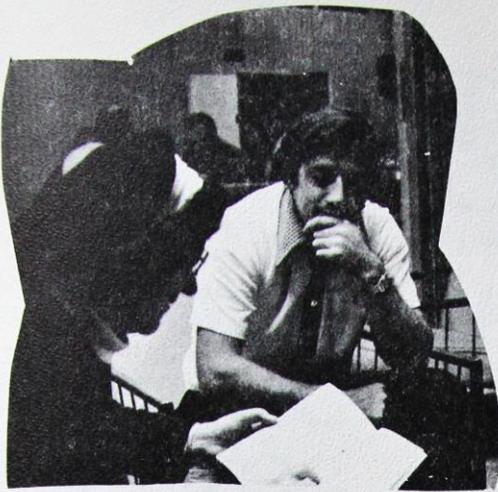
*It is a chance to intervene,  
to contribute,  
to enhance what exists  
by the sheer power  
of one's own presence  
and activity.*



One cannot be good  
simply by avoiding e

To be indifferent or apathetic  
to the needs of one's neighbor,  
to stand aloof from a world  
begging for help,  
is already to be guilty.





*Master teacher in its  
truest sense*

*Attuned to current  
thought and trends*

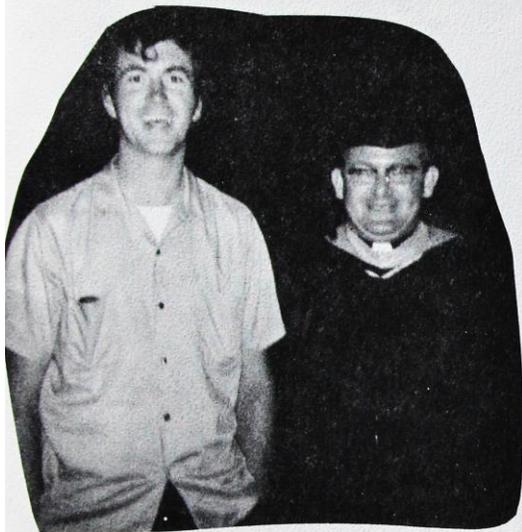
*Resolute, resilient,  
undismayed*

*Ingenuity mirrored  
in imaginative sharing*

*Talent in diverse  
fields so richly used*

*Assuring success  
through generous service*

*Marita, we are grateful!*



We salute a true **PIONEER**  
in the field in which  
we are all engaged  
- one of the very few  
who early seized a  
**VISION**

and worked  
to make it **REAL**  
a vision that has not  
yet exhausted its power  
nor reached its shore  
- a vision embodying a  
belief in

**SELF-DEVELOPMENT**  
and

**CELEBRATION**

We salute you, **Fr. PAT.**

# COMPS.

V. O'Keilly  
M. Dillon  
C. O'Kelly  
S. O'Leary  
N. Duggan  
J. Moroney

St. Ann's

S. Carriag  
M. O'Brien  
J. Walsh  
J. Brickell  
J. Kyne

Solano Co

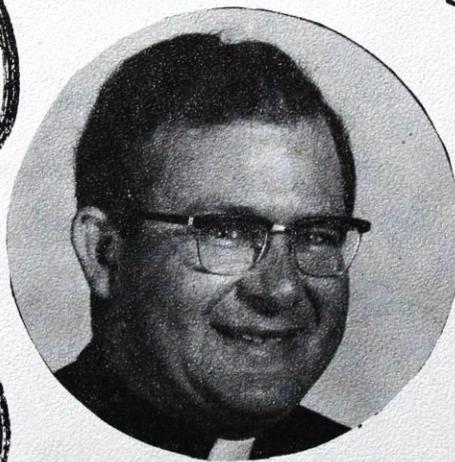
Sr. Imelda  
M. McKeon  
Sr. Anne  
Sr. Deirdre  
Sr. Mairead  
Sr. Clare  
L. McCarthy

Presentation

# PERIPATETIC

J. Boll  
J. Church  
R. Terra  
A. Coffey  
Sr. Rita Carney

Cathedral.



M. O'Keefe  
M. Walsh  
S. Moloney  
V. Lenihan  
T. Maquire

Live Oak

J. Healy  
P. Lanigan  
M. Dermody  
W. Walsh

Dunsmuir

P. Nolan  
M. O'Connor

Galway

# PAT

Sr. Angela  
Sr. Margaret  
Sr. Mary  
Sr. Vianney  
F. Lawlor  
D. Kearney  
Sr. Jane

St. John  
Evan-  
gelist-  
Carmichael.

W. Spring  
B. Lawlor  
J. Cantwell  
J. Cuffe  
D. Looney

St. Charles

**JUNE**  
**1973**

Thanks, Pat, for all you did for us! Rest now in Peace.