



**+ BISHOP FRANCIS ANTHONY QUINN**

**Priest of the Archdiocese of San Francisco 1946 - 1978**  
**Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of San Francisco 1978 - 1979**  
**Seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Sacramento 1980 - 1993**  
**Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Sacramento 1993 – Present**

# SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

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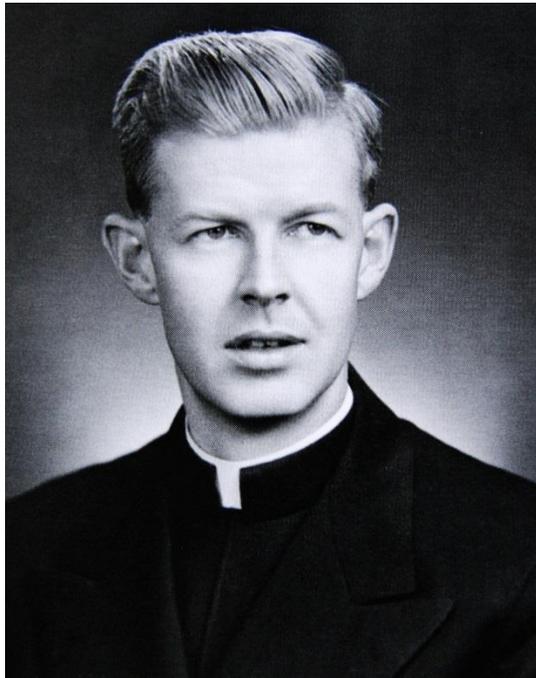
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## Fr John E Boll, Diocesan Archivist

Francis Anthony Quinn was born in Los Angeles on September 11, 1921. Older brother Donnell who lives in Fairfield and Francis are the sons of Frank Quinn and Anne Chierici. Francis' father came from an Irish family and his mother from an Italian family. Francis' father Frank was a superintendent of the Scully Brothers Glove Factory but after his premature death in 1927, Anne Quinn worked for a quarter of a century as a seamstress for a shirt manufacturer to support herself and her two sons.

According to Anne, Francis was "very quiet and studious as a child." He carried newspapers for the Napa *Register* and sold subscriptions to the *Saturday Evening Post*. Francis attended St John Parish Parochial School in Napa and then, at the age of fourteen, entered St Joseph Seminary in Mountain View to begin his studies for the priesthood for service to the Church of San Francisco.

Upon completing his theological studies at St Patrick Seminary, Menlo Park, Archbishop John



**The Young Father Quinn**

Mitty ordained Francis a priest on June 15, 1946. After a couple months in parish ministry, the newly ordained Fr Quinn was sent to the Catholic University of America where he earned a Master's Degree in education. Returning to San Francisco, Fr Quinn was assigned to Serra High School in San Mateo where he taught for three years. Between 1950 and 1955, he was on the faculty of Sacred Heart High School in San Francisco. In 1955, he became associate superintendent of schools for the archdiocese, a position he held until 1962.

Shortly after receiving his doctorate degree from the University of California at Berkeley, Fr Quinn became editor of *The Monitor*, the archdiocesan newspaper. In the succeeding decade he guided the editorial policy of *The Monitor*, a weekly Catholic newspaper read by Catholics throughout the Bay Area.

Fr Quinn was a talented writer and wrote a column for *The Monitor* beginning in February 1952 entitled *The Faith in You*. He later co-authored a four volume *Complete Group Guidance for Catholic High Schools* and was on the drafting committee for the booklet "*As One Who Serves*." He also served in several other roles during that time, including secretary of the Roman Catholic

Welfare Corporation and commission chairman for the Western Education Association. He was named director of Radio and TV for the archdiocese in 1962. That same year, Fr Quinn was named a monsignor by Pope John XXIII.

In 1970, Archbishop Joseph McGucken appointed Monsignor Quinn pastor of St Gabriel Parish and a member of the archdiocesan Board of Consulters. He served as president of the Priests' Senate in 1973-74 and the following year was president of the Region XI Conference of Priests Senates.

On April 28, 1978, Pope Paul VI named both Monsignor Francis Quinn and Monsignor Pierre Dumaine as auxiliary bishops of San Francisco. Bishop-elect Quinn was named the Titular Bishop of Numana and auxiliary bishop of San Francisco. Both Francis Quinn and Pierre Dumaine were ordained bishops on June 29, 1978 at St Mary Cathedral in San Francisco by Archbishop John R Quinn and co-consecrators Archbishop Joseph Thomas McGucken and Bishop William Joseph McDonald. At that time, Bishop Quinn described the work of bishops as that of "giving leadership and cooperating with all resources of the community bringing as many people as possible to God and to His healing, reconciliation and love."



After only one and a half years as auxiliary, Bishop Quinn was appointed seventh Bishop of Sacramento on December 18, 1979 by Pope John Paul II, succeeding Bishop Alden J Bell who retired that same year. He was installed as Bishop of Sacramento on February 18, 1980 by San Francisco Archbishop John R Quinn in the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium.

Bishop Quinn never moved into the Bishop's Residence on Fair Oaks Boulevard but instead invited Bishop Bell to continue living in the house until his death in 1982. Bishop Quinn chose to move into the cathedral rectory taking a single room in the basement of the house as his quarters. He continued to make this room his home until he retired and left Sacramento in 1994 to work in the Native American missions in Arizona.

Under Bishop Quinn's guidance and support, a diocesan-wide spiritual renewal program called **Renew** took root and flourished. This weekly program still continues today in some parishes of the diocese as parishioners gather weekly to study the Sunday Scriptures together. A Diocesan

Pastoral Council was formed by bringing together a group of laity from different parishes of the diocese as well as some priests and religious who represented the pastoral life in the diocese. These served as advisers to Bishop Quinn in his pastoral role as bishop.

From 1980-1992, Bishop Quinn oversaw the establishment of seven new parishes, several missions, two elementary schools and the opening of Bishop Quinn High School in Redding. In that same year he called together a group of consultants to prepare for the second Diocesan Pastoral Plan.



Bishop Quinn reached out to women and fostered lay ministry and involvement. He appointed Mercy Sister Bridget Mary Flynn as chancellor of the diocese. He welcomed many men into the permanent diaconate and he focused on a number of social justice issues, elevating them to a level of heightened awareness among local Catholics. He even took the prophetic action of spending a couple of nights sleeping

outside the Federal Building in Sacramento with the homeless to raise the issue of the plight of the homeless to the community. The need to give aid and ministry to the poor and homeless was an essential social justice issue for him.

In an interview with the Sacramento Bee, Bishop Quinn stated that some of his happiest memories as bishop of the diocese were celebrations of Christmas and Easter Masses with those incarcerated in state prisons in the diocese and celebrations in the Cathedral like Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Christmas Midnight Mass, the annual Easter Vigil and the yearly Jazz Masses during the annual Sacramento Jazz Festival weekend in May.

Bishop Quinn was a master preacher and always captivated the imagination and heart of youth during his homilies when he came to parishes for confirmation. He had the ability to speak the language of the youth and to engage their minds, captured their attention and touch their hearts.

No one had a more powerful influence in the Sacramento community and diocese than Bishop Quinn. He always affirmed people of all faiths, extended a welcome to them and showed them friendship and hospitality. He was admired by all because he was not just bishop of the Catholic community but was seen as the bishop of people of all faiths living in the Sacramento Valley.

Indeed, he was and is “a man for others” and he continues to embrace everyone with the love and compassion of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Although only 72 at the time, Bishop Quinn petitioned the pope to retire and his request was granted on November 30, 1993. He wanted to pursue his dream of serving the Native Americans in the southwest while he still had the energy. He moved to Tucson, AZ and began a traveling ministry to the Tohono O'odham (Papago) and Pascua Yaqui reservations around Tucson. He lived in the RV given to him by the priests of Sacramento as a farewell retirement gift. He drove from reservation to reservation ministering to his parishioners, celebrating Sunday Mass, baptizing and confirming their children, officiating at their marriages and celebrating the funeral liturgy for their deceased loved ones. He had now returned to the mission being a parish priest once again.



#### **Bishop Quinn at age 91**

After serving the Native Americans in the Tucson diocese for a dozen years, he returned to Sacramento in 2007 at the age of 86 to begin his second retirement. He moved into Mercy McMahan Terrace across the street from Sacred Heart Parish and Mercy Hospital. Although he struggles with a heart condition, his mind is as sharp as ever and he continues to be the same welcoming pastor who appreciates the many who stop by to visit him.

We, the people of God of the Diocese of Sacramento, are blessed to have had Bishop Quinn as our bishop, pastor and friend and we thank God that he still walks the journey of faith with us today at age 90 as he begins his 10<sup>th</sup> decade of life.

Bishop Quinn has been a prophetic voice of God's justice, mercy and compassion in our midst. We thank God for sending him from San Francisco to the Church of Sacramento and for being the Good Shepherd after the example of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. May God continue to bless each day of his life as he journeys with us toward the fullness of the Kingdom of God.



**Bishop Francis Anthony Quinn's Coat of Arms**

**"Love God, Love One Another"**