



+ *Bishop Patrick Joseph Keane*

Priest of the Archdiocese of San Francisco 1895 -1920

Auxiliary Bishop of Sacramento 1920 - 1922

Third Bishop of the Diocese of Sacramento 1922 - 1928

1872-1928

# SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

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## Fr John E Boll, Diocesan Archivist

With the death of Bishop Thomas Grace on December 27, 1921, the end of California's expansive Golden Age had come to an end. The last curtain had fallen on one of the most extraordinary chapters of American history with its larger than life pioneers of the Golden West and its rapid increase of population. Yet, the faith, strength, courage and example of those early pioneers were passed on to those who followed in their footsteps. Among the heirs and benefactors of that great and noble heritage was Patrick Joseph Keane who had been called to walk beside Bishop Thomas Grace in the final months of his life.

Patrick Joseph Keane was born in Ballybunion, County Kerry, Ireland on January 6, 1872, the son of Jeremiah and Mary (Kissane) Keane. He studied for the priesthood at St Michael College, Listowell and St Patrick College, Carlow, Ireland. He spent his final years of study at the Theological College of the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

Following the path of his distinguished uncle, Fr Patrick O'Kane (1841-1926), one of the most colorful Irish born-priests to serve along the Gold Dust Trail, young Keane decided to attach himself to the Church in California and on June 20, 1895, was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

Upon arrival in San Francisco, Archbishop Patrick Riordan appointed the young Fr Keane to St Patrick Church on Mission Street to serve as a curate. In 1905, Keane became pastor of St Francis Church in Oakland where he served for the next 15 years.

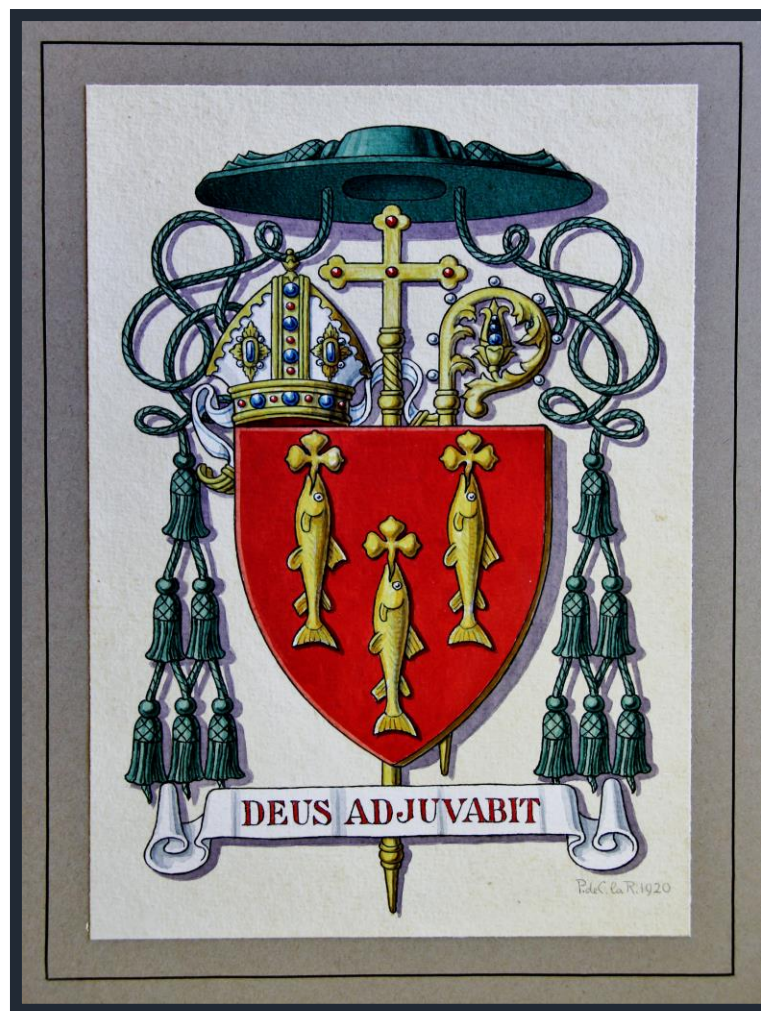
With advancing age and declining health of Bishop Thomas Grace in Sacramento, Pope Benedict XV had intended to appoint Father Keane as auxiliary bishop of Sacramento but the pope died on January 22, 1920 before making the appointment. It was left to his successor, Pope Pius XI, to make the episcopal appointment on September 10, 1920, naming Father Keane Titular Bishop of Sebaste in Palestine and auxiliary bishop of Sacramento. Bishop-elect Keane was 48 at the time of his episcopal ordination on December 4, 1920. San Francisco Archbishop Edward Joseph Hanna was the principal consecrating bishop and Archbishop John Joseph Cantwell of Los Angeles and Bishop Thomas Grace of Sacramento were co-consecrators.

A year later, on December 27, 1921, Bishop Grace died in Sacramento. On St Patrick's Day, March 17, 1922, Bishop Keane was named Bishop of the Diocese of Sacramento, a position he held for the next six years. Besides his spiritual leadership of the diocese, Bishop Keane made a notable contribution to the Church of Sacramento by extending the Catholic school system to north and south sections of the diocese. He also supported the building of *Mater Misericordiae* Hospital on 40<sup>th</sup> and J Streets in Sacramento which was operated by the Sisters of Mercy of Auburn. In addition, he undertook the remodeling and updating of Sacramento's

historic Catholic cathedral that had been built by Bishop Patrick Manogue and opened in June 1889.

Bishop Keane died on September 1, 1928 after only six years as bishop of the diocese. But in that short time, like his predecessors, he “planted deep in the hearts of the Western youth the vigorous roots of Eternal Truth.” His body was laid to rest in the Bishops’ Crypt at Saint Mary Cemetery Mausoleum where he joined his predecessors, Bishops O’Connell, Manogue and Grace.

*May God grant Patrick Joseph Keane the gift of eternal life for his ministry as shepherd of the Church of Sacramento. Bishop Patrick, intercede for the Church of Sacramento of this twenty-first century that we may pass on the legacy of faith, charity and service to the next generation.*



From the Diocesan Archives

**Bishop Patrick Joseph Keane's Coat of Arms**  
*"God will help"*