

SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

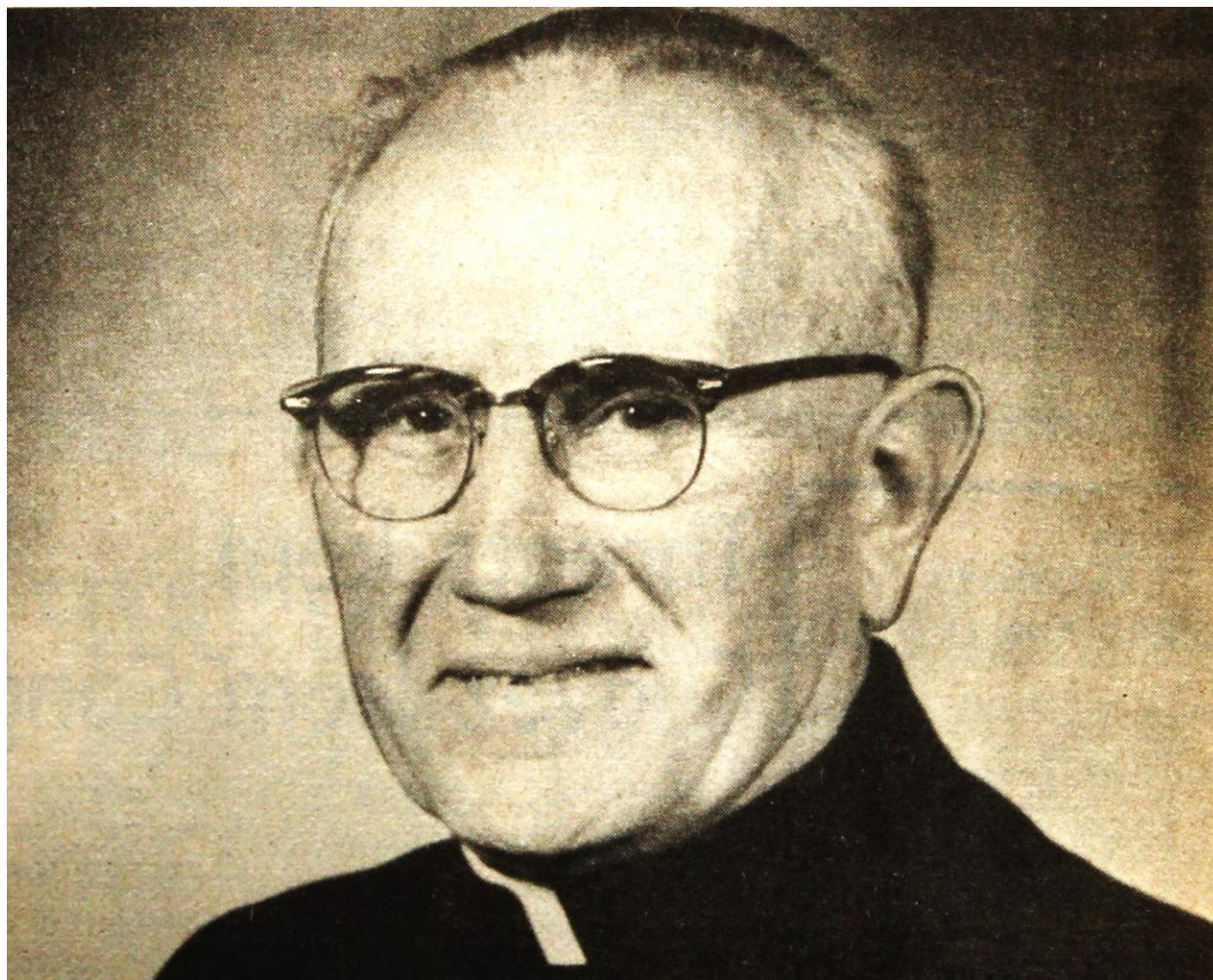
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MONSIGNOR GERALD O'DRISCOLL Pastor Emeritus of Sacred Heart Church, Sacramento Called Home by God

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Monsignor Gerald Joseph O'Driscoll

Priests, religious and laity from all over the diocese gathered at Sacred Heart Church, Sacramento on Wednesday morning to celebrate the Mass of Christian Burial for Monsignor Gerald Joseph O'Driscoll who died last Saturday, August 7, 1976.

Bishop Alden J Bell, Bishop John Cummins and 14 priests concelebrated the Mass in the parish where Monsignor O'Driscoll has served as pastor for 12 years before being named pastor emeritus in 1970.

In his homily, Father James Kenny, pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Church, Carmichael, and a long-time friend of Monsignor O'Driscoll recalled his great love for nature. "He loved the calm serenity of the mountains, the fertile valley, the sound of the brooks," Father Kenny said. "He found sermons in stones and good in everything."

Father Kenny called Monsignor O'Driscoll "one of the new apostles, chosen by Christ; a man to match our mountains." He chose Robert Louis Stevenson's "Epitaph" as a fitting tribute to Monsignor O'Driscoll.

*Under the wide and starry sky
Dig the grave and let me lie.
Glad did I live, and gladly die,
And I laid me down with a will.
This be the verse you gave for me:
"Here he lies, where he longed to be;
Home is the sailor, home from the sea.
And the hunter home from the hill."*

A native of Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland Monsignor O'Driscoll came to Sacramento in 1920. He was ordained to the priesthood at All Hallows Seminary in Dublin. His first assignment was assistant pastor at Saint Joseph Church, Auburn. He also served as an assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Church, Susanville, and as pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Alturas, and Sacred Heart Church, Gridley, before coming to the Cathedral as rector in 1942.

Monsignor O'Driscoll was chancellor of the diocese, as well as rector of the Cathedral, from 1943 to 1951. In 1945, he was named a Domestic Prelate by Pope Pius XII.

He was appointed pastor of Saint John the Baptist Church, Chico in 1951 before coming to Sacred Heart Church, Sacramento in 1958.

Over the years, he has served as Chairman of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, a member of the Board of Diocesan Consulters, and a member of the Marriage Tribunal. He was well-remembered for his outstanding work in the Korean Rice Corporation and his deep interest in the Legion of Mary.

Monsignor O'Driscoll is survived by his sisters, Theresa Rooney of Tralee and May Fleming of Killarney, and a nephew, Joseph Lynch of San Francisco.

After the Funeral Mass for Monsignor O'Driscoll, his body was laid to rest in the Priests' Section of Saint Mary Cemetery in Sacramento.