

# SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

Vol 3

Father John E Boll

No 41

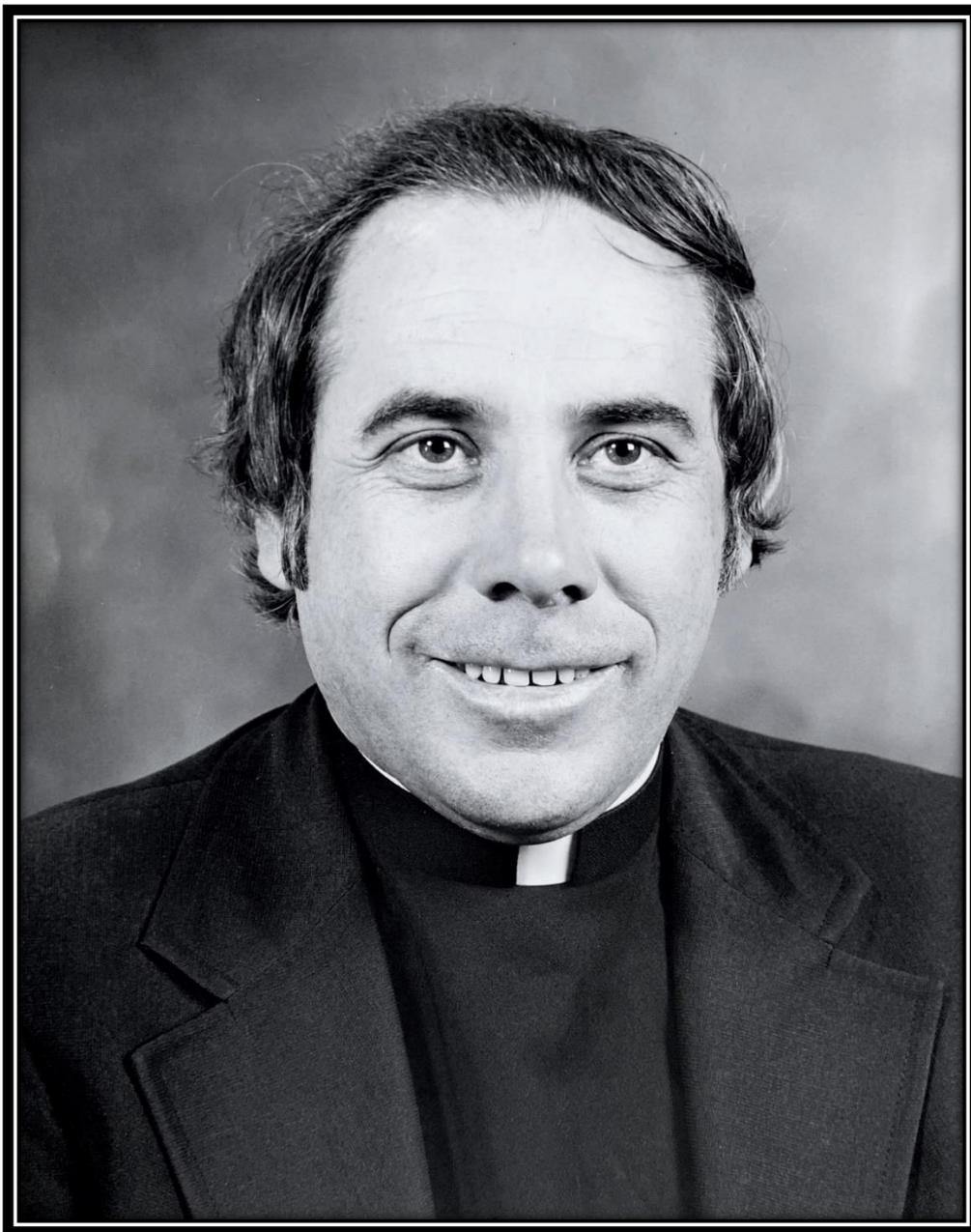
## *Father Daniel Madigan*

Native of Shanagolden, County Limerick, Ireland

Priest of the Diocese of Sacramento

Founder of the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services

Pastor Emeritus of Saint Joseph Parish, Clarksburg, California



**Daniel Madigan, son of Patrick Madigan and Aileen Culhane**, was born on March 9, 1938 in the Madigan home in the district of Ballycormack adjacent to the village of Shanagolden, County Limerick, Ireland. Dan is the fifth child of nine born in the Madigan family, four girls and five boys. Three of Dan's four sisters were senior to him and his younger sister died of meningitis shortly before reaching her fifth birthday.

Patrick Madigan operated the family farm that his ancestors had before him. Aileen, Dan's mother, helped her husband in every way, in addition of taking care of her nine children. The Madigan family was an industrious and happy household. Because they were able to live off the land, this saved them from the stringent rationing that was imposed on food items both in Ireland and England during and following the years of World War II.

Dan says that his parents were clearly in charge of the family and his mother was the vocal leader. His father Patrick was the quieter partner. Although both his parents were gentle, kind and loving, they were not wishy-washy. The children always knew where their parents stood with them. Conduct standards were well defined and accountability demanded. Daily workload expected to be accomplished; laziness unaccepted; and aspirations always encouraged.



Photo courtesy of Fr Dan Madigan

**Patrick and Aileen Madigan, Father Dan's Parents**

### **DAN BEGINS HIS EDUCATION**

Dan began his primary education in Shanagolden. In order to get to school, he had to walk two miles to school and home again each day. Dan did not get along with his kindergarten teacher. She was a strong woman and he was a shy boy who had a habit of letting his head hang down. His next teacher, with the help of the class, made a ball of paper, put straight pins in it and placed it under Dan's chin in an attempt to keep his head straight. This action did little to help his self-esteem and nothing to cure him of his shyness to this day.

Dan's final teacher in primary school was a man. Dan's mother told the teacher that Dan was going to take the entrance exam for Saint Munchin's College in Limerick and asked if the teacher could give Dan a little help to prepare for the exam. After dismissing the class one evening, the teacher examined Dan on some material which Dan did not know. The teacher belted Dan with his fist until his nose began to bleed. This ended Dan's one and only tutoring class. Dan says he believes the teacher felt bad about what he did and Dan felt more inadequate than ever.

While elementary school was not that enjoyable for Dan, he says home life was terrific. Lots of happy events come to mind: the yearly visit of the threshing machine to his home; the stone breaker coming to the neighborhood; saving the hay; cutting the turf; checking the rabbit snares on cold frosty nights; playing cards; going to wakes, funerals and the greyhound racing at Adare.

### **BOARDING SCHOOL AT SAINT MUNCHIN**

Having completed his elementary education in Shanagolden village, Dan began his secondary education at Saint Munchin's College in Limerick City. Since the school was some distance from his home, he became a boarding student and returned to his family for Christmas and summer vacation.

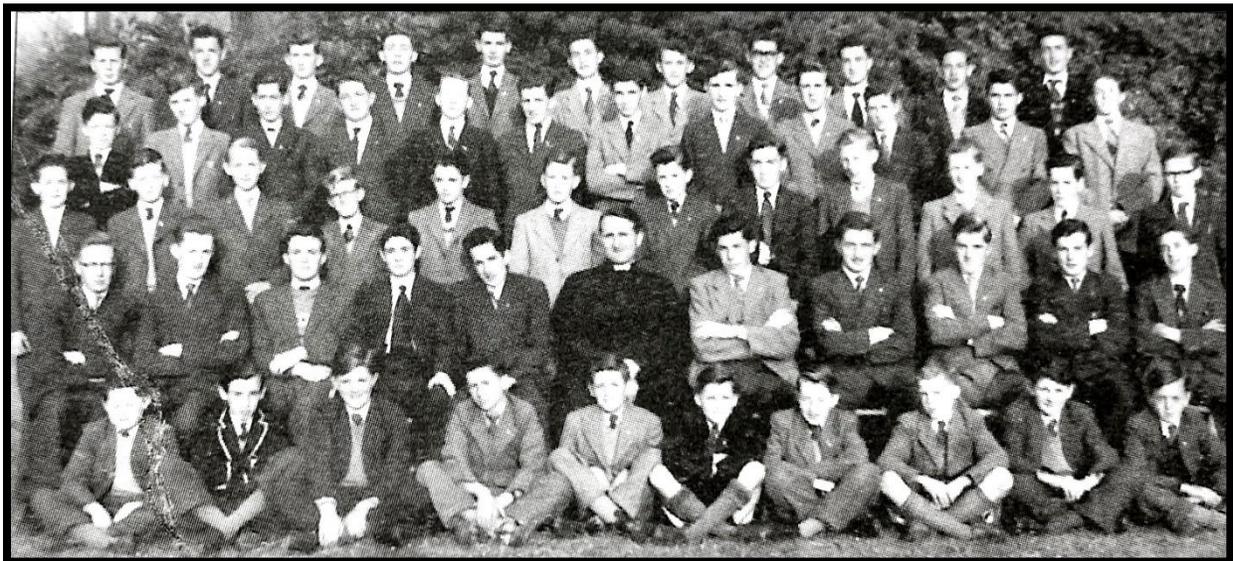


Photo courtesy of Fr Madigan

**Dan's Class at St Munchin College**  
Dan is seated on Father Galvin's left

Saint Munchin College was staffed by diocesan priests. Most of the priests were kind and reasonable but a few were tough, cold and unhappy. In retrospect, Dan says that during his time at this college, some of the priests were frustrated, student morale not that great, food poor, discipline harsh, and the heating system inadequate.

Saint Munchin College was a minor seminary in the sense that one had to board there to qualify for possible entrance to Maynooth, which was the major seminary for all the dioceses of Ireland. Dan showed up at Saint Munchin with little enthusiasm as he very much missed his family, the small village of Shanagolden and all the beautiful people who lived there.



Photo by ARC Aerial Photography, Ireland

### **Saint Munchin College, Limerick, Ireland**

#### **THE CALL TO PRIESTHOOD**

Dan says that quite early in his life it was communicated to him by teachers, neighbors, relatives and his own family that he should become a priest. The more the idea caught on with the family, the more it seemed to become an automatic expectation. Upon graduating from Saint Munchin College, Dan's brother John was already a priest and ministering in the Diocese of Washington, DC after being ordained at Saint Kieran's College, Kilkenny.

Dan's family expected him to stay in the home diocese of Limerick. That would mean he would have to attend Maynooth Seminary. To satisfy the family, he agreed to take the entrance exam. At the same time, he made sure that by the level of skill he displayed in that exam he would not qualify for acceptance. However, his plan backfired. Dan does not think anyone ever looked at those examination papers because he was accepted as a candidate for Maynooth. He had to quickly dig his heels in and refused the privilege of going to Maynooth.



Photo from the Maynooth Website

### **Maynooth Seminary**

Following the exam, Father Donie O'Brien, president of Saint Munchin College, invited Dan to his office. He informed Dan that the Limerick Diocese had one seat in the Irish College in Rome and it was his for the taking. Dan politely told Father O'Brien he was not interested. Father O'Brien was offended because he himself had attended the Irish College in Rome.

### **SAINT KIERAN'S SEMINARY, KILKENNY**

After graduating from Saint Munchin's College, Dan set his sights on Saint Kieran's Seminary in Kilkenny, the seminary his brother John had attended ten years before him. During his first weeks at Saint Kieran Seminary, Sacramento Bishop Joseph T McGucken came to visit. The bishop addressed the seminarians and told them the Diocese of Sacramento in Northern California was growing rapidly and in urgent need for people to spread the Gospel. He spoke of the plight of the seasonal farmworkers from Mexico who were not treated fairly. This particularly touched Dan since it reminded him of the workers of Ireland who left their villages and went to England to find jobs in order to survive. Dan thought Bishop McGucken spoke forcefully and convincingly.



**Bishop McGucken**



Photo from St Kieran's Website

### **Saint Kieran Seminary, Kilkenny**

Weeks later, Dan ended up in the office of the college president who admonished him strongly for choosing to serve in the Diocese of Sacramento. The president said, "If Washington DC is good enough for your brother, it is good enough for you." He missed the point that Dan just did not want to go to Washington, DC.

Years later, this same president visited the USA and was hosted by Dan's brother Father John. He was impressed with John's warm welcome and when he returned to Saint Kieran's, he sought Dan out to tell him: "*You will never be half the man your brother is.*" But time would prove that the president of Saint Munchin College was very wrong in his assessment of Dan Madigan!

### **LIFE AT SAINT KIERAN'S SEMINARY**

While at Saint Kieran's Seminary, Dan studied two years of philosophy and four years of theology. These were uneventful years but in retrospect, he regards those days as quite significant in his life since they provided a philosophical and theological basis for all the subsequent activities he would find himself doing as a priest.

Dan says that the major seminary was militaristic in character. The seminarians were always addressed as "mister". Students were never free to ask any questions in class. If a student did have a question, he could write a note to the professor which he *may* answer at his next lecture.

The method of getting a note to the professor was to use a small piece of paper, fold it, write the professor's name on the outside and toss it over the shoulder of the person in front. He in turn did the same thing and eventually one's note found itself at the desk of the man in the front seat of that particular row of the lecture hall. This person was authorized to open the note, read it, and if deemed worthy of the professor's attention, place it on the rostrum.

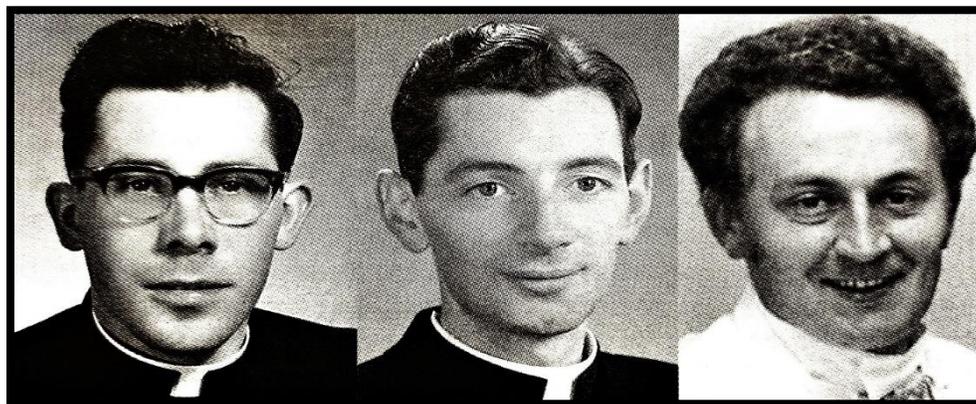


Photo courtesy of Fr Dan Madigan

### **Dan and two Close Friends, Mike Ryan and Jim Corcoran**



Photo courtesy of Fr Madigan

### **Dan Madigan and his Classmates at Saint Kieran Seminary**

In the class photo above, Dan's classmates are, top row, L-R: Ralph Keys (Jefferson City); Desmond McGiven (Hexham & Newcastle, England); Jerry Joyce (Ossory, Ireland); Peter Russell (Jefferson City); Sean Garrett (San Antonio); Dan Madigan (Sacramento).

Bottom row: Hugh Rafferty (Providence); Albert Fitzgerald (Brentwood, England) Jim Murray (Providence); Eugene Nee (San Antonio); Brendan Lawless (Jefferson City); Tom Sheridan (Cheyenne).

## **ORDINATION**

Dan Madigan was ordained a priest on Sunday, June 7, 1964 in Saint Mary Cathedral in Kilkenny by Bishop Peter Birch of the Diocese of Ossory (Kilkenny). His class of twelve was one of the smallest the college ever ordained. Ten years prior, Father Dan's brother Father John was ordained from Saint Kieran Seminary in a class of thirty-two.



Photo courtesy of Fr Dan Madigan

**Family Photo on Father Dan's Ordination Day in 1964**

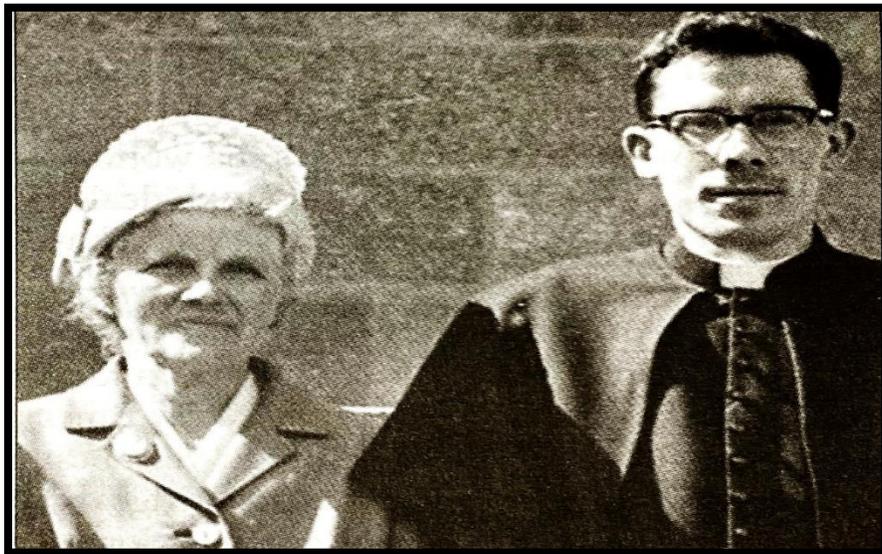


Photo courtesy of Fr Dan Madigan

**Father Dan and his Mother Aileen on his Ordination Day**

# St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny Fourth Divines 1964

EUNTES DOCETE OMNES GENTES



REV. THOMAS SHERIDAN  
CHEYENNE



REV. JEREMIAH JOYCE  
OSSBORY



PETER RUSSELL  
JEFFERSON CITY



MOST REV. P. BIRCH D.D.  
BISHOP OF OSSBORY



VERY REV. GABRIEL CANON LOUGHRY STL.  
PRESIDENT



REV. DESMOND MCGOVERN  
HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE



REV. BRENDAN LAWLESS  
JEFFERSON CITY



REV. SEAN GARRETT  
SAN ANTONIO



POPE PAUL VI AND PATRIARCH ATHENAGORUS  
UT OMNES UNUM SINT



REV. EUGENE NEEL  
SAN ANTONIO



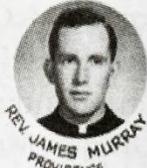
REV. RAPHAEL P. KEYES  
JEFFERSON CITY



REV. ALBERT FITZGERALD  
BRENTWOOD



REV. DANIEL MADIGAN  
SACRAMENTO



REV. JAMES MURRAY  
PROVIDENCE



REV. HUGH RAFFERTY  
PROVIDENCE



REV. MICHAEL CARROLL D.D.  
PROFESSOR



REV. JOHN HOLOHAN B.A.  
SENIOR DEAN



REV. JAMES BRENNAN D.D., S.S., B.A.  
PROFESSOR



REV. PATRICK GRACE B.A., STL., R.  
PROFESSOR



REV. TIMOTHY O'CONNOR B.A., STL., R., STL., R.  
JUNIOR DEAN



REV. CORNELIUS SHEEHAN B.A.  
PROFESSOR

Ordained Sunday June 7th 1964

*Lafayette, Dublin*

Saint Kieran Seminary Ordination Class of 1964

## **SERVES A YEAR IN LIMERICK**

After his ordination, Father Dan attended to all necessary examinations preliminary to receiving a visa for the USA. However, the doctors at the American Embassy in Dublin had some rather disconcerting news for him. Due to the fact that Dan once had tuberculosis for a year while in the seminary, it was necessary that he show a clean bill of health for at least three years before being eligible for consideration to become a resident in the USA.

The Diocese of Sacramento decided that Father Dan should apply to the Canadian Consulate for admission to Canada. Bishop Bell sought the help of Archbishop Martin Michael Johnson of Vancouver but this approach did not work since the Canadian Embassy also turned Father Dan down. Bishop Bell then gave Father Dan permission to seek a temporary assignment in Ireland.

Bishop Henry Murphy of the Diocese of Limerick was glad to have Father Dan serve in the diocese since Dan had been one of his students at Saint Munchin College. Father Dan was assigned to a parish in the remote area called Glenroe nestled among the hills that served as the border for Counties Limerick, Cork and Tipperary. The pastor was Father Willie O'Connell, a gentleman's gentleman, and a great story teller. One day, Fathers Willie and Dan had their mid-day dinner together and talked at the table for five hours. The cook called them from the dining room table to the kitchen table because it was time for the evening meal.



Photo from St Munchin Parish Website

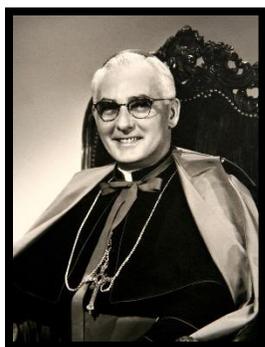
**Saint Munchin Parish, Limerick City**

After some months in Glenroe, Bishop Murphy invited Father Dan to accept a transfer to Saint Munchin Parish in Limerick City. Father Dan became the fourth priest on staff and was given the most depressed area of the parish to oversee and minister to. Many of the people had barely attained an eight grade level of education but Father Dan's year and a half with them was outstanding and fulfilling in every way. These people were passionately human and community came naturally to them as they mastered the knack of surviving together as a community.

### **FINALLY, FATHER DAN COMES TO CALIFORNIA**

After serving in the Diocese of Limerick for a year and a half, Dan was given clearance by the American Consulate in Dublin to enter the U.S.A. However, a plot was brewing and Dan had no idea of its existence.

Canon Breen, Dan's pastor at Saint Munchin Parish, and Canon Rice, Dan's family's pastor, and a few other priest friends requested Bishop Murphy to allow Father Dan to stay in the Limerick diocese. Dan's family was thrilled with this little bit of treason. The priests in question asked if Sacramento had paid for Dan's tuition in the seminary. He told them, with the exception of his last year, his family had taken care of everything. Then they told Dan he should write to Bishop Bell in Sacramento and tell him that the Limerick diocese invited him to stay on and that he had decided to do so.



**Bishop Alden J Bell.**

However, Father Dan felt he could not do that. He had made a very serious commitment to Sacramento and commitments of this magnitude were cast in stone. He had met Bishop Bell in Ireland and felt he was a gentleman through and through so there was no way he was about to jump ship on him. Because of Father Dan's strong commitment to serve as a priest in Sacramento, the clerical plot in Limerick failed to change his mind. Dan had made a commitment to Sacramento and he was going to keep that commitment. Case dismissed!

In January 1966, Father Dan landed at Sacramento's Executive Airport on Freeport Boulevard. Fathers Tom Dermody and Sean Finlay were there to greet him. They then set off for the Del Prado Restaurant on Stockton Boulevard and Fruitridge Road in the biggest automobile Dan had ever set foot in.

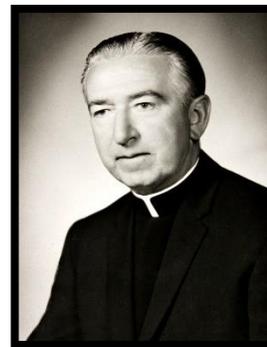
### **AWAITS HIS FIRST APPOINTMENT**

While awaiting his first parish appointment, Father Dan spent a few weeks as guest of Father Vito Mistretta at Holy Family Church in Citrus Heights and then a few more weeks with Father Andrew Coffey at Saint James Parish in Davis until he received his first assignment. Dan says Fathers Mistretta and Coffey could not have been kinder to him during his short stay with them.

## FIRST ASSIGNMENT, DEL PASO HEIGHTS

After a few month's wait, on April 19, 1966, Father Dan was given his first assignment as assistant pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Del Paso Heights with Father John Terwilliger, pastor. Father Dan says Father John was a wonderful person with a keen sense of humor and immediately they became close friends, a friendship that lasted a lifetime.

Father Terwilliger was always upbeat, humorous and kind. He encouraged Dan in everything he did in the parish. The parish church was small and poor but the priests were blessed and never short on anything. Father John had a German shepherd called Trudy. He saw that Father Dan liked dogs so he went and purchased a German shepherd for Dan too. Dan named his dog Dino and the new dog was huge. Every night Fathers John and Dan would watch TV for a few hours before retiring and for Dan it was like being at home with the two great German shepherds sprawled out on the carpet.



Fr John Terwilliger

At that time, the diocese was insured by McGee & Theland. Bishop Bell, on one of his confirmation visits, stood at the dining room table and looked out the patio window at the two dogs. "John", he said to Father Terwilliger, "those are very fine animals, what are their names?" Without missing a beat, Father John replied, "Bishop Bell, their names are McGee and Theland."



Photo by John E Boll

## Our Lady of Lourdes Church and Hall, Del Paso Heights

The late 1960s were not an easy time for America in general and the Del Paso Heights community in particular. Many in the parish were poor and racial tensions and anger soared in the area. Seeing the physical hunger and suffering of the people of the area, Father Dan began to organize parishioners to help prepare food boxes to help feed hungry and needy families of the area. This was the beginning of great and life-changing ministries to come.

### **THE PARISH YOUTH GROUP**

The parish had an excellent youth group run by two women in the parish. One night there was a dance in the parish hall for the youth. Father Terwilliger was away on vacation and Father Dan retired for the night at 10:30. Soon the phone rang and an active member of the parish and a good friend of Father Dan said, *“Clear the hall, a dispute has taken place and bad trouble is on its way”*.

Father Dan took the warning seriously and gave those in charge of the dance no option but to disband. Sensing the urgency, everyone quickly went home. About twenty minutes later, as Father Dan was locking up the hall, two carloads of trouble arrived. These young men were armed with clubs and chains and asked where the dance was. He told them it was over and everyone had gone home. After casing the place for a while, they finally left. Because of Father Dan’s quick action, a possible tragedy was averted that night.

### **FATHER TERWILLIGER APPOINTED TO VALLEJO**

In 1971, Father Terwilliger was named pastor of Saint Basil parish in Vallejo. Father Dan was on his own for a few months awaiting the arrival of the new pastor. When the appointment was announced, the new pastor was Father Bill Broderick who was a returning military chaplain of the Vietnam War. Father Bill was awarded the Silver Star for his work in Vietnam. Father Dan says that Father Broderick was a delightful person whose hospitality knew no limits.

After serving as assistant pastor at our Lady of Lourdes Parish for six years, it was time for Father Dan to begin his second assignment which came on February 15, 1972.

### **SACRED HEART PARISH, SACRAMENTO**



B Photo by John E Boll

**Sacred Heart Church, Sacramento**

Father Dan began his next assignment as assistant pastor of Sacred Heart Parish on 39<sup>th</sup> and J Streets in Sacramento. The church is located on the edge of the Fabulous Forties area with its grand homes and beautifully landscaped yards.

As Father Dan began to settle into the life of the parish, he developed friendships with the people and his love for the parish and the parishioners began to grow. In later years when he put together the Sacramento Food Bank, it was Sacred Heart parishioners who first stepped forward to help that ministry financially and as a volunteer manual labor force.

### **CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

While at Sacred Heart Parish, Father Dan applied for the MSW program at Sacramento State University. It was not easy to get into this program but his work with the needy in Del Paso Heights seemed to be a help for him being accepted into the program.

One of his first professors was David Shapiro who had interesting ideas regarding community organizing. He shared with Father Dan his thoughts about the possibility of pulling together the nation's third largest labor force, namely, household workers. With Shapiro and a dozen others, Father Dan participated in the initial grass roots formation of the California Homemakers Association. Father Dan did some research and began to write some grant proposals and obtained a \$45,000 grant from the Campaign for Human Development. This grant was the catalyst to get the organizing process started.

During the summer of 1975, Father Dan did a block field placement at Camellia City Center with Sister Sheila Walsh, SS as his supervisor. His assignment was to develop an outreach program with volunteers of the 19 hotels and 9 apartment buildings that fell within its designated target area. He soon found out that little research had ever been done on the aged poor. Very little was known about these people who inhabited the downtown hotels, where they come from, what they have done in the past, or what their real needs and wants were.



Photo from the Sac State University Website

### **Sacramento State University Campus**

At the end of the summer, Father Dan began to see that despite the city's apparent proliferation of services and facilities for older people, their programs were not as available to the downtown aging poor as the public was led to believe. The hotels themselves were nothing more than filthy

buildings with gloomy rat-hole little rooms. Here in these aggregates of loneliness, the majority of the residents wilted away in collective alienation. They had seen social workers come and go. They had listened to all kinds of promises from politicians but none brought them any real help or understanding.

### **A STRANGE INCIDENT**

A strange incident occurred somewhere between Father Dan's first and second year of study at Sacramento State University. He tells about this incident in these words: "I was summoned to the office at Sacramento State University and asked where I earned my bachelor's degree. I told them I had none. They asked me what then was I doing in the master's program. I reminded them that it was they themselves who admitted me. They asked me about my AA degree and I told them I did not possess that one either. I explained to them that our seminary in Ireland was not associated with a university per se, but nevertheless I had some education under my belt. Thank God, common sense took over at this point as they decided to await a copy of my transcripts from Ireland. When they arrived, everyone was happy with them, especially myself."

Father Dan received his Master Degree in Social Work from Sacramento State University in 1976 and his Doctorate in Philosophy Degree from Union Institute and University of Cincinnati.

### **THIRD APPOINTMENT COMING UP**

In 1975, Father Dan was a member of the Priests' Personnel Board of the diocese when Immaculate Conception Parish became vacant. He absented himself from one of its meetings and submitted his application for this parish. In his letter to the Personnel Board on December 9, 1975, he said in part: "To serve as pastor of a parish such as Immaculate Conception whose ethnic mixture is basically of minority groups has always been one of my aspirations as a priest."



Photo by John E Boll

**Immaculate Conception Church, Sacramento**

After a short while, Father Dan was appointed pastor of Immaculate Parish, effective on January 17, 1976. Since he had a few weeks before his new appointment began, he flew home to Ireland to spend Christmas with his family, something he had not done for twelve years. It was a wonderful time for him. His mother was still alive and he was able to concelebrate Midnight Mass in the church where he had been baptized, received all his sacraments and celebrated his first Mass. Father Dan says of that Christmas Eve Mass, "That night at Mass, the pastor of the parish told the people, '*Father Dan traveled six thousand miles to be with us here tonight.*' I was seated on an ornate marble bench which had no cushion and the cold was so bad I thought I would never see California again. But, of course, I did see Sacramento again. And that Christmas night and the following weeks I spent with my family are still very memorable and beautiful to me."

### **SOME BACKGROUND ON IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH**



**Fathers John & Will Ellis**

Immaculate Conception Parish was established in 1909 and on a midsummer Sunday in 1910, Mass was celebrated on a bandstand in Oak Park to launch the start of this parish. The founding pastor was Father William Ellis who served the parish from 1909 to 1923. He was succeeded by his brother Father John Ellis who was pastor from 1923 to 1933.

A small wooden church was built right away and in 1916 the present church was erected. It was unofficially considered the Irish National Church. Its territory sprawled out to and included Mather Air Force Base and south to its mission church in Elk Grove.

Over the years, a number of other parishes were erected from territory once claimed by Immaculate Conception Parish. It is sometimes called "Sacramento's Granddaddy Parish" because it gave birth to a number of other parishes like Sacred Heart, Saint Rose, All Hallows, Holy Spirit, Saint Robert and Saint Peter parishes.

By the time Father Dan became pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in 1976, the majority of prosperous businesses and gracious homes in the parish were gone. In the 1960s, two intercepting freeways had invaded the territory forming a cloverleaf that took out several hundred homes and created an area now occupied by the poor of many races.

### **FEEDING THE HUNGRY**

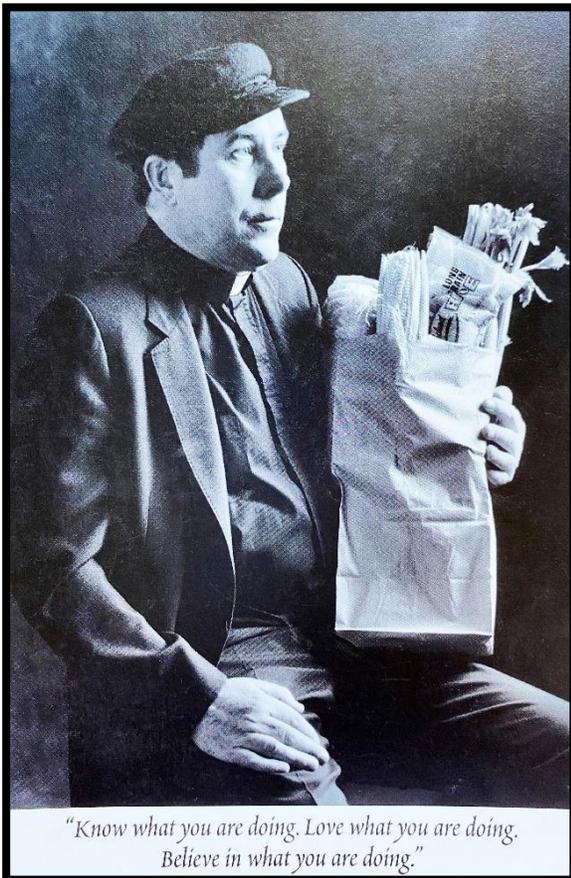
From day one of Father Dan's arrival at the parish, feeding the poor began. Take-home food was distributed five days a week and a sit down lunch was served on Sundays. Father Dan tells what happened next.

“In 1983, \$370,000 dollars of federal money came to town to be used to feed the poor. By this time we at I.C. had a proven record of accomplishment in this field. I made my application, went to the allocation meeting, and got nothing. The allocators were American Red Cross, Council of Jewish Federation, Catholic Social Services, Salvation Army and United Way.

“At this meeting it was very obvious to me that I was an outsider and there was no room for me among these local social service providers. Eventually, in order to quiet down my outcry, they offered me \$3,000, which I told them politely to keep it.

“After that meeting, I decided never to ride within anyone’s bureaucratic corral if it entailed compromising my principles even to the slightest degree. Yes, indeed, I left that meeting vowing never to kowtow to any type of institutional pressure. Instead, I turned to the people of Sacramento and the years that have now gone by speak volumes about the wisdom of that move.”

### MINISTRY TO THE POOR



If there is one thing Father Dan Madigan will be remembered for, it will be his ministry to the poor and needy of the greater Sacramento area.

The Oak Park Food Locker was established in January 1976 at Immaculate Conception Church. This locker provided food for the hungry and needy in the Oak Park area for many years. The ministry to the poor eventually moved to the Arata warehouse on 34<sup>th</sup> Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. With the change of location came a change of name. This ministry is now known as *Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services (SFBFS)*.

Beginning in March 1983, Oak Park served a sit-down Sunday meal in the parish school auditorium. This operation turned out to be a glorious undertaking.

In 1986, 21,514 adults and 6,992 children sat at tables and were served a hot meal on Sunday afternoons. No small wonder that the Sacra-

mento Bee referred to Immaculate Conception Parish as “*The guardian angel of Oak Park’s poor*”.

In November 1985, Immaculate Conception Community Services opened a five-day-a-week food locker (take home food) and a Sunday lunch (sit-down meal) in the old firehouse in Rio Linda which the Immaculate Conception Community Services refurbished and it became the center for ministry to the poor in the Del Paso Heights area of Sacramento.



The written History of the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services

## FATHER DAN RETIRES FROM THE SACRAMENTO FOOD BANK

Thirty years after founding the Food Bank, Father Dan stepped down from his leadership role on December 31, 2006, so he could turn over the leadership and operation to the next generation.

### STATUS OF SFBFS ON DECEMBER 31, 2006, FATHER DAN'S RETIREMENT DATE

#### Date Established

Established 1976  
Established 1983  
Established 1988  
Established 1989  
Established 1990  
Established 1992  
Established 1993  
Established 1998  
Established 1999  
Established 2000  
Established 2000

#### Programs

Food Lockers  
Sunday Lunch  
Clothing Closet  
Community Learning Center  
Havens Transitional Housing  
Mother-Baby Program  
Senior Bridge Builders  
Child Services Program  
Network Café  
Intel Computer Club House  
Women's Wisdom

#### Status on December 31, 2006

Founded	January 1976
Headquarters	Former Arata Grocery Store in Oak Park
Branches	Del Paso Heights and North Sacramento
Staff	35
Volunteers	700
Donors	5000
People Served	1000 a day (Sunday through Friday)
Income	\$2 million a year
	53% from individual donors
	26% Sacramento Businesses
	14% Special Events
	7% Government

- For every dollar received, SFBFS produces \$10 worth of products and services
- Over the past 30 years, SFBFS received \$30 million from its supporters
- With its ability at multiplying the value of a dollar, SFBFS has over the years delivered \$300 million in goods and services for the poor of Sacramento
- SFBFS also sponsors the "Run to Feed the Hungry" which celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Thanksgiving Day in 2014. Each year the event raises more than \$500,000.

Father Dan served as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish from January 17, 1976 to September 7, 1989. It is amazing what he and the hundreds of volunteers were able to do for the poor and needy of the greater Sacramento area during those 13 years and the ministry continues to this day helping thousands of people each year.

### **FINAL APPOINTMENT, SAINT JOSEPH PARISH, CLARKSBURG**

Father Dan began his final appointment as pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Clarksburg on September 8, 1989. He served in that role for 25 years until he retired on July 1, 2014 at the age of 76.

Before being appointed pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Clarksburg, Father Dan knew little about the history of the parish, its beautiful church and the community. In the mid-1850s, Portuguese immigrants came in great numbers from the Azore Islands located a thousand miles west of Portugal in the Atlantic Ocean. Many of those immigrants settled along the Sacramento River on the Freeport and Clarksburg sides of the river. Each family had a small farm and made their living from dairy farming, fishing and the growing of a wide variety of fruits and vegetables in the fertile farmland along the Sacramento River.

Being twelve miles south of Sacramento and Saint Rose Church on 7<sup>th</sup> and K Streets and later the Cathedral on 12<sup>th</sup> and K Streets, getting to Mass on Sundays was an all-day affair. The Portuguese community began to organize and petitioned Bishop Patrick Manogue to allow them to build a church in the area where they could attend Mass. In 1893, a wooden church was built on the levee on the Yolo side of the river. The first pastor was Portuguese Father Gabriel Fortado Soares.



Photo from the book, *The Ramblings of Father Dan Madigan*

**The First Saint Joseph Church in 1893**

In 1923, the construction of a new church began not far from where the old church stood on the river levee. Bishop Patrick Keane came for the dedication of the new Saint Joseph Church on May 11, 1924. That new church is the same church standing today on the Yolo County side of the Sacramento River with its doors open to people of all nations of the world. This church has been in use from 1924 to the present day, no longer just for Portuguese Catholics but now for Catholics and all people of good will from the nations of the world.



Photo by John E Boll

### **Saint Joseph Church Today**

Father Dan's warm and welcoming Irish personality has attracted people from the greater Sacramento area who make Saint Joseph Parish their intentional spiritual community and home. The Mass attendance fills the church Sunday after Sunday. Instead of Mass being celebrated in Portuguese, it is now celebrated in English and Spanish.

The parish has built class rooms and meeting spaces where parishioners can gather to plan for the future. A few years ago the Saint Joseph community gave much thought on how best to assist needy families with clothing and a wide variety of household articles. Parishioners knew they had daily access to these items for themselves but that the poor did not.

In 2005, under the inspiration and leadership of Father Dan, in an attempt to serve the needy of the larger community, the parish community designed and formed a very workable system of

transporting their collected goods to the people who need them. Presently at the church, there is a large drop-off trailer for receiving donated items. There are storage areas, sorting areas and five distribution road trailers and a cadre of organized people that carry out all necessary work.



Photo courtesy of Fr Madigan

### **Saint Joseph Parish Volunteers**

This parish ministry has made deliveries to different sites such as migrant camps in Yolo County, parking lots in Del Paso Heights, off-street distribution sites in a Delta town and public schools in West Sacramento. They have tested the system and found that it works very well. So much so that some other agencies are now using this approach.

In 2012, Father Dan started a second ministry, the Mobile Food Locker. It distributes food on a weekly basis to people at Saint Anne Parish in Meadowview, Saint Paul Parish in Florin, Saint Anthony Parish in Walnut Grove and Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home in Sacramento.

Father Dan's experience in Clarksburg convinced him that there should be a mobile distribution in each parish, "because it serves the need of the community. People need a place to take their stuff and to clean out their house. It's simple and it benefits others."



Photo by John E Boll

### **Saint Joseph Parish Mobile Food Locker**

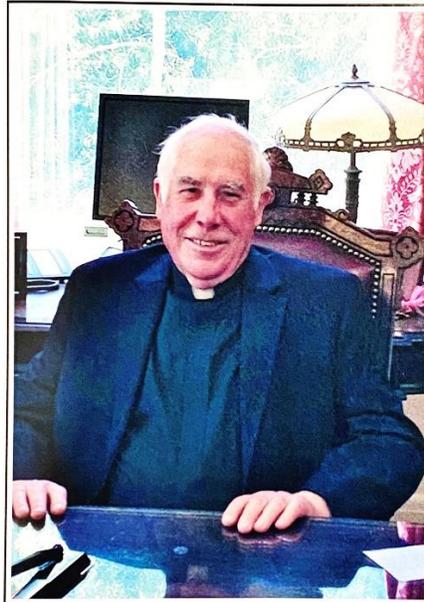
Father Dan says that his priestly ministry has convinced him that “when you take care of the poor, God is right with you.” He speaks with pride about Saint Joseph parishioners, noting that when he arrived as pastor in 1989, the parish was not self-supporting financially. “The most meaningful thing for me in my ministry here is that this parish came back to life. Over 50 years of ministry, the Lord has been very good to me and for that I am grateful.”

### **FATHER DAN CELEBRATES HIS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND RETIRES**

On June 7, 2014, Father Dan celebrated his Golden Jubilee of ordination. He celebrated that milestone in his life with the parish community by a grand liturgy and a great dinner.



Father Dan Madigan



50 Years a Priest  
1964-2014

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Father Dan Madigan is an amazing person who has used his talents well to organize ways to reach out to the many who are in great need of food, clothing and shelter in the greater Sacramento area. There is probably no other single person who has done more for the poor in Sacramento than Father Dan Madigan.

He has an amazing ability to gather and organize people to share their talents and to bring aid and comfort to the many in our society today who are in great need. In his 25 years as pastor of Clarksburg, he has transformed the parish to be an instrument of good for so many people.

The teaching of the documents of the Second Vatican Council has reaffirmed the teaching of the Church that all are called to a life of holiness and all are commissioned by the Lord Himself to spread the Good News of the Kingdom of God. By our baptism, we share fully in the life of Christ who is Priest, Prophet and Shepherd. Father Dan has provided a practical way for the many volunteers and supporters of the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services to exercise their baptismal mission as priests, prophets and shepherds to a hurting world.

Father Dan has a basic set of principles by which he has lived his life and he learned early in his ministry not to deviate from those principles. Wherever he has served as a priest, taking care of the poor has been a central part of his life and ministry. He has taken to heart the words of Jesus who said: "Whatsoever you do to the least of my people; that you do unto me." Because Father Dan has become a champion and defender of the poor, the Lord is greatly pleased with him.

With sincere gratitude, we thank you, Father Dan, for your more than a half century of ministry to the people of God in Sacramento and for being a beacon of light and hope to thousands of people through your ministry to all who are poor and in need. You have excelled in every way and we hold you in highest esteem!

*"Well done! You are an industrious and reliable servant. Since you were dependable in a small matter I will put you in charge of larger affairs.*

*Come and share your master's joy!"*

*Matthew 25:21*

## PHOTOS OF FATHER DAN ON HIS JOURNEY OF LIFE

Photos courtesy of Father Dan Madigan



Dan and his youngest sister Eileen on his first of many donkeys



### The Madigan Family

Back row, L-R, brothers Pat, Mick, Moss and Father John

Front row, L-R, Mai, Dan's sister, Aileen, Dan's mother, Father Dan, Patrick, Dan's father, Kay, Dan's sister



Father Dan with his beloved donkeys



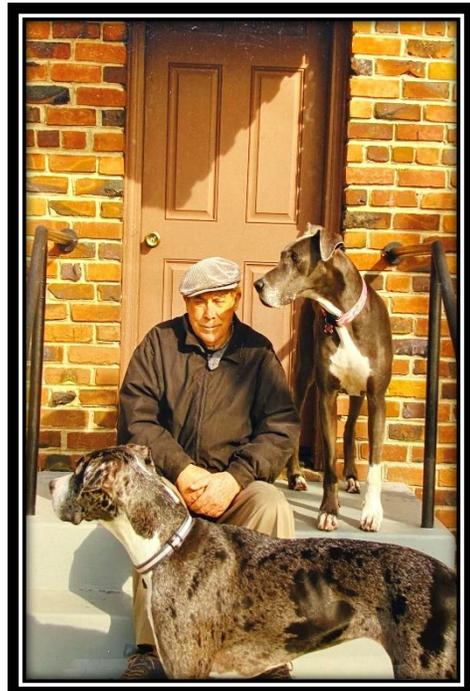
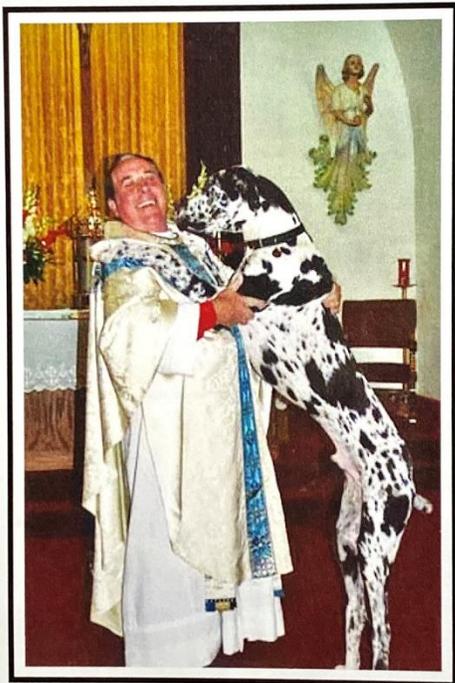
Grand Nieces and Nephews in Ireland



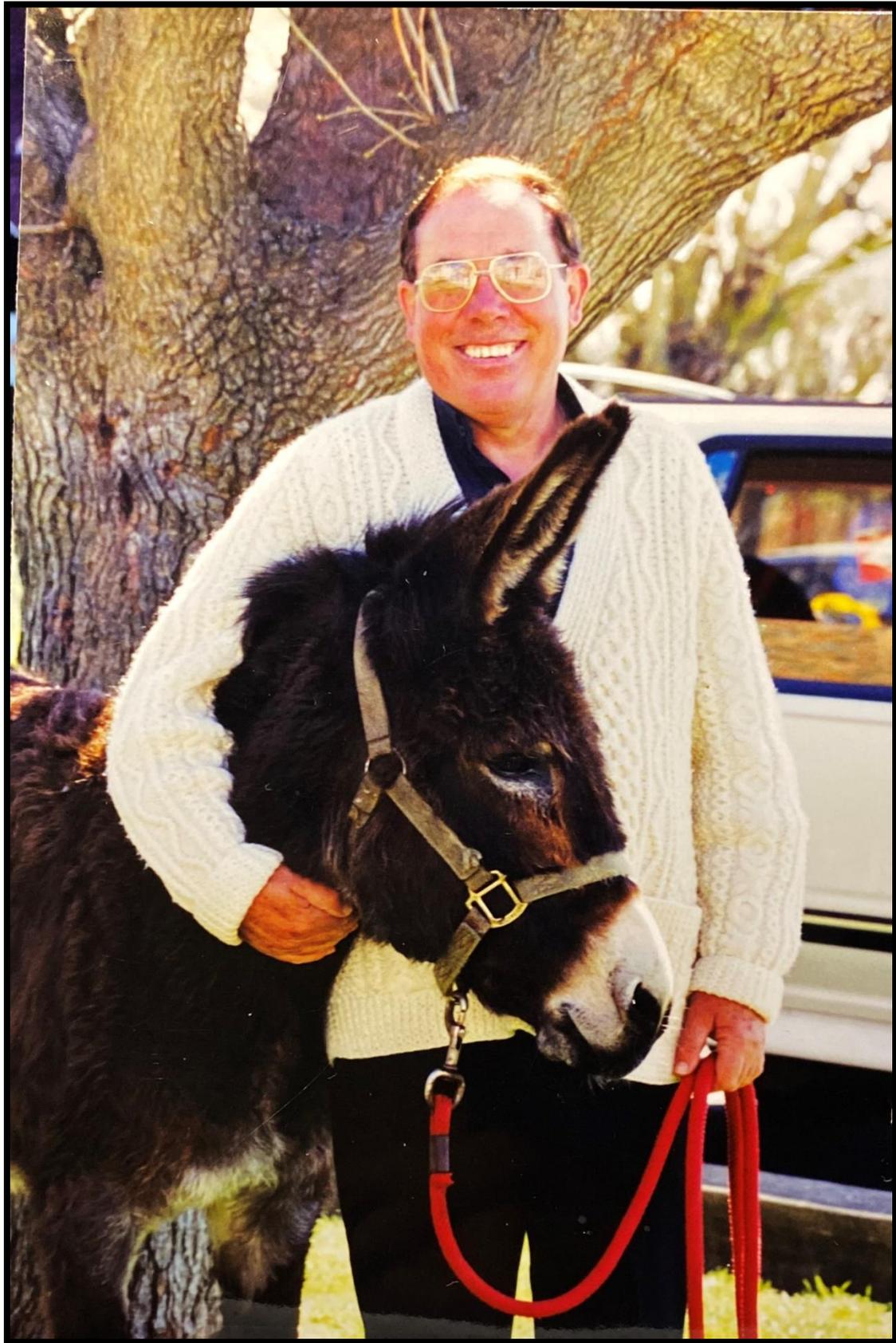
Cousin Pat Madigan and Dan with Pat Callanen and dog on top of the hay stack



Father Dan preaching at Saint Joseph Church, Clarksburg



Father Dan and his beloved dogs



Dan and his beloved donkey



Photos by Michele Anne Joe

**Father Dan's Personal Library**



**Irish Hearth recreated by Father Dan with keepsakes from his home in Shanagolden, Ireland**



Photo by Michele Anne Joe

### The Hearth

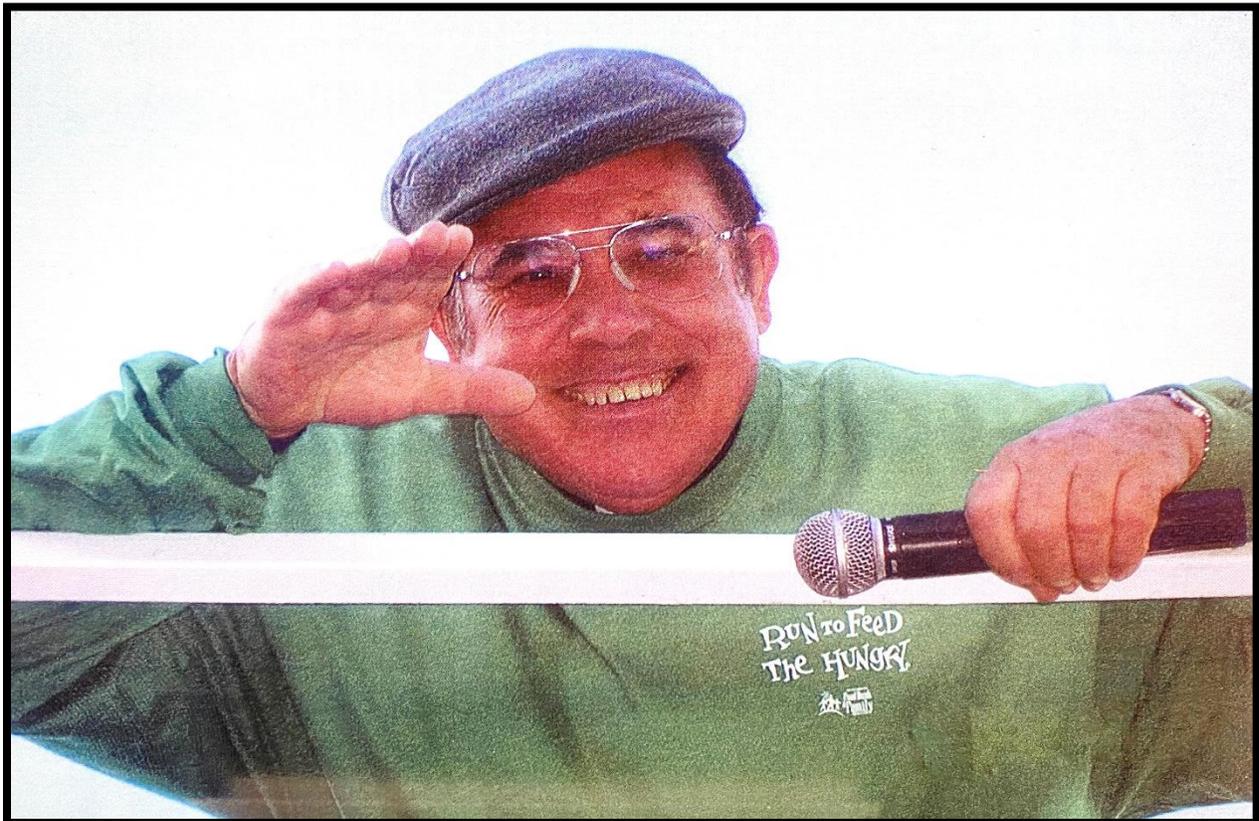


Photo courtesy of Fr Dan Madigan

### Aerial View of Saint Joseph Parish, Clarksburg



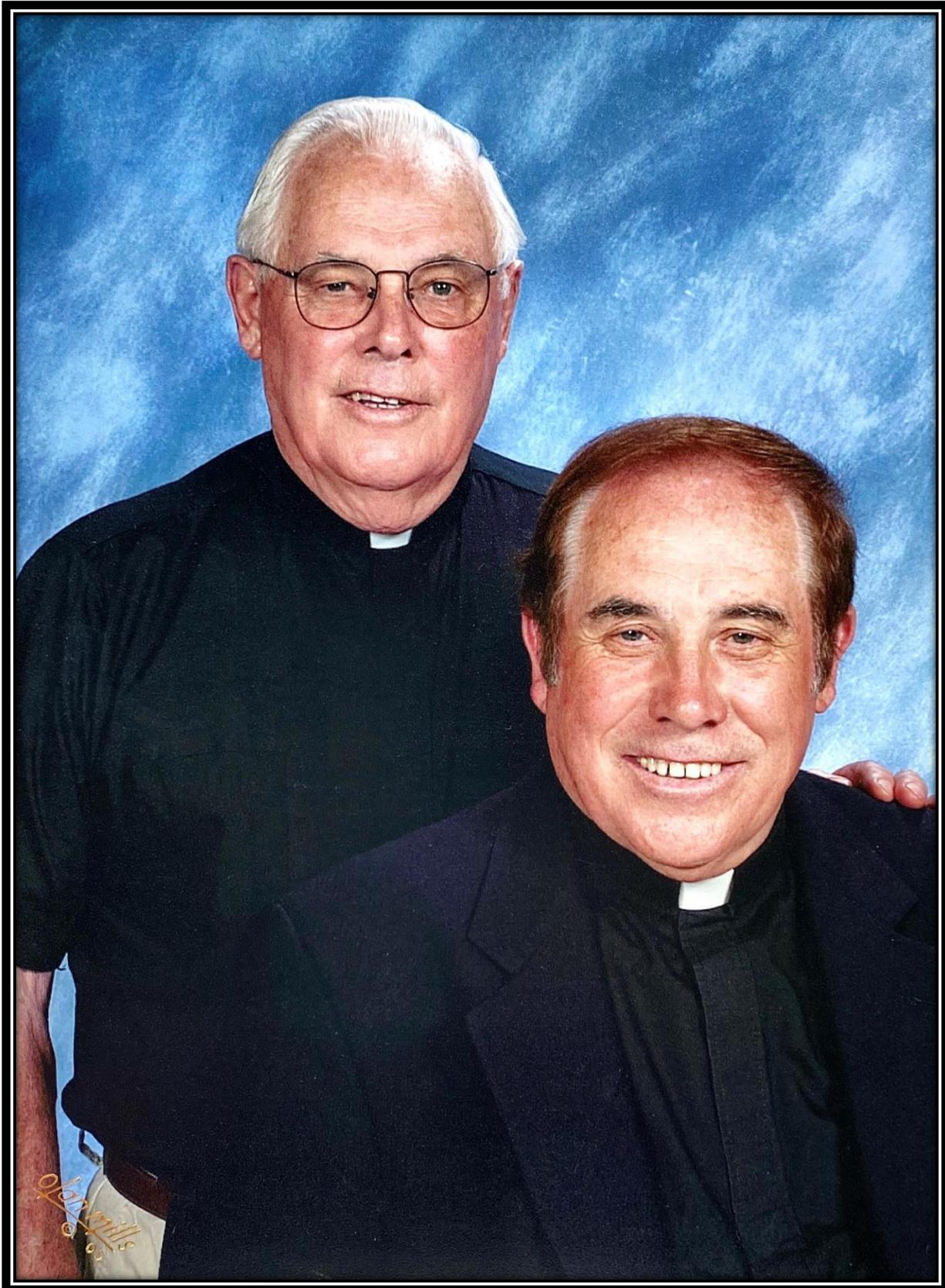
Father Dan and his brother Father John Madigan



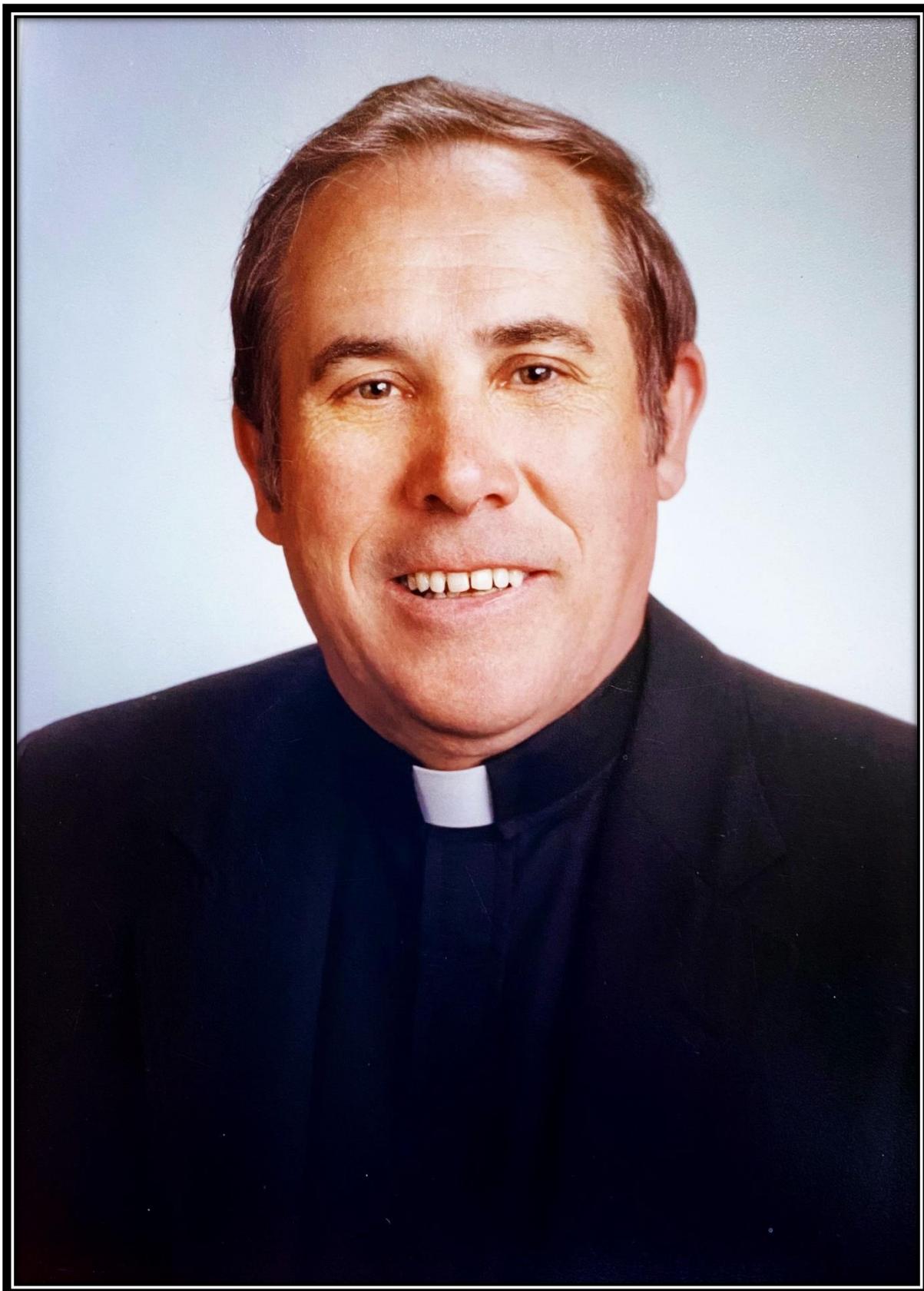
Run to Feed the Hungry, Thanksgiving Day, 2005



**Look Out, I'm Coming Through!**



*Fathers Dan and John Madigan*



*Father Daniel Madigan*