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Father John E Boll

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History of Saint Dominic Parish Orland, California

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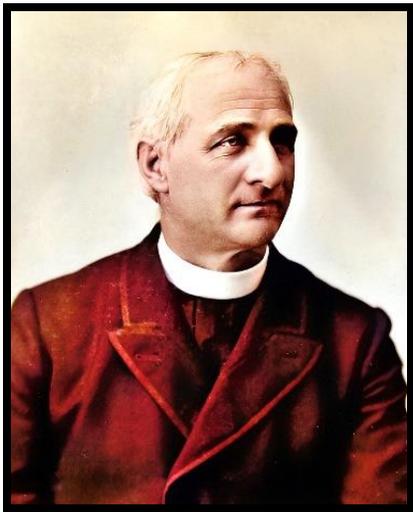
Saint Dominic Church, Orland, CA

THE BEGINNINGS OF SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH

According to the Sacramento Diocesan Directory, Saint Dominic Church became a parish of the diocese in 1919. But before this date, the first Catholic church in Orland goes back to 1884.

BACK TO THE BEGINNINGS

So, let's go to the beginning of the history of the Catholic community in Orland. As a sparsely-populated farming community in the late 1800s, Orland started showing signs of growth when it became a stage stop between two other rural towns, Newville and Saint John. The pastor of Willows parish, a town 17 miles south of Orland, saw Orland begin to thrive and felt the faithful Catholic community there should be served. The pastor of Willows at that time was the famous German-born Father Michael Wallrath.



Father Michael Wallrath

Father Wallrath conceived the idea of building a church in Orland, drew the plans and hired a contractor, A.J. Ryan of Chico. With the first donation of \$250 from the Deveny family of the small town of Saint John, given on the feast of Saint Dominic, the Catholic community of Orland began its faith project. The future parishioners dedicated themselves to build a house of God in the name of Saint Dominic to become a home for their church family under the guidance and care of Father Wallrath.

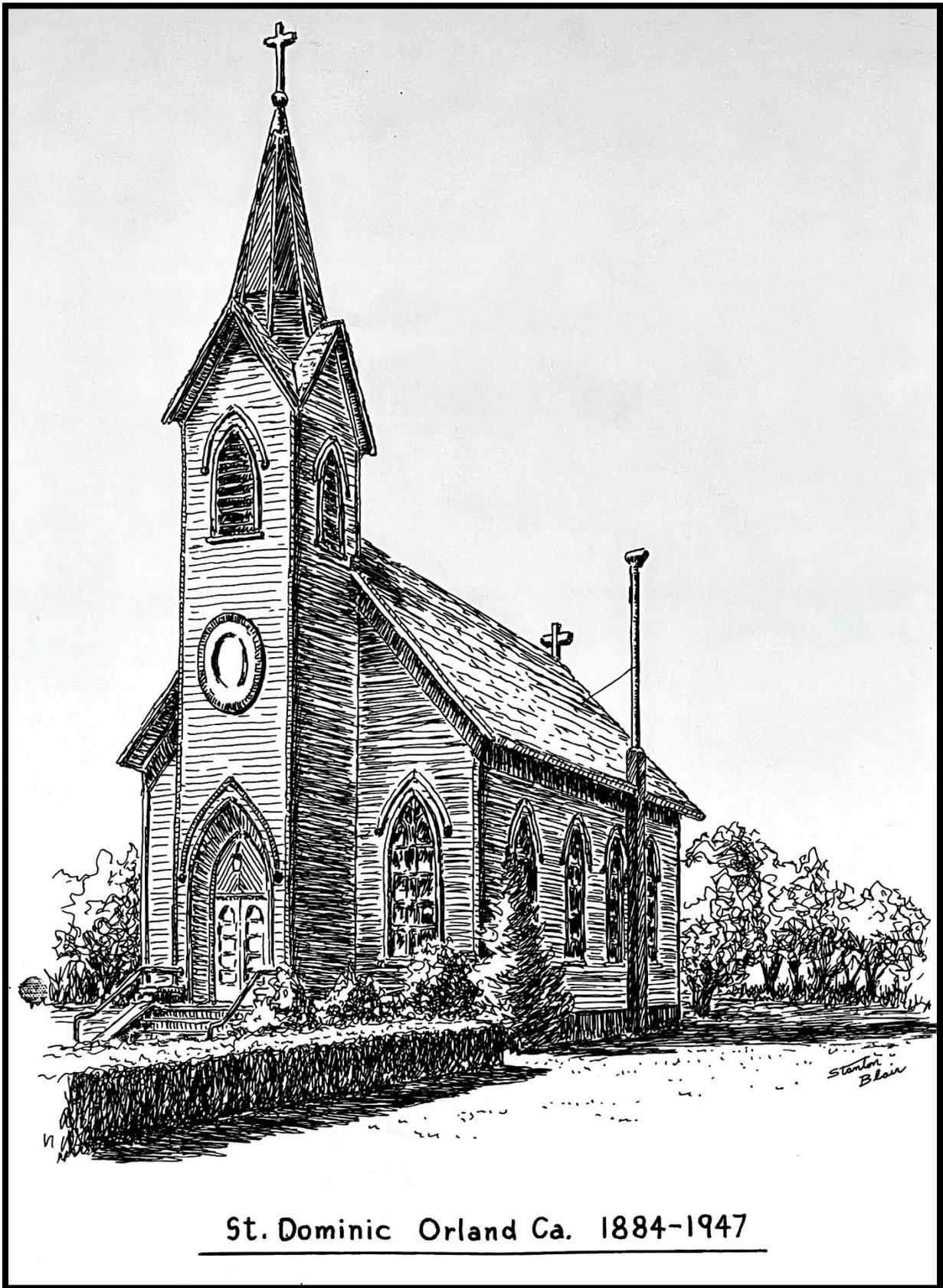
CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST CHURCH

Construction on the new church began on October 13, 1884, on the present site of three lots donated by Mrs. J. W. Kendrick of Newville, with the foundation of the church built on the faith of the Catholic people in Orland. A metal cross was put in place on the high, wooden steeple, on November 11 of 1884.

As the metal cross was raised on the steeple of Saint Dominic Church, it must have caught the rays of sunlight and reflected those rays over the whole structure of the church, symbolic of the Resurrection and the Light of God's Spirit.

THE ORIGINAL CHURCH OF 1884 BURNED TO THE GROUND IN 1947

This symbolism was an appropriate beginning for the small-town church in 1884, and a glimpse of future events, as the original church burned to the ground in 1947. The zinc steeple cross fell from its high place and crashed into the rubble that was once the first Catholic Church in Orland, only to be raised up again two years later – yet another symbol of God's Eternal Presence.



St. Dominic Orland Ca. 1884-1947

Photo from Saint Dominic Parish Archives

The Original Saint Dominic Church in Orland, 1884

CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST MASS

As another sign of the faith of the Orland community, the first Mass in the first church in Orland was celebrated on December 23, 1884, in the midst of the Christmas season. The birth of the Savior added a special emphasis to the celebration of the birth of the parish community.

SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH BECOMES A MISSION OF WILLOWS

Saint Dominic Church was first a mission church of Saint Monica Parish in Willows and remained so until 1918 when the growth of the Orland community caused Bishop Thomas Grace to raise the rank of Saint Dominic Church to that of a parish. Bishop Grace appointed Father William Coen as the first resident pastor of Saint Dominic Parish in Orland.



Father William Coen

During Father Coen's eleven years as pastor of Saint Dominic Parish, he created a lasting monument to the parish when he facilitated the establishment of the Catholic Cemetery in Orland. He also made a practical move when he purchased the old home of Mr. and Mrs. George Barceloux and made it into the first rectory.

During Father Coen's pastorate, the mission church in Hamilton City, Saint Mary Church, was founded. He celebrated Mass for the faithful there twice a month. In 1929, he was transferred to Red Bluff and was later named a monsignor.

SUCCEEDING PASTORS FROM 1929 TO 1947

The succeeding pastors of the first church in Orland were Fathers Michael F. McNaboe (1929-1932), Edmond Grant (1932 – 1935), Patrick Burke (1935), Greeley, Kennedy, and Thomas Kirby (1935 – 1936), Patrick Donnelly (1936 – 1942), and P.J. McCarthy (1942 – 1947)

THE FATEFUL EVENING OF MARCH 13, 1947

The evening of March 13, 1947 was a fateful one for Saint Dominic Church. The wooden structured church erupted into flames and was extinguished. However, the fire smoldered and erupted into flames a second time. The metal cross stood in the midst of the fire, illuminated by the flames. But it, too, finally came crashing down to rest among the ruins of the church.

A small group of parishioners stood among those ruins to meet Father Anthony J. Dosch on March 29, 1947, sixteen days after the destruction of their church. Jasper and Anne Lichtsteiner, Mary Higgenbotham, Helen Gakey and Harry and Louise Higginbotham remember what was, and looked ahead to what could be. Father Dosch had been sent by Bishop Robert J. Armstrong to become the administrator of Saint Dominic Parish.

A CALL TO RENEWED DEDICATION

Tragedy did not mar the spirit of the parishioners who felt the call to a renewed dedication, service and devotion to their faith among the ashes of their church. God's Spirit surely touched that small group of Catholics, as they wasted no time in planning the new church to be built on the same site as the previous church.

Bishop Armstrong appointed Father Dosch, Frank Aguiar, John Gehring, Harry Higginbotham, George Kraemer, Jasper Lichtsteiner and Lawrence Hicks as the executive committee to raise a new house of worship from where the ruins of the former church lay.

CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CHURCH

Following much planning and foresight, since Orland had not stopped moving forward and would continue to grow, construction of a new and bigger church began on December 17, 1948, during another season of rebirth.

While the construction of the new church was proceeding, Mass was celebrated at the Federated Church Auditorium and the Orland Grange Hall. During the time of rebuilding a house to celebrate the Sunday Eucharist, Father Dosch purchased a house next to the rectory in order to provide a place for catechetical classes to be held. The house had been owned by Walter Reinhart. When that house was eventually torn down, Henry Andres, Jr, purchased the used materials of the old house to enlarge his own home on his ranch.

COMPLETION OF THE NEW CHURCH

The church construction began in January 1949 and was completed in September of 1949 at a cost of \$53,381.16, and that church is still standing today, 73 years later, serving the Orland Catholic Community. The general contractor for the new church was Gordon Weems.

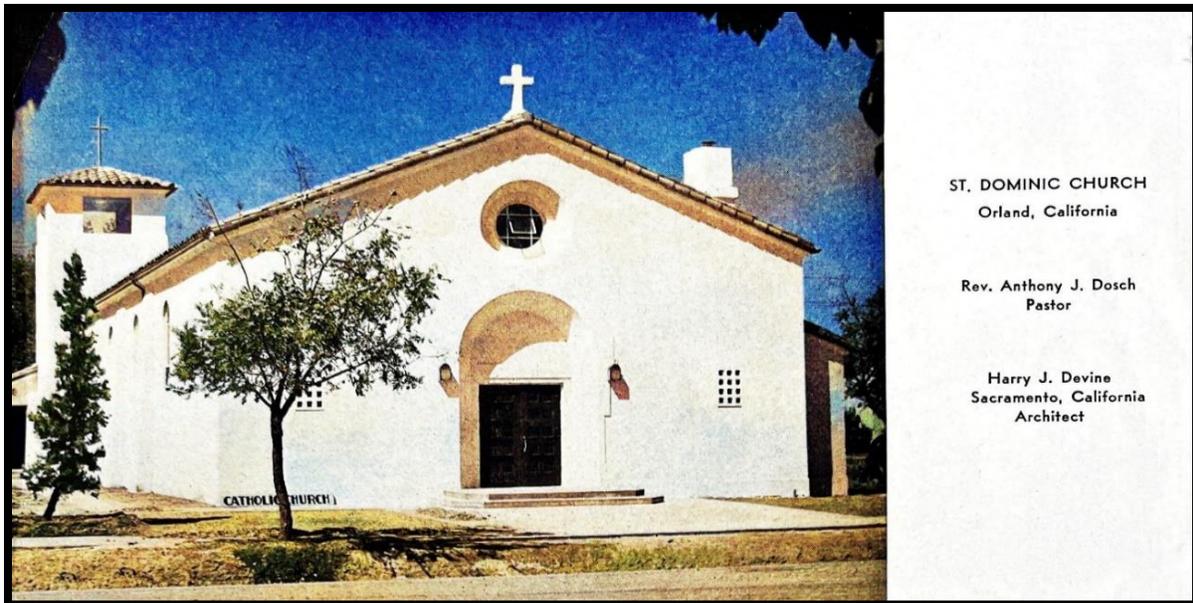
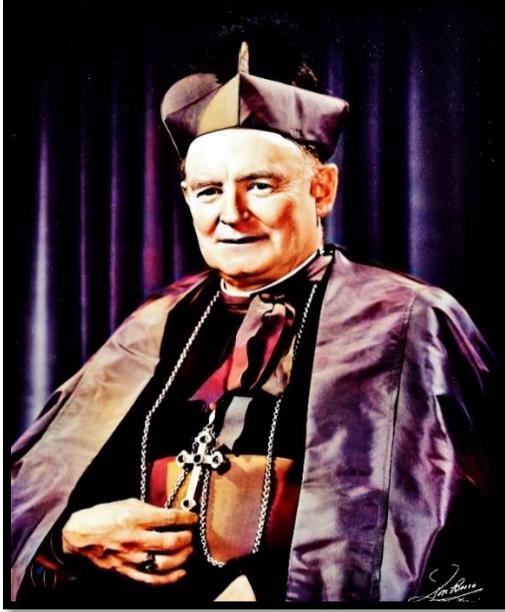


Photo from St Dominic Parish Archives

The Newly Built Saint Dominic Church, Orland in 1949

The design of the new church was modified Spanish Mission style, well suited for the climate and environment of Orland. Foresight was used in selecting a site quite ample for the future growth of the parish on which a new rectory and recreational center were planned for construction in the future. The seating capacity in the nave of the church accommodates 240, while the balcony allows seating for approximately 40.

BISHOP ARMSTRONG CONSECRATES THE NEW CHURCH



Bishop Robert J Armstrong

On September 25, 1949, Bishop Robert Armstrong came to Orland to bless the new church, consecrate the main altar, and celebrate the First Mass in the new Saint Dominic Church. At that first Mass of Dedication, Monsignor Patrick Donnelly who had served as pastor of the parish from 1936 to 1942, served as the deacon at the Mass.

The First Mass in the newly consecrated church was truly a family event for the parish with many parishioners taking an active part in the celebration. Frank Harrington, Jr, Fred Perez, Dan Kraemer, Nick Kraemer, Ben Kraemer and Robert Mudd served as altar boys. A 20-voice choir, directed by Thomas London, sang the Mass, accompanied by Joanne Levet Overton on the organ. The altar was decorated by Helen Gakey, with assistance by Steve Porras and Paul Lathrop.



Photo from St Dominic Parish Archives

The Dedication of the New Saint Dominic Church with Bishop J Armstrong

Tying in the old with the new at the dedication Mass was the presence of James Masterson, then 93, who had attended the 1884 dedication Mass of the first Saint Dominic Church as well.

Father Dosch wrote the following description of the celebration: “During the Mass, the sun shone through the windows casting a beam of light onto the altar, and the priests’ gold vestments sparkled in such splendor that it made one feel as if he were in Paradise.”

THE DAY OF THE DEDICATION OF SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH WAS A BUSY ONE

On the day of the dedication of Saint Dominic Church, there were a series of celebrations that highlighted the real meaning of the church which saw a building of wood, stucco and paint become a bastion of faith, love and sharing to its parishioners.

Donald and Alice Bird were united in marriage following the dedication Mass. Then, the first baptism was celebrated at 3 PM when Charlotte Anne Andres was received into the faith. The final service of the day was a Funeral Mass for Mary O’Neil. The full experience of life was celebrated that day, birth, marriage and death.



Photo by John E Boll

Saint Dominic Church, Orland

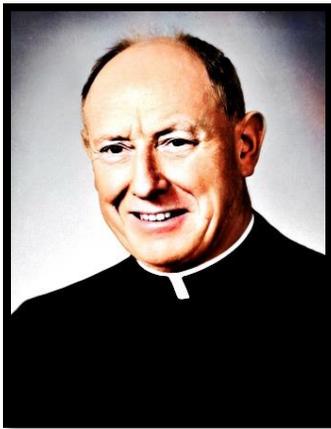
FATHER DOSCH PREPARES TO RETIRE

Father Dosch was born on April 4, 1896 in Spokane, Washington and was ordained a priest on July 4, 1920 in Colton, Washington. At the time of his retirement, he was only 63 years of age, so it appears he retired early because of health issues. He died on November 8, 1972 at the age of 76.

Before Father Dosch retired, Father Stephen Tatar was appointed administrator of Saint Dominic Parish in Orland from December 1958 until May 1959. Father Patrick Coffey also served as interim administrator of the parish between Father Tatar and the coming of the new pastor, Father Thomas Boland.

Father Dosch officially retired in June 1959, and Father Thomas Boland succeeded him as pastor of the parish and served as pastor of Saint Dominic Parish for 10 years until 1969.

PASTORATE OF FATHER THOMAS BOLAND, 1959 – 1969



Father Thomas Boland

Growth and revitalization continued to be the thread which wove its way through the tapestry of Saint Dominic's community, and in the 1960s, another dimension was added to the parish.

A new parish hall was constructed from March to August, 1963, at a cost of \$60,000. The contractor for the parish hall project was C Gordon Lavey. Following the completion of the new hall, Bishop Alden J Bell came to Orland to officiate at the dedication ceremony of the parish hall.



Photo by John E Boll

The New Saint Dominic Parish Hall in Orland

BUILDING OF A NEW RECTORY

The next project was the building of a new rectory in 1964 next to the parish church. Once again, C Gordon Lavey was called upon to construct the new rectory.



Photo by John E Boll

The New Parish Rectory in Orland

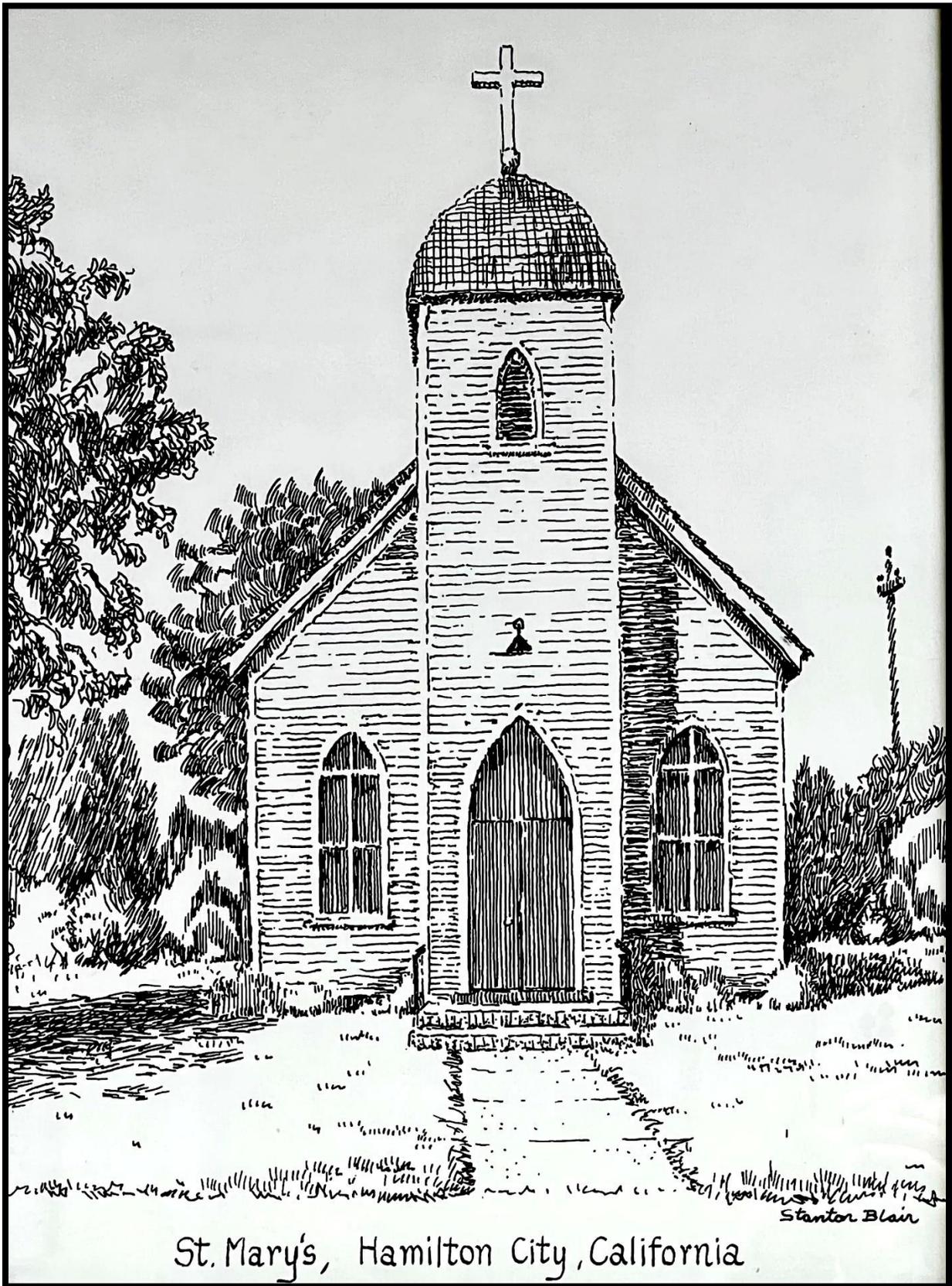
NEW MISSION CHURCH OF SAINT MARY IN HAMILTON CITY

In 1967, the Mission Church of Saint Mary in Hamilton City was rebuilt at the present site. It replaced the original church that had been purchased and transported in sections to Hamilton City. The former wooden structure eventually became old and unsafe and was replaced by a new and modern stucco church.



Photo by John E Boll

The New Saint Mary Mission Church in Hamilton City



St. Mary's, Hamilton City, California

Drawing from Saint Dominic Archives

Original Saint Mary Mission Church, Hamilton City

ASSISTANT PRIESTS, 1963 - 1972

In the midst of the religious revitalization of the parish, Father Thomas Boland was assisted by other priests from the Diocese of Sacramento who were Father Aiden O'Reilly (1963 – 1966), Father James Moroney (1966 – 1967), and Father Matthias O'Callaghan (1967 – 1972).

PASTOR OF ORLAND RETIRES AND IS SUCCEEDED BY BROTHER **Announcement in the Catholic Herald, 1969**

Bishop Alden J Bell announced this week the retirement from active priestly service of Father Thomas Boland, pastor of Saint Dominic's, Orland, since 1959, who now will become pastor emeritus.

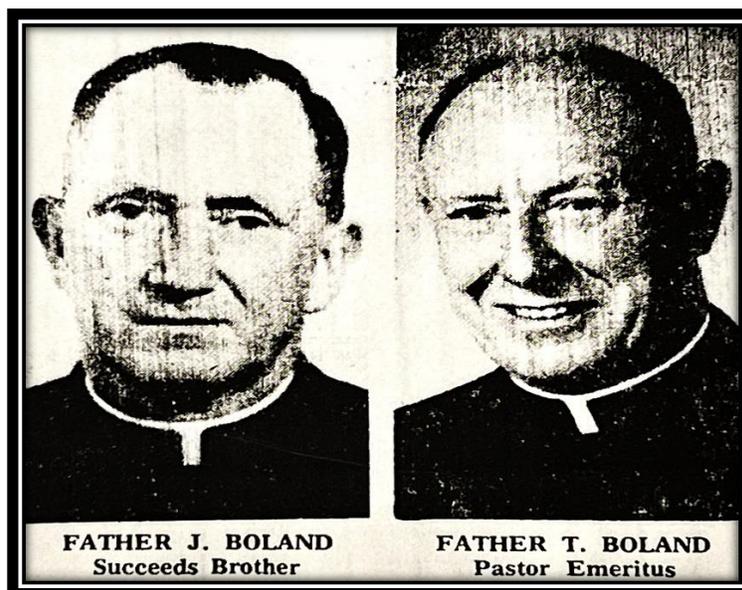
Succeeding him will be his brother, Father Jeremiah Boland, currently pastor of Saint Joseph Church, Elk Grove.

Two parish administrators also have been appointed by Bishop Bell, Father Hugh Bannon to Sacred Heart Church, Fort Jones, and Father John McDonnell to Elk Grove.

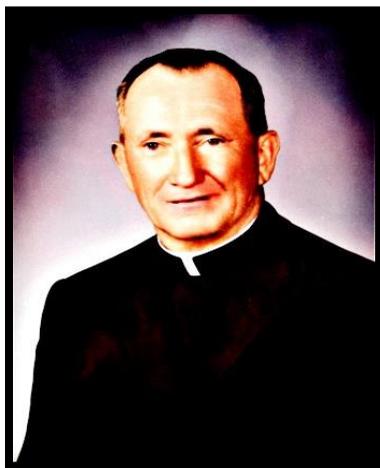
The early priestly years of Father Thomas Boland, who was born on November 7, 1901 in County Clare, Ireland, were spent in Australia and England. Ordained at Saint Kieran's College, Kilkenny, on June 12, 1927, he did not arrive in the Sacramento Diocese until after World War II, in May of 1946.

He was first assigned to the Cathedral, then in 1953 was named pastor of Colfax. He headed the Yreka parish from 1957 to 1959, prior to his appointment to Orland.

Father Jeremiah Boland, born on April 19k 1909, also attended Saint Kieran's and was ordained June 11, 1933. His first posts were in Ferndale and Woodland, then later, he served as pastor in Fort Jones, Placerville, Truckee, Sonora, Roseville and Grass Valley before going to Elk Grove in 1965.



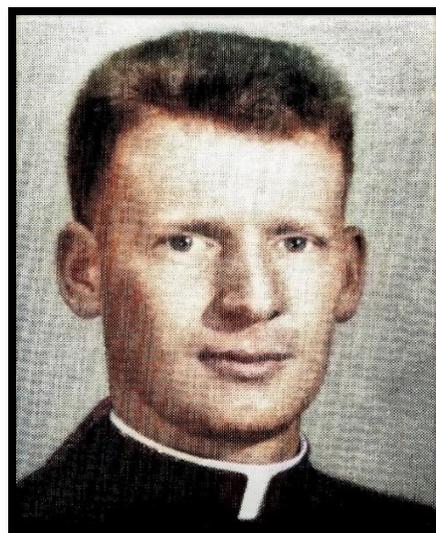
PASTORATE OF FATHER JEREMIAH BOLAND, 1969 - 1971



Father Jeremiah Boland

Father Thomas Boland retired from active ministry in 1969, and in February 1969, his brother, Father Jeremiah Boland, succeeded him as pastor of Saint Dominic Parish in Orland. Father Jeremiah Boland served as pastor until January 1971.

PASTORATE OF FATHER DANIEL CULLINAN, 1971 – 1974



Father Daniel Cullinan

Succeeding Father Jeremiah Boland as pastor of Saint Dominic Parish was Father Daniel Cullinan who began his term as pastor in March 1971 and served for three years until March 1974. He was then named pastor of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Vallejo.

PASTORATE OF FATHER MICHAEL DERMODY, 1974 – 1989

Father Michael Dermody began his pastorate of Orland in 1974. Robert Copey was ordained a transitional deacon on December 7, 1977 and served Saint Dominic Parish for a short time. He was ordained a priest on June 17, 1978 by Bishop Alden J Bell. Father Julian Medina also served as a parochial vicar of the parish from 1977 to 1982 and Father Gerardo Beltran came to Saint Dominic Parish from Mexico in 1982 and assisted in serving the parishioners of the parish.

MAJOR REMODELING OF THE CHURCH

In 1986, a major remodeling was done to Saint Dominic Church, the first update since it was built in 1949. The renovation, completed in 1986, changed the interior of the church in many ways. With an eye to the future growth of Orland and in keeping with the liturgical decrees of Vatican II, additional seating enhanced the beautification of the church.

A Church Remodeling Committee of 11 members was appointed by the pastor and many parishioners aided in the project, doing whatever they could to take part in the renovation. As a true labor of love, parishioners worked continuously to beautify their church. Joe Pereira, a general contractor and committee member, supervised the volunteers in making the interior structural changes.

John Zuppan, a committee member, with the help of some friends, designed and hand made a new cross, altar, ambo and tabernacle stand, all from a black walnut tree that had fallen into the Sacramento River years prior. The beauty of the hand-hewn sanctuary appointments was enhanced with inlaid cottonwood which added a special, personal touch to the beauty of the new interior of the church.



Photo by John E Boll

The interior of Saint Dominic Church

CELEBRATING THE RENEWAL OF SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH

As on the Day of Dedication of the new Saint Dominic Church in 1949, when the church was filled with many liturgical celebrations, so, it was fitting that on June 21, 1986, the day when the community came together to celebrate the renewing their church, there was a full day of celebrations. Leslie Barton and Thomas Kennedy were united in the Sacrament of Marriage; Justin Wade Donnelley was baptized into the Catholic Faith; Mass was celebrated; and a rehearsal for the Orland Holy Ghost Society Festa was held.

Over the years, the Saint Dominic Parish community has played an active role in sharing the Catholic faith individually and through organizations like the Altar Society, formed in 1949, and the Knights of Columbus, established in 1953.

TWO SONS OF ORLAND ORDAINED PRIESTS

Two parishioners of Saint Dominic Parish were ordained Catholic priests; Father Raymond Sousa was ordained a priest in 1973, and Father Donald St Louis was ordained a priest in 1978.

For over a century, Orland has been blessed with a vital, thriving Catholic community. From its origins as a small mission church of Saint Monica Parish in Willows, Saint Dominic Parish has grown into a full, faithful community, enriched by dedicated and active parishioners, priests and religious sisters.

FIRST MASS OF FATHER RAYMOND SOUSA IN 1973

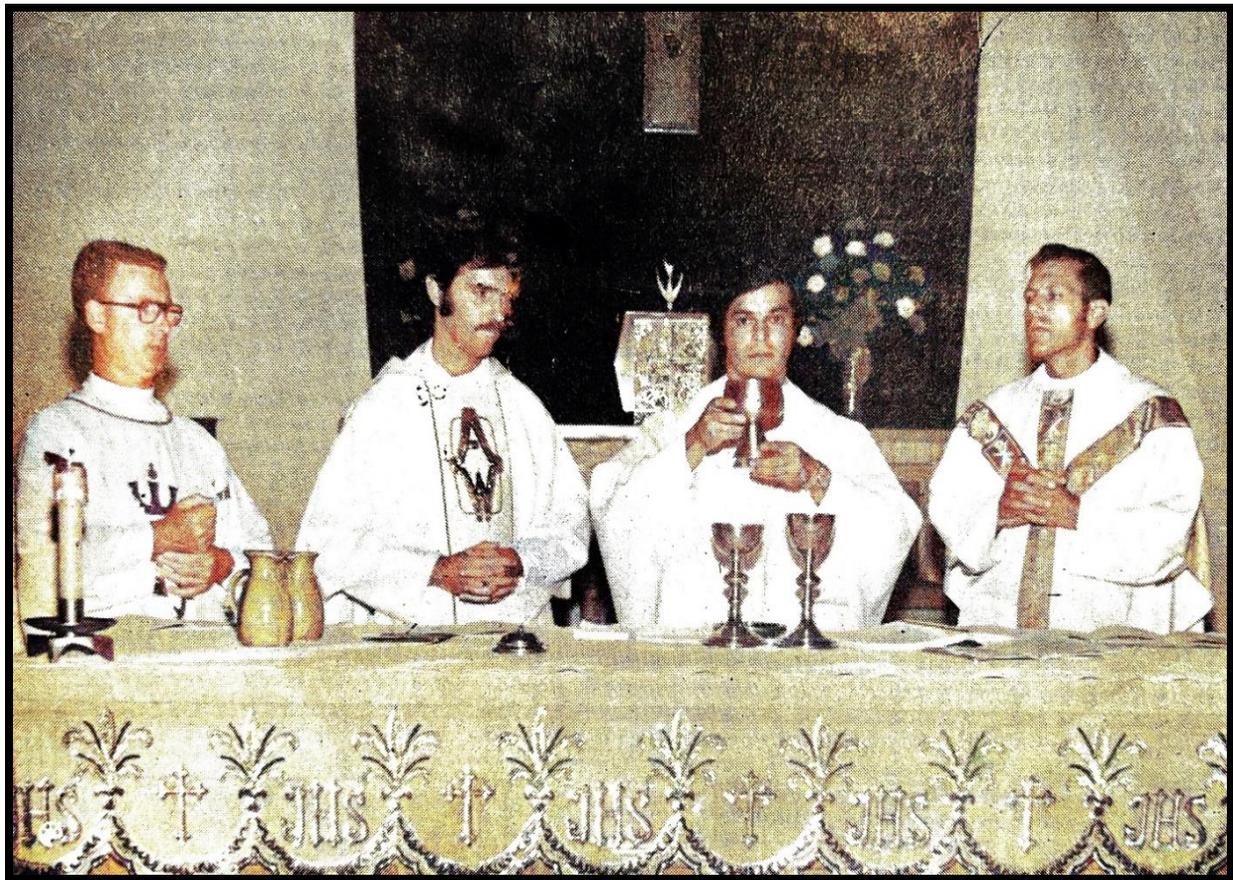


Photo by Clark Studio, Chico

Newly Ordained Father Raymond Sousa celebrates his First Mass in Orland

The first person to be ordained a priest from Saint Dominic Parish in Orland was Father Raymond Sousa who celebrated his First Mass at Saint Dominic Church on September 8, 1973. Joining him as con-celebrants were Father Daniel Cullinan, pastor of Saint Dominic Parish, Father Ron F Clouteri, from the Order of the Sacred Heart, and Father Richard Johnston, president of Sacred Heart Seminary in Victorville, California.

Youth who participated in the First Mass of Father Sousa were Nancy Overton who played the flute; Cathy Caviglia who was one of the cantors; Janet Overton, Bruce Regalia, and Mark Brown, guitarists; Steve Trovao, drummer.

After the celebration of the First Mass, parishioners and guests of the Sousa family shared in a reception for Father Raymond Sousa as he began his life of ministry.

FIRST MASS OF FATHER RONALD ST LOUIS IN ORLAND IN 1978

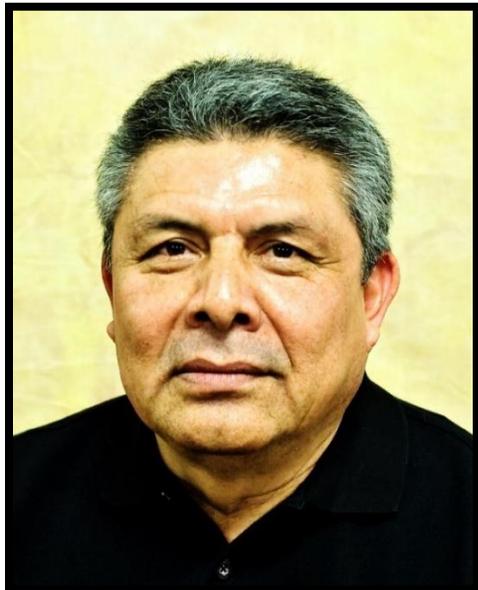


Photo by Veda Malone

A longtime Glenn County family honored one of its members, newly ordained priest Father Donald D St Louis, who was ordained on May 1, 1978, in Saint Ignatius Church, San Francisco. Attending the local Mass and reception were 500 parishioners and guests.

L-R: Herman St Louis of Maxwell, 90-year-old grand uncle, Rita St Louis, Father Ronald's mother; Father Ronald St Louis; and Arthur St Louis, Sr, Father Ronald's father.

MIGUEL SILVA COMES TO THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO



Father Miguel Silva

Miguel Silva was a seminarian in Mexico and came to Sacramento in July 1983. The Vocations Office of the Diocese of Sacramento sent him to Monterey, CA where he studied English. After that, he entered Saint Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park where he continued his studies.

Miguel was ordained a deacon at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Sacramento in February 1984 and Bishop Francis A Quinn ordained him a priest on November 24, 1984 in Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. He remained at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church working as a priest until May 1988.

Before he moved to Saint Dominic Parish in Orland, he went to visit his mother in Mexico who was very ill.

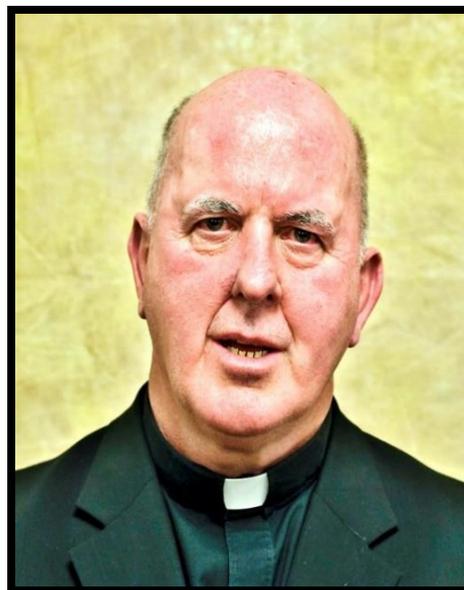
María Concepción García died on June 13, 1988. After Father Miguel returned to Sacramento from his mother's death and funeral, he moved to Orland to begin his new ministry. It was a difficult and emotional time for him since it was so close to the time of his mother's death.

When Father Miguel arrived at Saint Dominic Parish in Orland, the pastor was Father Michael Dermody. In 1990, Father Downey was appointed pastor of Orland and he served in that position for five years until he was appointed pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Fairfield.

PASTORATE OF FATHER MICHAEL DOWNEY, 1990 - 1995

Father Michael Downey began his pastorate in Orland in January 1990. He says that all in all, the ministry in Orland went well. Sister Marita Cunningham, RSM, was the coordinator of Religious Education in the parish and Father Mike says she did a great job in the work of catechetics in the parish.

Father Miguel Silva was parochial vicar during Father Downey's ministry as pastor. Father Miguel took care of the pastoral needs of the Hispanic parishioners and Father Mike worked with the English-speaking parishioners. He says there were quite a few Portuguese parishioners during his pastorate in Orland and many of them were farmers.

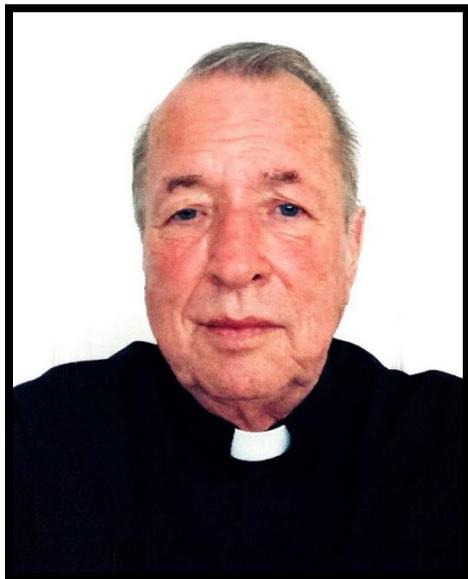


Father Michael Downey

The parish facilities were in good condition, so Father Michael did not have to deal with any building projects during his five years as pastor of Orland. He took care of the daily spiritual needs of parish community and focused on visiting parishioners in their homes and working with students preparing for the various sacraments. He also went to the two hospitals in Chico to visit parishioners who were patients there.

In 1995, Father Michael was appointed pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Fairfield where he served for the next 23 years, from 1995 to 2018. He retired in 2018 and moved to the Priests' Retirement Village in Citrus Heights. He now lives at Mercy McMahon Terrace in Sacramento.

FATHER THOMAS SEABRIDGE NAMED PASTOR OF ORLAND, 1996 - 2002



Father Thomas Seabridge

Succeeding Father Downey as pastor of Orland was Father Thomas Seabridge. At the same time, Father Miguel Silva was appointed pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Corning and he and Father Tom became co-pastors of both Saint Dominic Parish, Orland, and Immaculate Conception Parish, Corning.

Father Seabridge celebrated the Masses in English in both parishes and Father Miguel celebrated the Masses in Spanish in the same two parishes. The two priests worked well together in ministering to both the English speaking and Spanish speaking communities in the Orland and Corning Parishes.

Father Seabridge, reflecting on his six years as pastor of Orland, shares these reflections:

“I arrived at Saint Dominic Parish in Orland as pastor in 1996 and remained there until 2002. It was my first pastorate.

“The buildings were in need of paint inside and out. The sound system in the church was inadequate since many of the parishioners were elderly and hard of hearing. I waited at least two years to update the parish plant so I could first gain the trust of parishioners.

“The windows in the church were ordinary amber glass common to the 1960’s. I worked with a stained-glass proprietor in Chico and I took the design for the windows’ borders from Windsor Castle, while choosing scenes from Jesus’s ministry to highlight the window centerpieces. Various families purchased individual windows and dedicated them to the memory of their respective families.

“There was also a parishioner, John Zuppan, who had an amazing talent for wood working and carving, who built a beautiful altar, ambo, baptismal font and stand for the tabernacle, all at his own expense.

“Father Miguel and I worked well together with him ministering to the Hispanic families while I worked with the English-speaking families. I would usually awaken on Saturday mornings to the sound of Mariachis for baptisms or an afternoon Quinceañera. I grew very close to that community.

“The parish is largely comprised of a large Hispanic population with many living in Hamilton City, a mission of Orland. The Portuguese were dairy farmers and the rest were almond growers. Most of the Portuguese Dairymen were first and second generation from the Azores. The Portuguese bought up all the dairy land on the northern coast of California. When no land was left for the succeeding generations, they purchased land in the Sacramento and Central Valley areas, in order to continue their life as dairymen.

“The Portuguese had a very close bond and celebrated the Holy Spirit Festa every year, a celebration rich in their culture of which they were so very proud. Every five years, they would import wild bulls and matadors from Portugal for a “bloodless” bull fight.

“I was never much of a horseman, but clothed in a cope and surrounded by a Junior Posse holding a processional cross, I would open the celebration on horseback, blessing the matadors, the bulls, and of course, the Portuguese people. That simple act endeared me to the dairy community for years to come. On the feast of Saint Francis, I would visit all of the dairies and bless the cow, pigs, and dogs, to the delight of all.

“Bishop Quinn enjoined me to serve the community with kindness. “Be a good priest; be kind,” he would say. I took that to heart. My homilies were based on stories of kindness, lessons learned from my youth.

“Father Miguel and I became good friends. When Father Sean Maloney was retiring as pastor of Corning, Bishop Weigand planned to move Father Miguel and appoint a new pastor for Immaculate Conception Parish in Corning. I convinced the bishop that Father Miguel and I were already working as a team and suggested that we could take over both parishes and work as Co-Pastors.

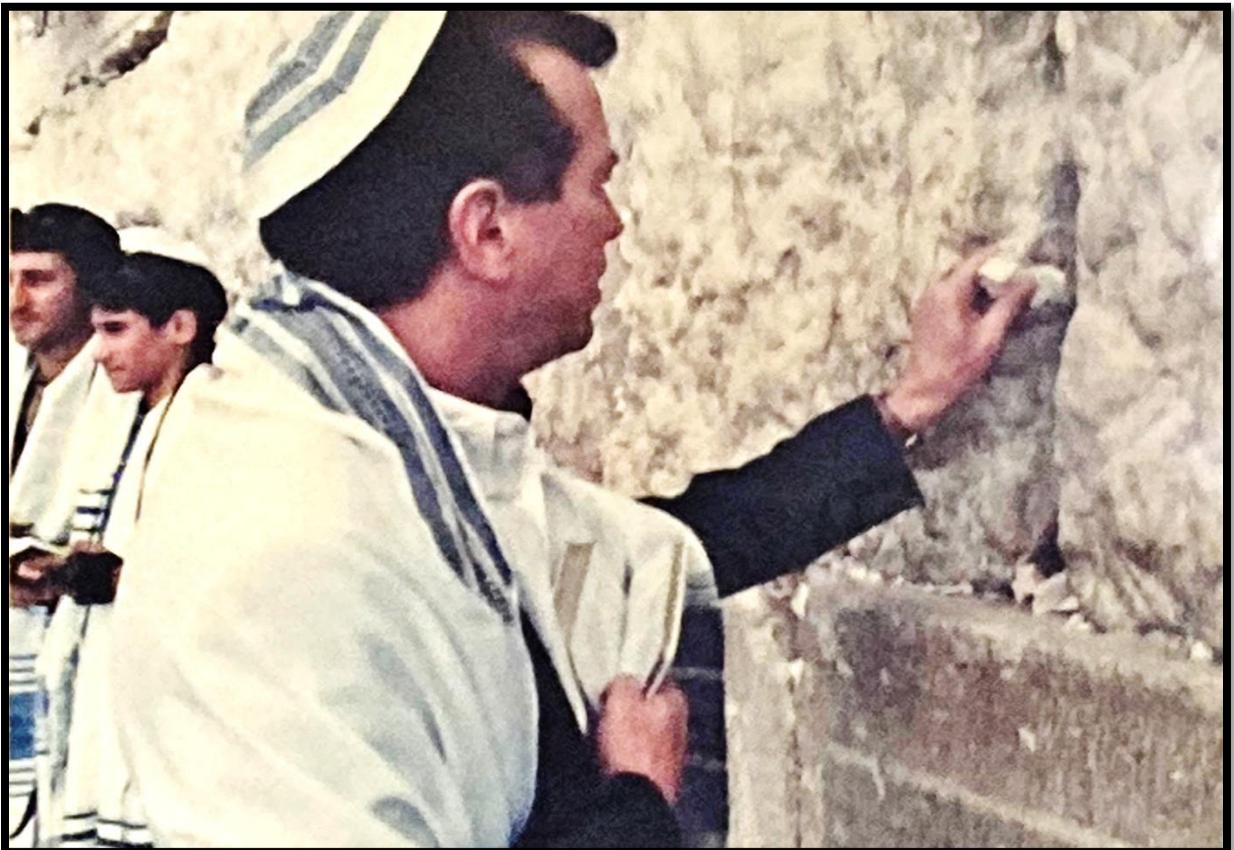
“With great deliberation, Bishop Weigand finally agreed, so, I took over the Anglo community in both parishes while Father Miguel moved into the rectory in Corning and took care of the Hispanic communities in both parishes. It was a dream team.

In 1998, I made a trip to Israel, and I took the prayers of parishioners from the parish and left them in one of the cracks of the wall at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.



Photos from Fr Thomas Seabridge

Father Tom leaves the prayers of his parish community at the Temple Wall in Jerusalem



“Father Miguel and I were always in agreement on working for the benefit of the larger community. It was the first and only successful co-pastorship in the diocese. Another subsequent co-pastorship in the diocese developed, but it failed. The bishop concluded that since conflicts arose between co-pastors, the idea was not very feasible.

“What I most loved about being in a small rural community like Orland was, I had the opportunity to know all of my parishioners very well. From that time on, I never applied for any city or suburban parishes. To know all the people well that I had served was a great blessing for me.”

FATHER MIGUEL SILVA’S WORK AS CO-PASTOR

After Father Miguel had time to get to know the parish community of Corning and assessed the needs, he decided to open the unused Mission Church of Saint Stanislaus in the town of Tehema. He began by celebrating two early Masses there on Sunday mornings, a Mass in English at 7 AM and a Mass in Spanish at 8 AM. Today, Sunday Mass is still celebrated in the Tehema Mission Church, but it is a bilingual Mass celebrated at 8 AM on Sunday mornings.

REOPENING OF SAINT STANISLAUS CHURCH IN TEHEMA

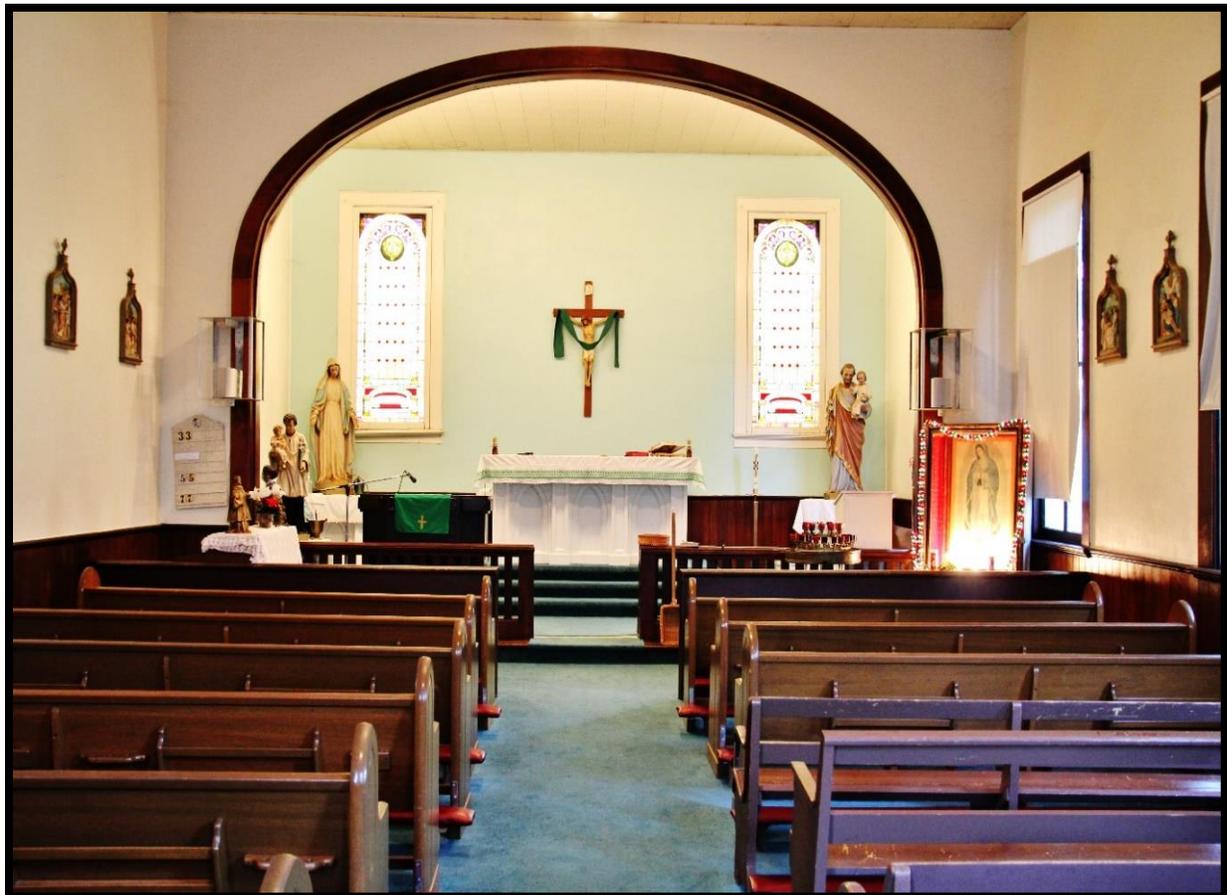


Photo by John E Boll

Saint Stanislaus Church, Tehema

SAINT MARY MISSION CHURCH IN HAMILTON CITY

Hamilton City is about 10 miles from Orland and has a large Hispanic community. The mission church is part of Saint Dominic Parish in Orland. There were three Sunday Masses celebrated at Saint Mary Church in Hamilton City, 8 AM in Spanish, 10 AM in English, and 5 PM in Spanish. The church holds about 80 people. The English Mass would have an attendance of about 65 people and the two Spanish Masses would have an attendance of about 300 people. The parish church of Saint Dominic in Orland had one Mass in Spanish during this period.

RENOVATION OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH IN CORNING

While Father Miguel was pastor of the Corning parish, he renovated the church in Corning by installing a new roof, carpeted the church and installed new doors. He said he liked the old church in Corning and wanted to renovate it and move back into it, but Bishop Weigand told him not to proceed with that plan, so Father Miguel dropped his idea.

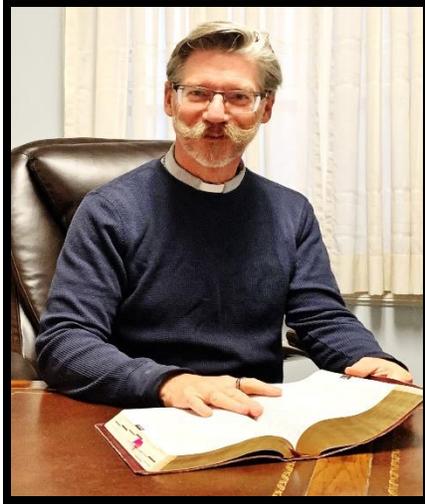
Father Miguel says his experience in Orland and Corning was very positive because the parishioners were ready and willing to help build up these two parishes.



Photo by John E Boll

Immaculate Conception Church, Corning

PASTORATE OF FATHER MICHAEL O'REILLY, 2002 – 2006



Father Michael O'Reilly shares his thoughts about his time of ministry at Saint Dominic Parish in Orland: "I remember coming to rural Glenn County in January 2002 from mountainous Siskiyou County and feeling like I was in a border town. I knew my Spanish language skills would need to improve. I was replacing co-pastors Tom Seabridge and Miguel Silva. Saint Dominic parish also had a large Hispanic community Mission Church of Saint Mary in Hamilton City.

SAINT DOMINIC PARISH WAS ACTIVE

"The parish was active. Old-time parishioners who grew up in the area tended to grow mostly almonds, citrus, and olives and collected honey. There was a large Portuguese community of dairy farmers. All were familiar with the history of the parish and some were still suffering the wounds of a very public scandal of clergy abuse to women which had created a scar and some division within the English-speaking community.

MY EFFORTS WERE TO BUILD GREATER UNITY IN THE PARISH

"For four years and six months, my efforts were to build greater unity in the parish as one pastor who was bi-lingual, build on the active youth ministry, spend time in parishioner's homes, and provide more ministry to the mission church in Hamilton City. The people were very receptive to me and we got along well. I purchased my own house a few blocks from the Church in Orland and felt right at home. I visit the town of Orland regularly and plan to retire there."



Photo from Saint Dominic Archives

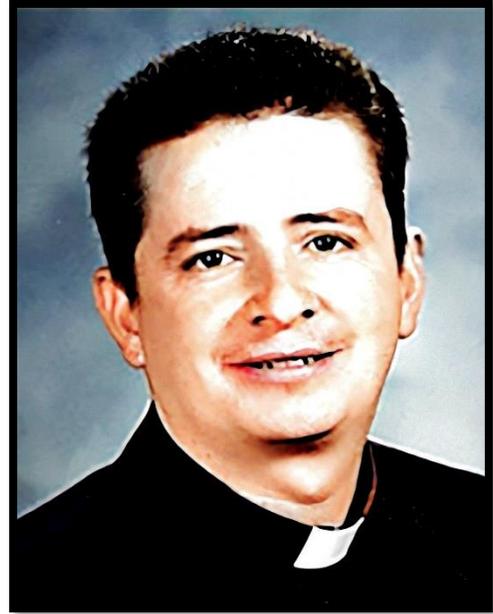
Father Michael celebrates Baptisms at the Easter Vigil at Saint Dominic Church in 2004

THE PASTORATE OF FATHER HERNANDO GOMEZ-AMAYA, 2006 - 2013

Father Hernando Gomez-Amaya was appointed pastor of Saint Dominic Parish in Orland, effective on July 1, 2006. He succeeded Father Michael O'Reilly as pastor. Father Hernando served the Orland Catholic community for 7 years until December 31, 2013.

Father Hernando says he was used to a different life-style, having lived in the San Francisco Bay Area and the Napa Valley. His first appointment after ordination was to Holy Family Parish in Citrus Heights when Father Troy Powers was pastor. His second appointment was Saint Vincent Parish in Vallejo.

When he arrived in Orland, he says he found the rectory not to be in good condition. He spoke with Bishop Weigand about the situation and the bishop gave him



Father Hernando Gomez- Amaya

permission to rent a house in Orland. He moved to a new house owned by George Snyder who was a seminarian at the time for the Diocese of Sacramento, and Father Hernando found it to be a comfortable home to live in.

MAINTENANCE WORK DONE ON PARISH FACILITIES

During his time in Orland, Father Hernando oversaw maintenance work on the parish hall and updating of the parish rectory. The savings the parish accumulated over his time in Orland provided enough money to pave the parish parking lot and do needed repairs on the rectory and the parish hall.

ORLAND WAS A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR FATHER HERNANDO

Father Hernando kept the same parish Mass schedule except for canceling the Saturday evening Spanish Mass in Orland after two years had passed. He says that his seven years in Orland were a very positive experience and he would have preferred to stay in Orland had he not been appointed pastor of Saint Patrick Parish in Placerville where he has been serving as pastor for the past nine years.

¡Siempre Adelante!

Always Forward!

PASTORATE OF FATHER GERALDO J RANIN, 2014 - 2017



Father Geraldo J Ranin

Father Geraldo J Ranin, a native of the Philippines, served as pastor of Saint Dominic Parish, Orland from 2014 to 2017. He has returned to the Philippines once again and is living in his native country.



Father Antonio B Racela

PASTORATE OF FATHER ANTONIO B RACELA, 2017 – 2022

Father Antonio Racela shares his experience as pastor of Orland: “Bishop Soto wanted me to focus on making the parish alive and dynamic once again. The parish had gone

through rough times before and so we focused on forming the hearts of the people of Orland by sharing the joy of the Gospel in our weekly liturgy, prayer, and many different parish events.

“During my time, 2017-2022, we went through ups and downs. The parish kept its spirits up amid the 2018 Camp Fire and the 2020 Pandemic. The parish was very busy sacramentally. I am blessed to be fluent in English and Spanish, that is why I was well received by the growing Hispanic population. In addition, people moved to Orland and Hamilton City because of the Camp Fire and the growing overflow population from Chico.

“We would have 8 to 9 Masses on a weekend, not including baptisms and confessions. I was the only priest for both Saint Dominic Church and Saint Mary Mission Church. The regular Saturday schedule was 4 PM confessions, 5 PM English Mass, and 7 PM Spanish Mass in Orland. Sunday schedule was 7 AM English Mass, Orland, 8:30 AM Spanish Mass in Saint Mary Mission Church, Hamilton City, and 10 AM English Mass and 12 noon Spanish Mass in Orland.

“During the Covid Pandemic, we continued celebrating Mass virtually, and soon after the restrictions, we started celebrating Mass outdoors, rain or shine, amidst the heat and cold. The Saturday 5 PM English Mass was eliminated from the schedule because of its low attendance.

“One highlight of my stay at Saint Dominic Parish was the Centennial Anniversary of the Parish in 2018-2019. It was a year-long celebration. We started with the Fall Festival and continued with a

few fundraising outdoor events, including a parish picnic at Lely Park and a pool party at Orland Swimming Pool. We capped the year with a Centennial Mass Celebration on November 22, 2019, presided by Bishop Soto and priests within the deanery, and a fun-filled Centennial Gala reception at the parish hall where we had a catered dinner, music, auction and recognition of parishioners.

My time in Orland was filled with joy and love. It truly is a home for me. I was blessed by the love, generosity and faith of the people.”

PASTORATE OF FATHER MAURICIO HURTADO, 2022 -



Father Mauricio Hurtado

Beginning on July 1, 2022, Father Mauricio Hurtado was appointed pastor of Saint Dominic Parish in Orland. He had been pastor of Saint Theresa Parish in South Lake Tahoe for the past five years. He has quickly discovered that Saint Dominic Parish is quite busy, but he is used to doing a lot of work. He will not miss shoveling snow before celebrating the morning Mass as he did every morning during the winters in South Lake Tahoe.

He just reported that he had to move the 12 noon Sunday Spanish Mass to the parish hall since 500 parishioners are attending that Mass and the church is too small to hold that number of people. Welcome to the ever-changing Church!

SAINT DOMINIC CATHOLIC CEMETERY

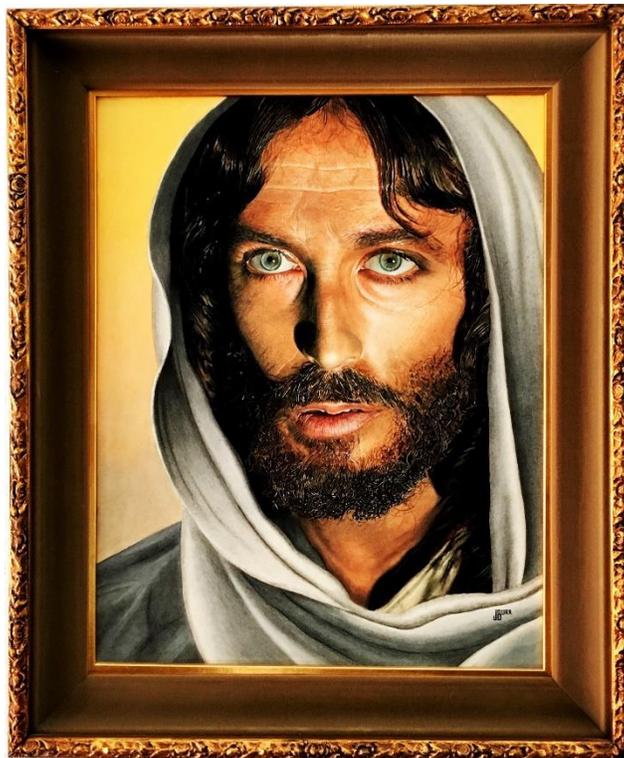
The tragic death of a six-year-old child sparked the establishment of the Orland Catholic Cemetery in 1926. According to a member of the Hattrupp family, the youngster, Irwin, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. F.W. Hattrupp.

After the celebration of the Funeral Mass, young Irwin was buried in the Orland Odd Fellows Cemetery. Distressed at the lack of consecrated ground in a Catholic cemetery for the resting place of their son, the Hattrupp family with M.T. Harrington and Father William Coen began to look for property to be used as a Catholic Cemetery for the faithful of Saint Dominic Parish.

They purchased the Steuben property on Road P, southwest of Orland. Dedicated parishioners, using a team of horses, worked to level the land. Their hard work and fidelity to the faith created a lasting memorial to our beloved dead in the establishment of this Catholic Cemetery.

After the dedication ceremony, the body of Irwin Hattrupp was moved from the Odd Fellows Cemetery and laid to rest in the blessed ground of the Catholic Cemetery in Orland.

*May Irwin Hattrupp and the souls of all
the Faithful Departed through the Mercy of God,
rest in peace!*



*I am the Good Shepherd,
My sheep hear my voice,
I know them, and they follow me*

*The Priests who have Served the Saint Dominic Parish
Community from 1884 to 2022:*

Father Michael Wallrath, 1884, Mission of Saint Monica Parish, Willows
Father William Coen, First Residential Pastor, 1919-1929
Father Michael F McNaboe, Pastor, 1929-1932
Father Edmond Grant, Pastor, 1932-1935
Father Patrick Burke, Pastor, 1935

Father Greely, Father Kennedy, Father Thomas Kirby, Parish Administrators, 1935-1936

Father Patrick Donnelly, Pastor, 1936-1942
Father P J McCarthy, Pastor, 1942-1947
Father Anthony J. Dosch, Pastor, 1947-1959
Father Thomas Boland, Pastor, 1959-1969
Father Jeremiah Boland, Pastor, 1969-1971
Father Daniel Cullinan, Pastor, 1971-1974
Father Michael Dermody, Pastor, 1974-1989
Father Michael Downey, Pastor, 1990-1995
Father Thomas I Seabridge, Co-Pastor, 1995-2002
Father Miguel Silva, Co-Pastor, 1996-2002
Father Michael O'Reilly, Pastor, 2002-2006
Father Hernando Gomez-Amaya, Pastor, 2006-2014
Father Geraldo J Ranin, Pastor, 2014-2017
Father Patrick Henry, Parochial Administrator Pro-tem, 2017
Father Antonio B Racela, Parochial Administrator, 2017-2019
Father Antonio B Racela, Pastor, 2019-2022
Father Mauricio Hurtado, Pastor, 2022 -

Parochial Vicars

Father Aiden O'Reilly, Assistant Pastor, 1963-1966
Father James Moroney, Assistant Pastor, 1966-1967
Father Matthias J. O'Callaghan, Assistant Pastor, 1967-1972
Father Robert A Copsey, Parochial Vicar, 1978
Father Julian Medina, Parochial Vicar, 1978-1982
Father Gerardo Beltran, Parochial Vicar, 1982-1988
Father Miguel J Silva, Parochial Vicar, 1988-1996
Father Eduardo Toscano, Parochial Vicar, 2001-2003

