

SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

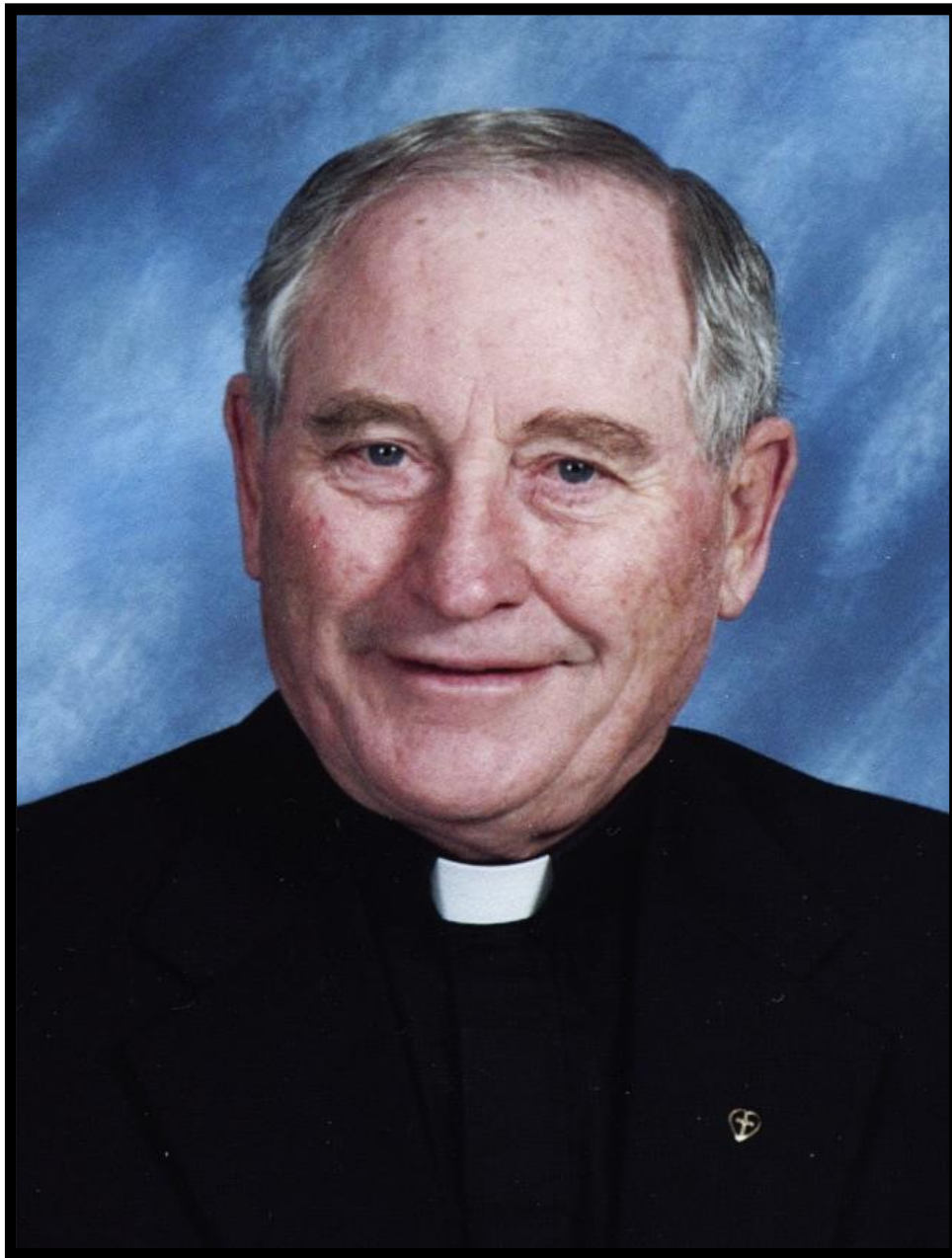
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Father John E Boll, Diocesan Archivist

No 13

FATHER WILLIAM PATRICK KINANE Pastor Emeritus of Saint Dominic Parish, Colfax

Interview by Father John E Boll, June 2014



Father William Patrick Kinane

William Patrick Kinane was born on November 2, 1932 in Tipperary Town, Tipperary County, Ireland, the tenth of eleven children born to Michael Kinane and Margaret Sweeney. There were seven boys and four girls in the family.



Bill's Parents, Michael and Margaret Kinane

Bill was raised on the family farm with mixed farming, the raising of crops and animals including cows, horses, sheep, pigs and even some Greyhounds.

When Bill was seven years old, World War II began. A consequence of the war was a serious lack of food which resulted in the rationing of many things. He began his schooling at the local Rossmore Primary School in 1938. As he began secondary school in 1946, he attended Mount Mellary College in County Waterford for the next five years. This school was operated by the Cistercian or Trappist religious community.

In 1950 Father Patrick Gleason, a priest of the Diocese of Sacramento, was home in Ireland on vacation. Father Gleason who knew the Kinane family came to visit and Bill heard him talk about Sacramento. Bill was interested in hearing the stories about Sacramento and this was his first contact with anyone from Sacramento.

Beginning of Studies for the Priesthood

From Mount Mellary College, Bill transferred to Thurles Seminary, County Tipperary, in September 1951. Sacramento was already in Bill's mind as a possible place to serve. He told the president of the seminary that he wanted to go to Sacramento even though the president tried to convince him to sign up for the Diocese of Great Falls, Montana.

Ordination to the Priesthood in Thurles

After his six years of studies at Thurles, Bill was ordained a priest in the Cathedral of the Assumption in Thurles on June 16, 1957 by Bishop Patrick Cleary, bishop of Nan Cheng, China. Bishop Cleary, who had been imprisoned in China and was recently released, was very frail at the ordination and had to be helped to walk up and down the stairs of the cathedral. Bill was ordained for service in the Diocese of Sacramento.



Ordination Picture of Father Kinane

Father Kinane Leaves Ireland for Sacramento

Father Kinane left the shores of Ireland from the Port of Cobh on September 8, 1957 for Sacramento on the Cunard Line ship named *Scythia* and sailed across the Atlantic in eight days, arriving in New York harbor on September 16. He spent several days in New York and visited Syracuse as well. He and fellow Sacramento bound Father John Burke flew from New York to San Francisco direct. Father Gleason, a friend of Bill's, met him at the San Francisco airport and he spent an overnight at hotel in the area. The next day, Father Mike Cormack drove from Sacramento to San Francisco to pick up Bill and drove him and John Burke to Sacramento. Bill spent his first night in Sacramento at Sacred Heart Parish. The next day he was taken to Saint Joseph Parish in North Sacramento where he helped out for five weeks.

First Assignment – Saint Joseph Parish, Redding

Father Bill received his first assignment from Bishop Joseph McGucken by letter that was written in Latin. He was appointed to Saint Joseph Parish in Redding as an assistant to Father John Patrick O'Connor who was pastor. Bill found that Father O'Connor was decent and fair to his assistants. Whatever Father O'Connor asked his assistants to do, he himself did as well. Father Bill remained at St Joseph Parish four and a half years and these were happy years.

Next Assignment – Saint Mel Parish, Fair Oaks

On February 2, 1962, Father Bill was transferred to Saint Mel Parish in Fair Oaks. Father William Horgan was the pastor of the parish. He found that St Mel was a beautiful parish and the people were very nice. The sisters from Doon, County Limerick, were in charge of the parish school. Doon was not far from where Bill had grown up so the sisters became good friends. He celebrated Mass for the sisters every morning at 6:30 am. He served Saint Mel Parish for three years until October 1, 1964.

Susanville, Here I Come!

On the morning of the first Friday of September, Father Kinane received a telephone call from Jean Tamaki, Bishop Bell's secretary, asking if he could meet with the bishop that morning. Since it was First Friday, Bill asked if the appointment could be delayed to the afternoon because he had Communion calls to make. In the afternoon, Bill arrived at the chancery, his first time there, to meet with Bishop Bell. Bill had no idea why the bishop wanted to see him. At the meeting, Bishop Bell began talking about Susanville and the prison but Bill had no idea where the bishop was going with this discussion. It soon became clear that Bishop Bell was asking Bill to go to Susanville as chaplain to the State Prison there. Bishop Bell assured Father Bill that if after a year he wanted to change, that would be possible. Actually, Bill was happy to move to Susanville.

Father Kinane arrived in Susanville on October 1, 1964, to begin his ministry at the prison. For the first year he lived on the grounds at the BOQ (Bachelor Officers Quarters) as his temporary residence. He was allowed to stay at the BOQ for the year. The next year he found a two bedroom rental home in town and moved there. A year later, Father John Hannan became the pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Susanville and invited Bill to move to the rectory. Bill made the move and enjoyed living at the rectory with Father Hannan. This move enabled him to experience parish life and ministry once again which he enjoyed very much.

On the Move Again; This Time to Folsom Prison!

After Bill's third year at Susanville, Bishop Bell called him again to ask if he was willing to succeed Father Ronan Brennan at Folsom State Prison since he had been appointed pastor. This meant that Father Bill could leave the cold winters of Susanville and he was happy to move to Folsom State Prison.

Father Kinane moved to Folsom on October 1, 1967 with residence at Saint John the Baptist Parish rectory. Living at the rectory was a pleasant experience for him. Prison life was more difficult in Folsom because this prison was the only maximum security prison for the state at that time. He served as Catholic chaplain at Folsom Prison for four years. It was during Bill's tenure at Folsom that Johnny Cash visited the prison and did a concert for the prisoners. At this point, Folsom had only one prison with more than 3000 inmates incarcerated.



Photo by John E Boll 2004

Sacred Heart Church, Anderson

Pastor of Anderson

In 1971 Sacred Heart Parish in Anderson became vacant and Bill applied for it. Bishop Bell appointed Father Kinane as pastor of Anderson and he arrived there in October 1971. In September 1973 while he was in Ireland after a visit to the Holy Land, Bill received a telegram from Bishop Bell saying that he wanted to appoint Bill pastor of Saint John Parish in Folsom. The telegram was signed "Higgins." He did not respond for two weeks since he felt it was not right to leave Anderson after only two years. However, in the end he agreed to go to Folsom and told the people of Anderson that it was Bishop Bell who asked him to go to Folsom as pastor, thus rightly putting the blame for this move on the bishop.



Photo by John E Boll 2013

St John the Baptist Church, Folsom Built during Father Kinane's Pastorate in Folsom

The Next Move - Pastor of Folsom

Father Kinane moved to Folsom on October 30, 1973 and spent twenty-two years as pastor of St John Parish in Folsom. His experience of this ever expanding parish was wonderful. The parish first built a parish hall on the parish school grounds in east Folsom in 1978. At this time, the parish church was located on the west end of town. The parish used the hall for liturgies on Christmas and Easter.

St John Church in west Folsom seated only 450 so the parish had to provide a number of weekend Masses. The Sunday Mass schedule was 7, 8:15, 9:30, 11 and 12:30 and a Sunday evening Mass at 6 PM.

Prior to the arrival of Sister Anne Maria Ryan, PBVM, the parish school had been struggling. Sister Anne Maria had a great way with people and was able to increase the number of students so it became a thriving parish school.

With the continuing growth of Folsom, it was clear that something had to be done to increase the seating capacity of the church for Sunday Masses. There was thought of extending the existing church but in the end the decision was made to build a new church on the property where the parish school and hall were located, thus bring together the parish facilities in one place.

Raising the Funds to Build a New Church

A very successful parish fund drive was held in 1987-88 to build a new church. The fundraiser was Reynolds-Johnson who had done the fund drive for the parish hall. The diocese required that the parish had half the funds pledged before the project could begin. When construction began, there was a million and a half dollars in hand for the project. The church was completed for Christmas Mass in 1989.

The church dedication was held on January 14, 1990, Super Bowl Sunday. During the Mass of Dedication, the San Francisco 49ers were playing the Los Angeles Rams. At the end of Mass, Father Bill asked Bishop Quinn to make the announcement that the 49ers had beat the Rams and the whole church broke into spontaneous applause.

Next – Pastor of St Catherine of Siena Parish, Vallejo

Bill continued on in Folsom until 1993 when Bishop William Weigand pressed him to move to Saint Catherine Parish in Vallejo. Bill was on the Priests' Personnel Board at that time and toward the end of the retreat on Thursday, Bishop Weigand, now bishop of Sacramento, twisted Bill's arm to take the pastorate of St Catherine Parish. Bill really did not want to move to Vallejo but gave in to the bishop's pressure to make the change.



Photo by John E Boll 2014

Saint Catherine of Siena Church, Vallejo

Father Kinane was warmly welcomed to Vallejo on June 16, 1995 by everyone except for the Filipino picketers who marched every Sunday in protest against Bishop Weigand for removing Father Abraham Alonzo from Saint Catherine Parish. Many of the protesters were from Saint Basil Parish where Abraham had served as a popular parochial vicar. By the time the fall rains began, the picketers ended their protests. Father Bill thanked God for the wet weather that cleared up the parish situation.

Father Bill served eight happy years as pastor of St Catherine of Siena Parish. However, he found the parish very busy and he was 70 years of age. When the pastorate of the Colfax parish became vacant, he applied for that parish and was appointed the pastor. He moved to Colfax on July 1, 2003 and remained there until his retirement in March 2008.



Photo by John E Boll 2013

Saint Dominic Church, Colfax

The Final Assignment – Saint Dominic Church, Colfax

The Colfax parish was a pleasant assignment for Father Bill but busier than he expected. The parish had the tradition of many volunteers but there was no parish secretary. The only paid staff member was the faith formation coordinator. At 75, Father Bill sent his letter of resignation to Bishop Weigand who accepted his request to retire. Father Bill waited until Father Ambrose Ugwuegbu arrived to take over the parish in March 2008 before he began his retirement.

Father Bill Retires and Moves to the Priests' Retirement Village, Citrus Heights

Bill Kinane moved to the Priests' Retirement Village in Citrus Heights in 2008 and has been living in the village since then. He continues to be in good health and helps out a lot in various parishes who call upon him for Sunday help.

Retirement has been a very happy experience for Father Kinane and he finds living at the Priests Village a very happy and positive experience. He continues to visit Ireland yearly to spend time with his three living sisters and to keep in touch with his many nieces and nephews. He plays golf religiously every week and is still one of the best golfers on the clerical circuit.

We wish Father Bill Kinane many happy years in retirement!



Father Kinane's First Mass in 1957



A First Communion in Folsom

St. Patrick's College, Thurles Ordination Class

1957



REV. J.J. MOORE
GREAT FALLS



REV. A. D'ARCY
MOTHERWELL



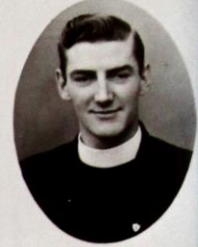
REV. M. O'HANLON
GREAT FALLS



REV. D. O'DWYER
SALFORD



REV. J. BURKE
SACRAMENTO



REV. E. CAREY
LANCASTER



REV. J. FLYNN
MOTHERWELL



REV. P. RYAN
MAITLAND



REV. J. AHERNE
MOBILE



REV. P. McDONNELL
ST AUGUSTINE



REV. J. KEANE
SAN ANTONIO



REV. S. MCGOWAN
CORPUS CHRISTI



REV. J. CANTWELL
NOTTINGHAM



REV. A. DEVINE
WELLINGTON



REV. W. KINANE
SACRAMENTO



REV. J. HARRIS
S. C. A.



REV. M. KIELY
S. C. A.



REV. A. QUINN
S. C. A.



REV. E. O'BRIEN
S. C. A.



REV. F. CARROLL
S. C. A.

"For Christ therefore we are Ambassadors" (2 COR. 5:20)

Father Kinane's Ordination Class of 1957 St Patrick Seminary, Thurles, Ireland

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