

# SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

Vol 3

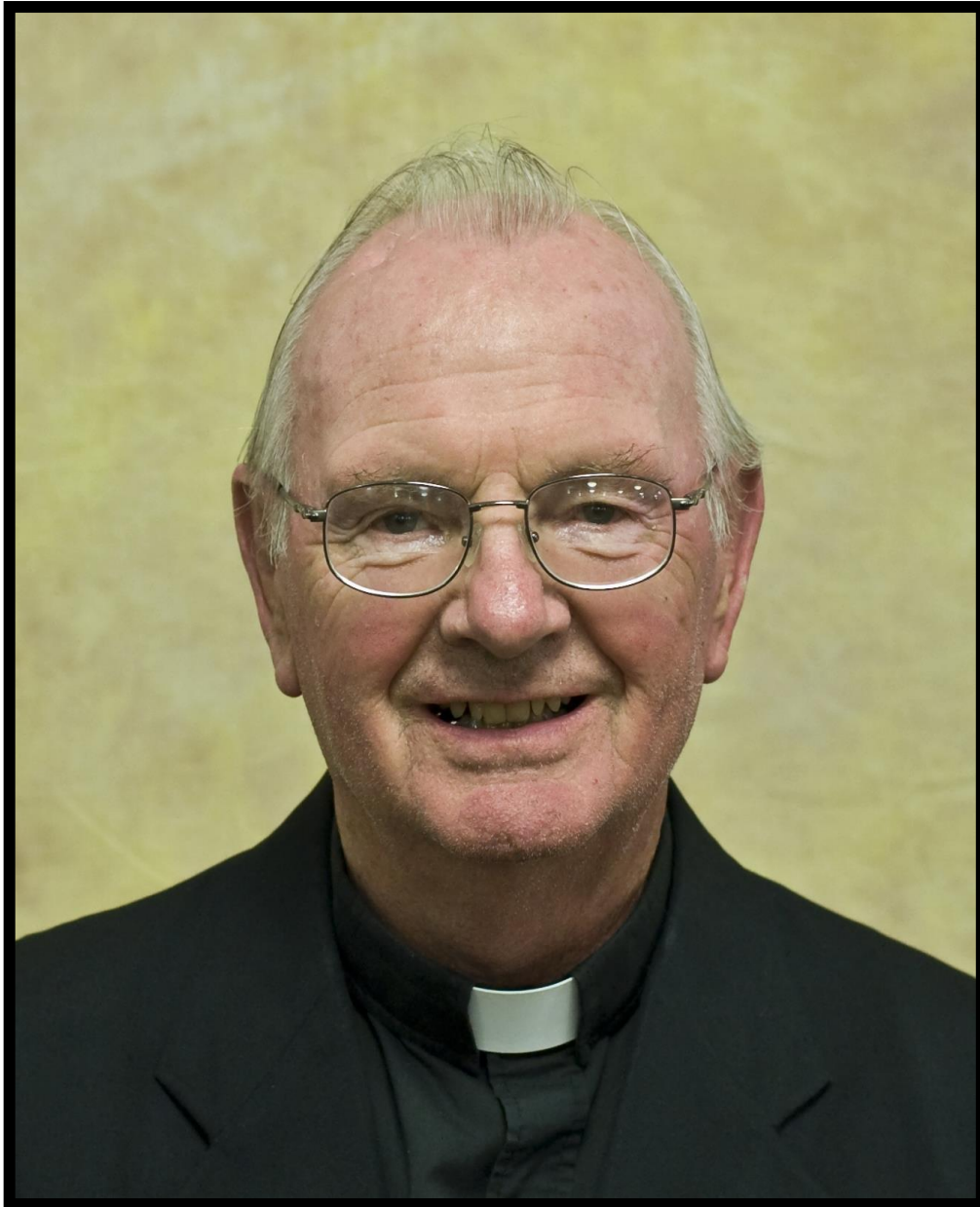
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No 5

## FATHER ANTHONY TRAYNOR

Pastor Emeritus of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Sacramento

Interview by Father John E Boll, Diocesan Archivist



**Father Anthony Traynor**

**Anthony Traynor** was born on November 11, 1932 in Bailieboro, County Cavan, Ireland, the seventh son born to Matthew Traynor and Kate Mary Clarke. Bailieboro is a small town of 1500 people. Tony's father was a native of Ireland but set out for America as a teenager. During his nine year stay he became an American citizen but returned to Ireland, married Kate Clarke and they settled down to raise a family of seven sons.



Photo from Fr Traynor

### **Bailieboro, Hometown of Father Traynor**

Matthew Traynor was a good business man and established a hardware, grocery and egg store in Bailieboro. The Traynors bought eggs from the local farmers and then sold them to hospitals and restaurants in Dublin as well as exported them to England.

### **Tony Begins his Education**

Growing up in a family of seven boys was not difficult says Tony. His brothers treated him well and there was no fighting or arguing in his family. He attended St Anne National School in Bailieboro which was operated by the Irish government. After primary school, he entered Saint Patrick College boarding school in Cavan, twenty miles from Bailieboro. Like his brothers before him, Tony was a boarding student at the college.

### **St John Seminary, Waterford**

During his years at Saint Patrick's College, Tony played Irish Football for the college. One day after graduation, he attended a football match and happened to meet James Mulligan whom he had known in college. Tony asked Jim what he was doing and he told Tony he was a seminary student at Saint John's, Waterford. James asked Tony: "Why don't you come to the seminary too?" Tony entered Saint John Seminary and never looked back.

Saint John Seminary prepared its students for both the Irish church and the missions. During his six years of seminary studies, Tony met Leo McAllister. Jim Mulligan, Leo and Tony became friends and it was Leo who urged the two of them to sign up for Sacramento. Both Jim and Tony took Leo's advice and signed up for service in the Diocese of Sacramento.

Tony says that a major focus of Saint John Seminary was public speaking and preaching. The seminary taught the students how to be effective public speakers so they could become good preachers of the Gospel.

### **Father Tony Traynor Ordained a Priest for Sacramento**

Tony was ordained a priest on June 17, 1958 at the Waterford Cathedral by the bishop of the diocese. After a couple months of vacation with his family, Father Tony left Ireland in September from the Port of Cobh, Ireland for the trans-Atlantic voyage to New York. He says the crossing was rough so he stayed in bed most of the time where he felt safe and avoided getting sea sick.

After his arrival in New York, Father Tony's cousins met him at the port and over the next two weeks gave him a tour of New York City. He then began the journey across the heartland of America by train, arriving in Sacramento where he was met by Father Ed Kavanagh who took him to Saint Robert Parish for the first few days. The pastor was Father Hugh McTague, a graduate of Saint Patrick College in Cavan as was Tony.

### **First Assignments**



Photo by John Boll 2012

### **Sacred Heart Church, Red Bluff**

His next assignment was to Saint Joseph Parish, Marysville from 1965 to 1969. He then served at Saint Mel Parish, Fair Oaks where he assisted Father William Horgan from 1969 to 1971.

### **Father Traynor is Named Pastor of Quincy**

On November 23, 1971, Father Tony was named pastor of Saint John Parish, Quincy where he served for nine years. The winters were cold and dangerous, especially the drive to Greenville

Father Tony's first appointment was to Sacred Heart Parish in Red Bluff where he assisted Monsignor William Coen for five months. He then was assigned to Immaculate Conception Parish in Sacramento for three years, March 19, 1959 to September 28, 1962.

From Immaculate Conception Parish, Father Tony was sent to All Hallows Parish in Sacramento where he served for three years.



for Sunday Mass. Sometimes the road was covered with snow, or even worse, black ice. Winter is always a treacherous time of year for priests serving in the mountain areas of the diocese.



Photo by Fr John E Boll, 2012

**Saint John Church, Quincy**

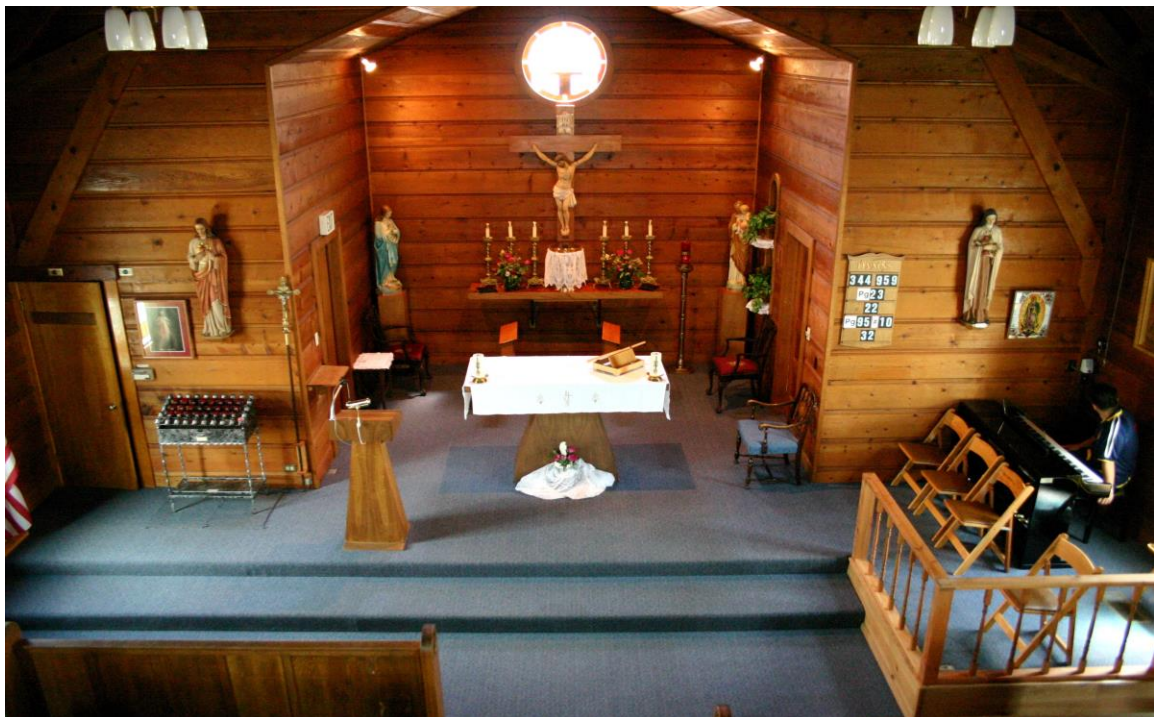


Photo by John E Boll, 2011

**Interior of Saint John Church, Quincy**

### **Pastor of St Joseph Parish, Auburn**

From Quincy, Father Traynor was named pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Auburn where he served eight years, succeeding Father Ronan Brennan. Father Tony says he loved Saint Joseph Parish just as has loved every parish where he has served.



Photo by John E Boll 2012

### **St Joseph Church, Auburn**

### **Father Tony Serves Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Sacramento**

Father Tony's final pastorate was Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Sacramento where he served for sixteen years, 1988-2004.

### **Retirement Years**

At the age of 70, Father Traynor decided to retire in 2002. He purchased a mobile home and lived in a mobile home park for eleven years. In August 2013, he decided to move to the Priests' Retirement Village in Citrus Heights where he would be closer to his brother priests and share more fully in the community life of the Priests' Village. He settled into his apartment at the Village and was content to be living with his brother priests. He now lives in an assisted living facility in Citrus Heights.

### **Thanks to Father Tony for his Life of Service**

Father Anthony Traynor has served as a priest of the Diocese of Sacramento for more than a half century. The People of God of the Church of Sacramento thank him for dedicating his life to this local church of Sacramento. We wish him God's blessing in retirement.

## **Ad Multos Annos!**