

SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

Vol 4

Father John E Boll, Archivist

No 43

PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS OF THE DIOCESE COMPLETE THE MAT PROGRAM IN 1973

This article is compiled by the Diocesan Archivist from an article in the *Catholic Herald* and a Memorial Booklet from the MAT Program

February 1, 1972 marked the beginning of an incredible achievement for the priests and religious of the Diocese of Sacramento. On that date, the first class was held for a Masters of Arts in Teaching for forty six priests and religious of the diocese.



Father Patrick McGrath

The MAT program, as it was known, was created through the persistent hard work of Father Frank Murphy from the University of San Francisco and Father Patrick McGrath, associate director of CCD for the Diocese of Sacramento. It was Father Pat's conviction that ongoing education for clergy in the post Vatican II church was essential. He worked with Father Frank Murphy to begin a dialogue with the University of San Francisco to see if the University would be willing to partner with the Diocese of Sacramento to provide an accredited theological and teaching program for the priests and religious of the diocese. The plan was to create an extension program from the Jesuit University of San Francisco in Sacramento. The professors would travel from San Francisco to Sacramento to teach the weekly class.

Working with Father Frank Murphy at USF, Father McGrath spent hundreds of hours with many different entities – the University of San Francisco, Bishop Alden Bell, the Priests' Senate and the clergy and religious of the diocese before this program became a reality. Paying for the program was a joint venture: 1/3 paid by the diocese; 1/3 by the parish or diocesan department; 1/3 by the priest or religious.

The course of studies took a year and a half with class held once a week at the Sacramento Newman Center. A number of priests who served in the more remote areas of the diocese had to drive to Sacramento each week for class. This travel entailed an additional commitment to

the program including travel time and expense but these dedicated priests made the sacrifices necessary to complete the course of studies.

The MAT program concluded on December 28, 1973 with a Mass and graduation celebration at the Cathedral. At that Mass, the University of San Francisco presented Father Patrick McGrath with a distinguished service award for his work in spearheading the creation of a master's degree program for the priests and religious of the diocese. In part, the citation given to Father McGrath read: "An authentic far-sighted priest, he has devoted many, many hours of his valuable time to ensure the validity of the Program which is essential for the continuing education of clergy and religious. His real concern and contagious enthusiasm have been indispensable ingredients to the success of an educational experience which will be a model in the University's apostolate of service to the Church in other dioceses."



Fr Patrick McGrath receives a Service Award from USF by Fr John Martin, SJ, Fr Frank Murphy, and Dr Edward Griffin for his dedication to establishing the MAT Program in Sacramento

In the January 3, 1974 issue of the *Catholic Herald*, the paper's staff wrote a lead article about the MAT program which now follows:

MAT PROGRAM IS CALLED A GREAT SUCCESS

Folsom State Prison chaplain Father Denis Keaney says it will help him to be a better “conscience” to the warden’s staff. Sister Mary Hartnett, a teacher in Carmichael, learned that the role of the religious educator “is not to indoctrinate, but to guide the student in developing his own individuality.” Father Sean Carrigy, from Saint Catherine parish, Vallejo, acquired an interest in helping the mentally retarded. “I found they can add another dimension to life,” he said.

Three of the participants thus stated the merits of an unusual venture in graduate education, which ended last week in Sacramento. At a special ceremony at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, 34 priests, 11 nuns and a religious brother received from the University of San Francisco the degree of Master of Arts in Teaching of Religion.

After two years of studies in education methods, theology, communication and the behavioral sciences, the 46 graduates are unanimously in praise of the program. Especially because the USF faculty did most of the traveling, holding weekly classes in Sacramento’s Christ the King retreat center and the Sacramento Newman Center.

The educational “outreach” effort was the first of its kind in the US. Starting On February 1, 1972, it was a combined operation, administered by the USF Graduate Division and the School of Education. The professors were specialists in education, theology, communication, psychology, and sociology. The Diocese of Sacramento, which had requested the program, lent local direction through its office of religious education, in the person of Father Patrick McGrath, associate director.

Says Father McGrath: “Since the Second Vatican Council in 1964 the Catholic Church has been telling its religious personnel the education they got in seminary or convent is not enough. This is an age of fantastic change – technical, cultural, and theological. Anyone in a pastoral or teaching position has to understand the process of change in order to remain effective, and therefore has a responsibility to continue to acquire further education. Thus prepared, pastors and teachers can carry on the critical job of proving that human needs do not stop at the physical, that people also need a sense of values, of community, of ultimate goals.”

Since priests, sisters and brothers can’t just close shop and go off to school, USF’s “University to You” program made it possible to realize Vatican II’s advice, Father McGrath declared. For a number of the 46 graduates, it was a matter of meeting the USF community faculty half way.

Father John Healy drove to weekly classes from Sacred Heart Parish in Red Bluff. The round trip was 500 miles for Father Michael Dermody, pastor of the mountain parish of Saint Joseph in McCloud. Sister Rita Carney came up from Stockton, and Father Patrick Lanigan from his pastoral duties at Saint John’s Parish in Chico.

Of the degree recipients, 42 are natives of Ireland recruited to staff the Catholic parishes and schools of the Sacramento diocese. For the more recent arrivals, the USF master's program had the additional value of acculturating them to the process of change, American-style. Says Tipperary-born Father John Cantwell of Holy Spirit parish in Sacramento: "We were educated for a particular Western European culture. This course allowed us to appreciate the American system. It made us more open."

Other comments from the group include these: "It helped synthesize the search for purpose, by desacralizing the "sacred" and "sacralizing the profane."

"A broadening experience compared to the party line of the past."

"Superior to the courses we had in the seminary."

"A builder of community!"

"Gave me a feeling of stability and understanding of the church in an unstable world."

Nearly all the graduates say they plan more education. Most will put their insights to work immediately: in expanded adult education classes, in teaching and counseling grade and high school students, in special ministries.

Folsom's Father Keany says frankly, "it won't help me in teaching religion to inmates, but the degree provides confidence and expertise in my role of counseling the warden and staff on moral problems."

The Friday night commencement homily was given by Father Frank J Murphy who founded the MAT/Religion program at USF and launched the outreach phase in Sacramento. Father Murphy is now superintendent of Catholic Schools in Washington, DC.

USF Graduate Division Dean Father John H Martin, SJ, conferred the degree. In January the University of San Francisco will send faculty members to Monterey, to open a similar program leading to the master's degree in teaching religion. The classes are open to lay persons as well and are pointed toward qualifying teachers of public high school and college teaching classes dealing with religion and moral values.

One of the Sacramento graduates, Chico's Father Patrick Lanigan says he hopes to teach in the religion department of Chico State University next fall.

THOSE WHO RECEIVED THE MAT DEGREE IN 1974

Reverend John E Boll
Brother John Brickell
Sister Clare Buckley
Reverend John Cantwell
Sister Rita Carney

Reverend John K Carrigy
Reverend James F Church
Reverend Andrew V Coffey
Reverend John G Cuffe
Reverend Michael Dermody
Reverend Michael Dillon
Reverend Nicholas Duggan
Sister Margaret Fitzgerald
Sister Angela Fleming
Sister Mairead Galvin
Sister Jane Golden
Sister Mary Hartnett
Reverend John Healy
Reverend Denis P Keaney
Reverend John J Kyne
Reverend Patrick J Lanigan
Reverend Brendan Lawlor
Reverend Frank Lawlor
Sister Imelda Lawlor
Reverend Patrick Vincent Lenehan
Reverend Daniel A Looney
Sister Anne Lucey
Reverend Liam macCarthy
Reverend Michael C McKeon
Reverend Thomas J Maguire
Reverend John J Moloney
Reverend James Moroney
Monsignor Patrick M Nolan
Reverend Maurice J O'Brien
Reverend Michael O'Connor
Reverend Michael O'Keeffe
Reverend P Colm O'Kelly
Reverend Sean R O'Leary
Reverend Vincent P O'Reilly
Reverend William Spring
Sister Oliver Sullivan
Reverend Russell G Terra
Reverend James B Walsh
Reverend Michael Walsh
Reverend William K Walsh

Photos from the MAT Book of Memories

Courtesy of Father Maurice O'Brien

THEREIN LIES THE
NOBILITY
OF THE
FAITH.

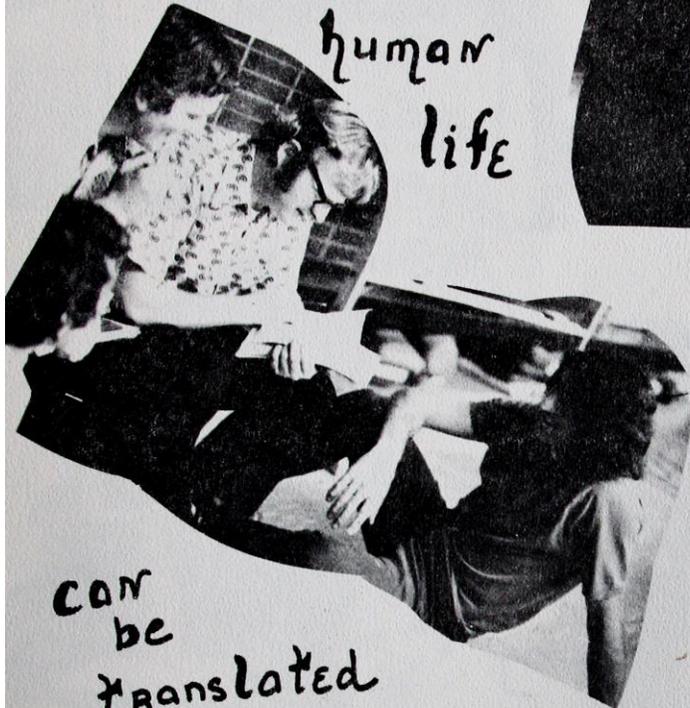
THAT
WE
HAVE
THE
HEART
TO DARE
SOMETHING.



Cardinal Newman



“EVERY
SENTENCE
of
human
life



can
be
translated

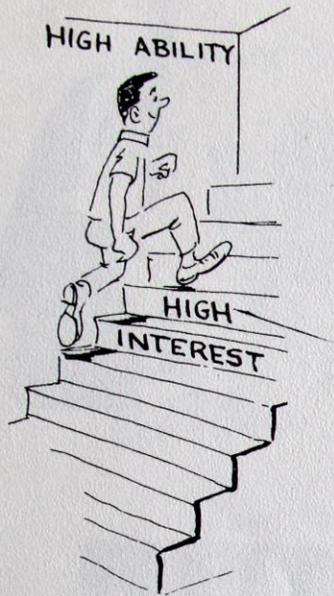


into a
sentence

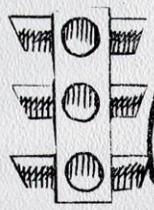


about
God.”

G. Baum.

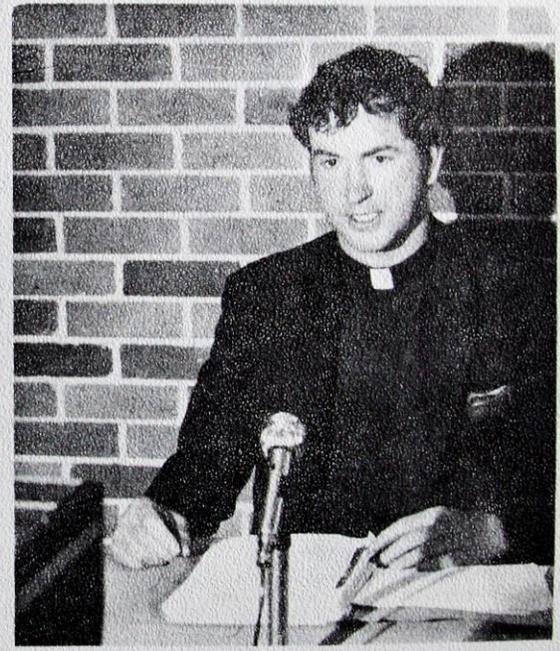


By virtue of
the Creation,
and still more
of the Incarnation,
nothing here below
is profane
for



those who
know how to see

piere teilhard de Chardin



Professors of the MAT Program

ECCLESIAL; ECLECTICAL; ECLOGUES

*Sydney Simon met a sister
Going off to teach,
Said Sydney Simon to the sister
"That's quite beyond their reach.
Give over your dry speculation
On eschatalogical expectation.
The here and now revelation
Lies in Values Clarification."*



*Jim Mackey from Erin's green isle
In response to a student opine
On the symbols of bread and wine
Gave a measured sardonical smile.*



*Hallowed were the Gold Dust Trails,
The Mother Lode.., such talk;
Gene Schallert says "such effort fails,
You'll find your God in chalk."*



*Wildiers of the comely angelic pate,
views Teilhard in contra-distinction to fate.
"Now--ledge", says he, of God's infinite plan
shows process from "any-mal" to man.*



*From the flotsam and jetsam a flare!
Kevin Gordon in colors so rare;
If you're flutzin' around
With your feet off the ground
The faithful will frown on your fare.*

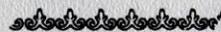


Professors of the MAT Program

*Kenan Osborne from Theological Union,
brought erudite worlds to our vision.
His hellenist world of abstrusion
left students in utter confusion.*



*Mix Rogers Brunner and Skinner,
Liz says you come up with a winner.
If you want to be sheek,
with elite do not speak
Of man as a grace-needing sinner.*

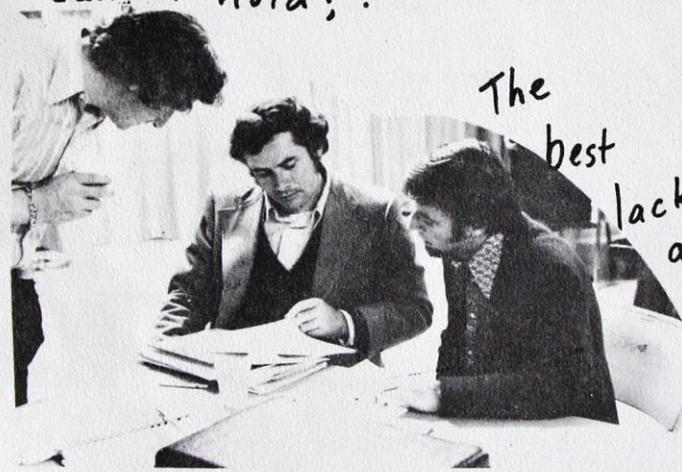
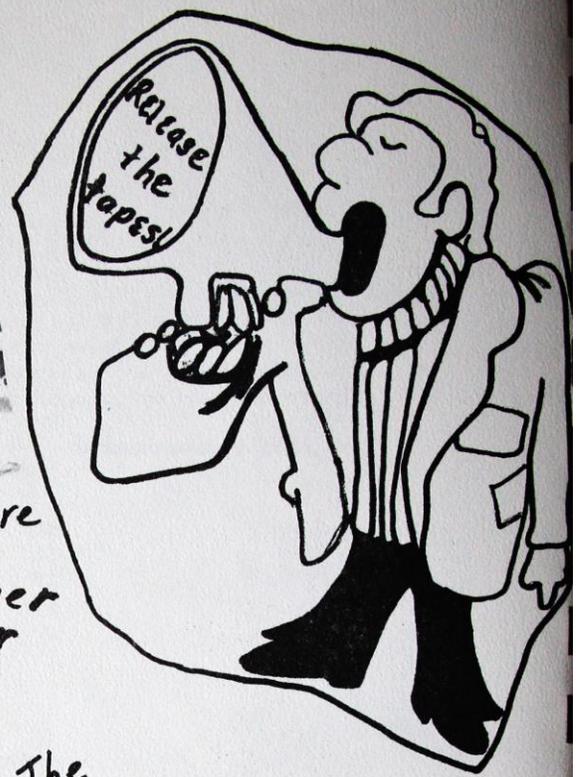


*Matthew, Mark and Luke
were very simple men.
They wrote a simple script.
The gnostics came
to save mankind.
(Neo-platonists, Neo-Thomists
and a Blue Army.)
In these days came Carl Lyons.
He de-mythologized the ages
with hand-outs and electronic syncopation.*





Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer
Things fall apart; the center
cannot hold; .



The best
lack
all
conviction

while the worst
are full of
Passionate
intensity.



W.B. Yeats

*S*LOW ME DOWN, LORD



*and inspire me to
send my roots deep into the soil of life's enduring
values*



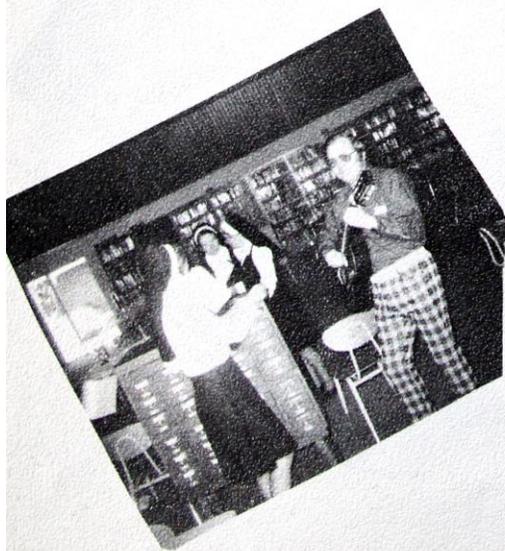
*that I may grow toward the stars
of my greater destiny.*





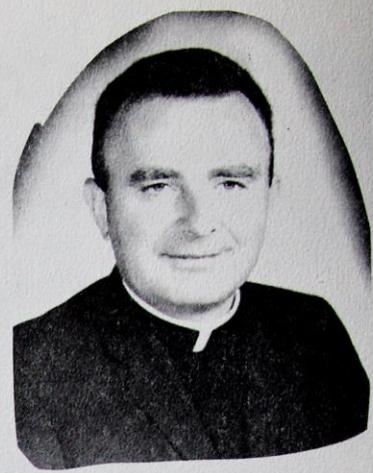
Service
to the
World

Pursuit
of
Truth



Some day
after mastering the
winds, the waves, the tides
and gravity,
we shall harness for God
the energies of LOVE.
And then
for the second time
in the history of
the world
man will have discovered
FIRE
Teilhard de Chardin

Success
is NEVER
final.



Failure
is NEVER
fatal..

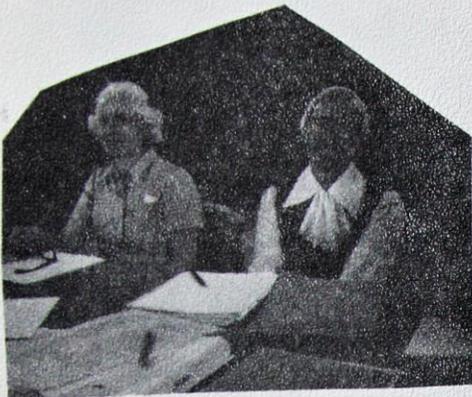


It's
COURAGE
that
counts

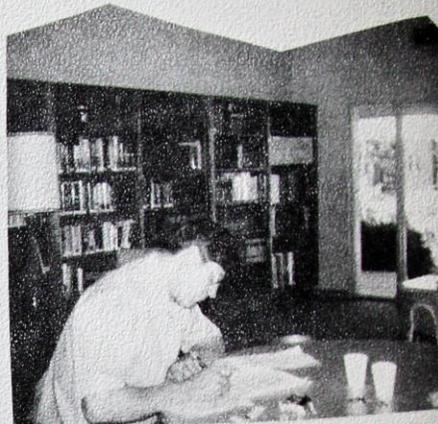


Whatever ultimate meaning
life may have,

this much can be said already—



*life is a call to share
in the world's making.*

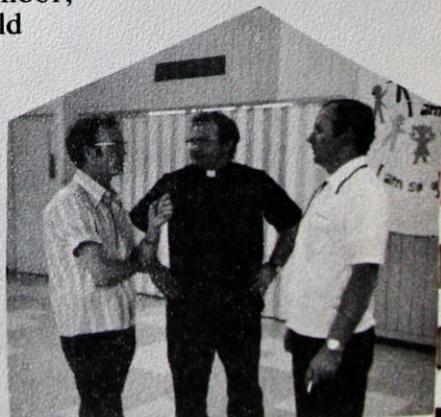
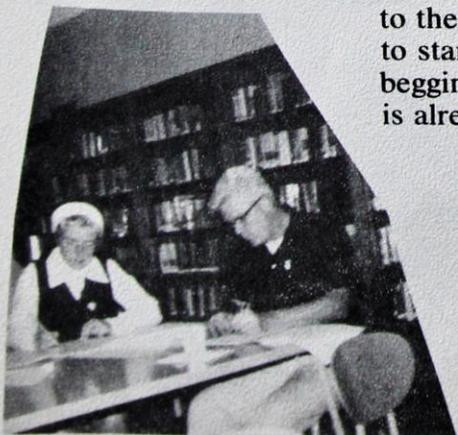


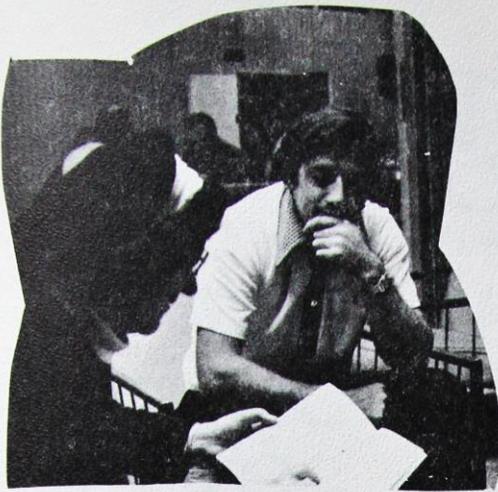
*It is a chance to intervene,
to contribute,
to enhance what exists
by the sheer power
of one's own presence
and activity.*



One cannot be good
simply by avoiding e

To be indifferent or apathetic
to the needs of one's neighbor,
to stand aloof from a world
begging for help,
is already to be guilty.





*Master teacher in its
truest sense*

*Attuned to current
thought and trends*

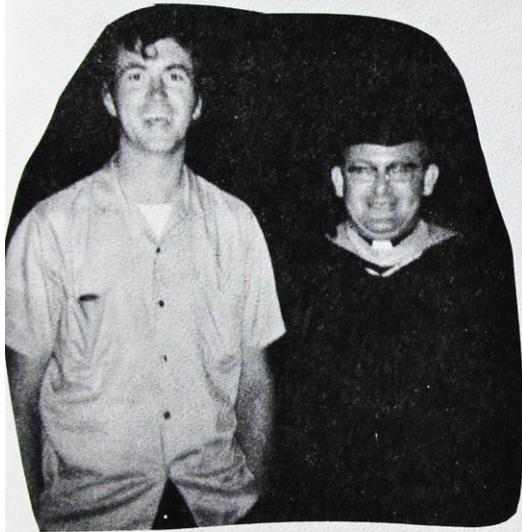
*Resolute, resilient,
undismayed*

*Ingenuity mirrored
in imaginative sharing*

*Talent in diverse
fields so richly used*

*Assuring success
through generous service*

Marita, we are grateful!



We salute a true **PIONEER**
in the field in which
we are all engaged
- one of the very few
who early seized a
VISION

and worked
to make it **REAL**
a vision that has not
yet exhausted its power
nor reached its shore
- a vision embodying a
belief in

SELF-DEVELOPMENT
and

CELEBRATION

We salute you, **Fr. PAT.**

COMPS.

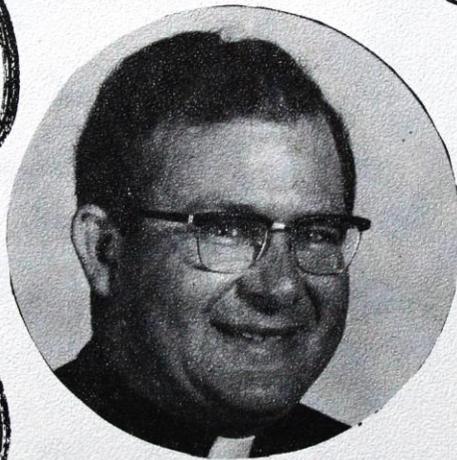
V. O'Kearry
M. Dillon
C. O'Kelly
S. O'Leary
N. Duggan
J. Moroney
St. Ann's

S. Carriag
M. O'Brien
J. Walsh
J. Brickell
J. Kyne
Solano Co

Sr. Imelda
M. McKeon
Sr. Anne
Sr. Deirdre
Sr. Mairead
Sr. Clare
L. McCarthy
Presentation

PERIPATETIC

J. Boll
J. Church
R. Terra
A. Coffey
Sr. Rita Carney
Cathedral.



M. O'Keefe
M. Walsh
S. Moloney
V. Lenihan
T. Maquire
Live Oak

J. Healy
P. Lanigan
M. Dermody
W. Walsh
Dunsmuir

P. Nolan
M. O'Connor
Galway

Sr. Angela
Sr. Margaret
Sr. Mary
Sr. Vianney
F. Lawlor
D. Kearney
Sr. Jane
St. John
Evan-
gelist-
Carmichael.

PAT

W. Spring
B. Lawlor
J. Cantwell
J. Cuffe
D. Looney
St. Charles

JUNE
1973

Thanks, Pat, for all you did for us! Rest now in Peace.