

SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

Vol 4

Father John E Boll, Diocesan Archivist

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THE HISTORY OF SAINT ROSE PARISH, SACRAMENTO

Saint Rose Chapel on Franklin Boulevard was built as part of the new Saint Patrick Home which was relocated from Grass Valley to Sacramento in 1932. The church was originally intended as the chapel for the orphanage. It was dedicated by Bishop Robert Armstrong in August 1932.



Photo from the Diocesan Archives

The Beginnings of Saint Patrick Home, Sacramento in 1932

SAINT ROSE CHAPEL BECOMES A CHAPEL OF EASE FOR THE AREA

At first, about 20 families in the area attended Mass at Saint Rose Chapel with the children and staff of the home. By 1940, the number of Catholic families from the area who attended Mass at the chapel increased to 120. On February 10, 1940, Bishop Armstrong officially announced the creation of a new parish for that area with Saint Rose Chapel designated as the parish church.

THE DESIGN OF SAINT ROSE CHURCH

The church was designed by Harry Devine, Sr, as a Venetian Gothic structure. The interior appointments of the church were contributed by Mrs C.K. McClatchy. The altar was fashioned from two different types of Italian marble.



Photo from Diocesan Archives

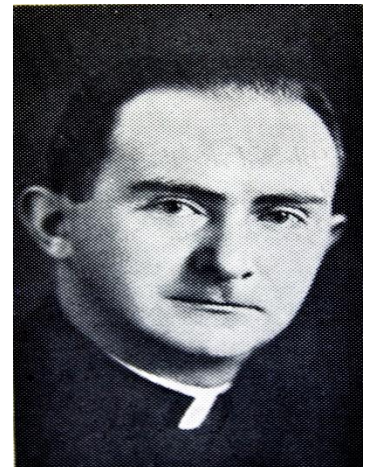
Saint Rose Chapel at Saint Patrick Home for Children

SAINT PATRICK'S SCHOOL BECOMES A PARISH SCHOOL

Saint Patrick School was originally a two-room school for the residents of Saint Patrick Home for Children. When the parish was established, the school was opened to the children of the neighboring community as well. The Sisters of Mercy of Omaha staffed the school for many years and the last Mercy Sister to serve as principal was Sister Mary Dominica, R.S.M. who served until 1975.

FATHER BENNETT NAMED FOUNDING PASTOR

The founding pastor of the new Saint Rose Parish was Father Patrick J Bennett. Prior to the creation of Saint Rose Parish, the area was under the care of Immaculate Conception Parish on 32nd and Broadway. Father Bennett was named both pastor of the parish and executive director of Saint Patrick's Home which was located on the grounds of the newly created parish.



Father Patrick J Bennett
Founding Pastor of Saint Rose Parish

ARRIVAL OF FATHER KAVANAGH AS ASSISTANT

In December 1948, Father Edward J Kavanagh, a recent graduate of Saint Kieran Seminary in Kilkenny, Ireland, arrived in Sacramento and became Father Bennett's assistant priest. However, two weeks after Father Kavanagh's arrival, Father Bennett suddenly died of a heart attack on December 21, 1948. In January 1949, Bishop Armstrong appointed Father Carroll W Lawsen pastor of Saint Rose parish, succeeding Father Bennett, and director of Saint Patrick's Home.



Photo from Diocesan Archives

Interior of Saint Rose Church 1949

FATHER LAWSEN RESIGNS AS DIRECTOR OF SAINT PATRICK'S HOME

With the growth of the parish to 425 families, Father Carroll Lawsen decided to resign his position as director of the home in March 1954 so he could devote his full attention and energy to his pastorate of the parish. The task of serving as executive director of Saint Patrick's Home for Children fell to Father Kavanagh who was appointed to that position on February 23, 1954. Father Lawsen served as pastor of Saint Rose Parish until his death on June 21, 1962. Newly appointed Bishop Alden J Bell named Father Kavanagh pastor of Saint Rose Parish on July 21, 1962.

RAPID GROWTH OF SAINT ROSE PARISH



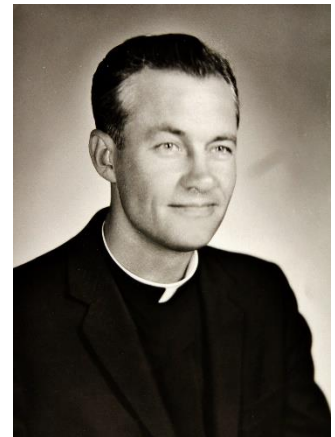
Beginning with the opening of the Campbell's Soup plant on Franklin Boulevard in 1947, the South Sacramento area served by Saint Rose Church began to grow rapidly. Between 1955 and 1961, five new parishes were carved out of what had been Saint Rose Parish. However, Saint Rose Parish continued to expand and because of the relatively small seating capacity of the Home's former chapel, Father Kavanagh had to increase the number of Sunday Masses from three to five, then seven and finally to nine.

In recognition of his devoted service to the people of Saint Rose Parish and underprivileged children of Northern California, Father Kavanagh was named a monsignor by Pope Paul VI. He was appointed Chaplain of His Holiness on July 21, 1965 and Honorary Prelate on January 21, 1977.

MAJOR ADDITIONS TO THE SAINT PATRICK – SAINT ROSE PLANT

Major additions to the Saint Patrick plant included six additional classrooms during the 1940s and early 1950s; a rectory in 1956; a swimming pool in 1958; the Cornelia Center which is a two-story administrative complex including offices, board room and library in 1966. With the liturgical changes brought about by the Second Vatican Council, under the direction of Associate Pastor Father John McDonnell, the parish remodeled the church to conform to the new liturgical requirements.

Father John McDonnell



NEW DEVELOPMENTS FOR SAINT PATRICK HOME

The period between 1968 and 1986 was a time of major transition and development for Saint Patrick Home and School as the agency underwent an evolution from orphanage to a sophisticated modern treatment center and multi-service youth care agency now serving almost 50 youth in the residential program and over 150 children in day care. The first off-site group home was opened in 1969, and the first preschool day care program opened in a converted dormitory in 1972.



A second day care center located at the site of the former Saint Paul Church at 8201 Florin Road was opened in 1977. All the Home's on-grounds dormitories were phased out and the residents moved to five community-situated group homes in 1977.

In 1983, an innovative state-funded infant/toddler day care program for low income families was opened at the Florin Road site. Since the early 1980s, a full range of day care services for children of working parents – infant/toddler, preschool and before and after school extended day services – have operated in completely remodeled former dormitory units at the main center.

In March 1982, the Saint Rose – Saint Patrick Social Center was completed and dedicated which provided the plant with a large auditorium with a seating capacity of 1000 as well as a smaller

meeting room with a capacity of 150 and a large, state-of-the-art food preparation area which has made possible a hot lunch program for 360 school children and the 125-day care students at the main center.

In 1984, a shop building was constructed and the following year, school administrative offices and junior high classrooms were extensively renovated and re-equipped, including the addition of a computer laboratory.

Expansion Continues

In 1986, a new facility specifically designed and equipped to serve as a residential treatment group home to house twelve dependent adolescent youth was constructed along Lang Avenue and named the Arata Group Home for the Arata family. It joined the Kassis Group Home on 21st Street, the McMahon Group Home on Florin Road, the Farley Group Home on El Terraza, and the Ford Group Home on 47th Avenue, and the Lo Presti Group Home on Lemon Hill Avenue.

The Parish Community Garden

Perhaps the most unusual of all the many programs connected with the parish is the Saint Patrick Community Garden begun in 1982 in response to the needs of the Southeast Asian refugee community, many of whom live in the Mira Mar Apartments on the south border of the grounds and in the surrounding neighborhood. The parish has provided several acres of land and irrigation water to enable refugees from Cambodia, Laos, Viet Nam and China to grow fresh vegetables to feed their families.

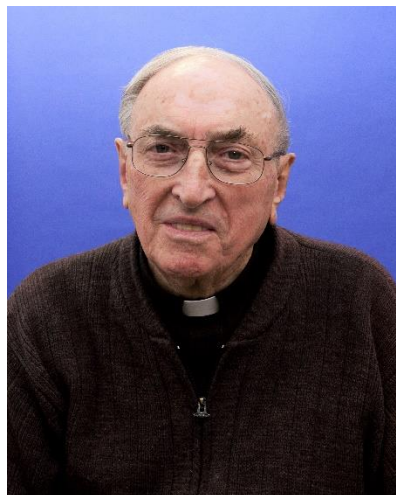


Photo from Diocesan Archives

Confirmation Celebrated by Bishop McGucken at Saint Rose Parish

A complete rewiring of the 55-year-old plant was completed in the summer of 1987. At that time, the school's remodeling was near completion with the painting and refurbishing of the seven remaining classrooms.

MONSIGNOR KAVANAGH RETIRES

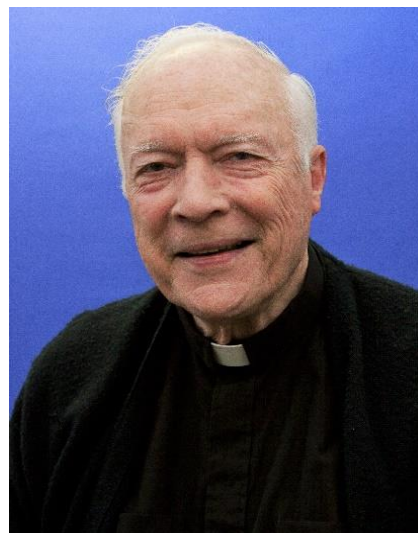


At the age of 75, as bishops must offer a letter of resignation to the pope, pastors must also send a letter of resignation to their bishop. As Monsignor Kavanagh reached the age of 75 in 2000, he sent his letter of resignation to Bishop Weigand as required. The bishop allowed Monsignor Kavanagh to continue as pastor until he reached the age of 80. In 2005, the bishop accepted Monsignor Kavanagh's resignation.

Monsignor Edward Kavanagh

MONSIGNOR JAMES CHURCH APPOINTED PASTOR

With Monsignor Kavanagh's retirement, Bishop Weigand asked Monsignor James Church to be pastor of Saint Rose Parish. Monsignor Church was 75 at the time and ready to retire as pastor of Saint Charles Parish when Bishop Weigand asked him to be pastor of Saint Rose Parish. He served in that role for eight years until he retired from active ministry in 2014.



Monsignor James Church

Monsignor Kavanagh Continued to live in Residence

As Monsignor Church began his ministry at Saint Rose Parish, he extended an invitation to Monsignor Kavanagh to live in residence at the parish rectory. Monsignor Kavanagh accepted the offer and continued to live in the rectory until his health needs demanded that he move to Mercy McMahan Terrace in Sacramento.

In the meantime, Father Francisco Hernandez-Gomez who was vocation director, filled in at Saint Rose Parish for three months until Bishop Soto appointed a new pastor.

FATHER JOVITO RATA APPOINTED ADMINISTRATOR



Father Jovito Rata

Father Jovito Rata was serving as pastor of Saint Francis Parish in Burney when he was appointed administrator of Saint Rose Parish in Sacramento. His time at Saint Rose ended up being only eight months when Bishop Soto chose him to be the new vocation director of the diocese, succeeding Father Francisco Hernandez-Tovar who became pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Sacramento.

FATHER GUILLERMO HERNANDEZ APPOINTED ADMINISTRATOR

The present administrator of Saint Rose Parish is Father Guillermo Hernández who began his ministry at Saint Rose Parish on July 1, 2015.

Father Guillermo has completed his first challenging year at this parish and we wish him every success as he continues to lead the parish community as a wise and caring shepherd as did those priests who served Saint Rose parish before him.



Father Guillermo Hernandez

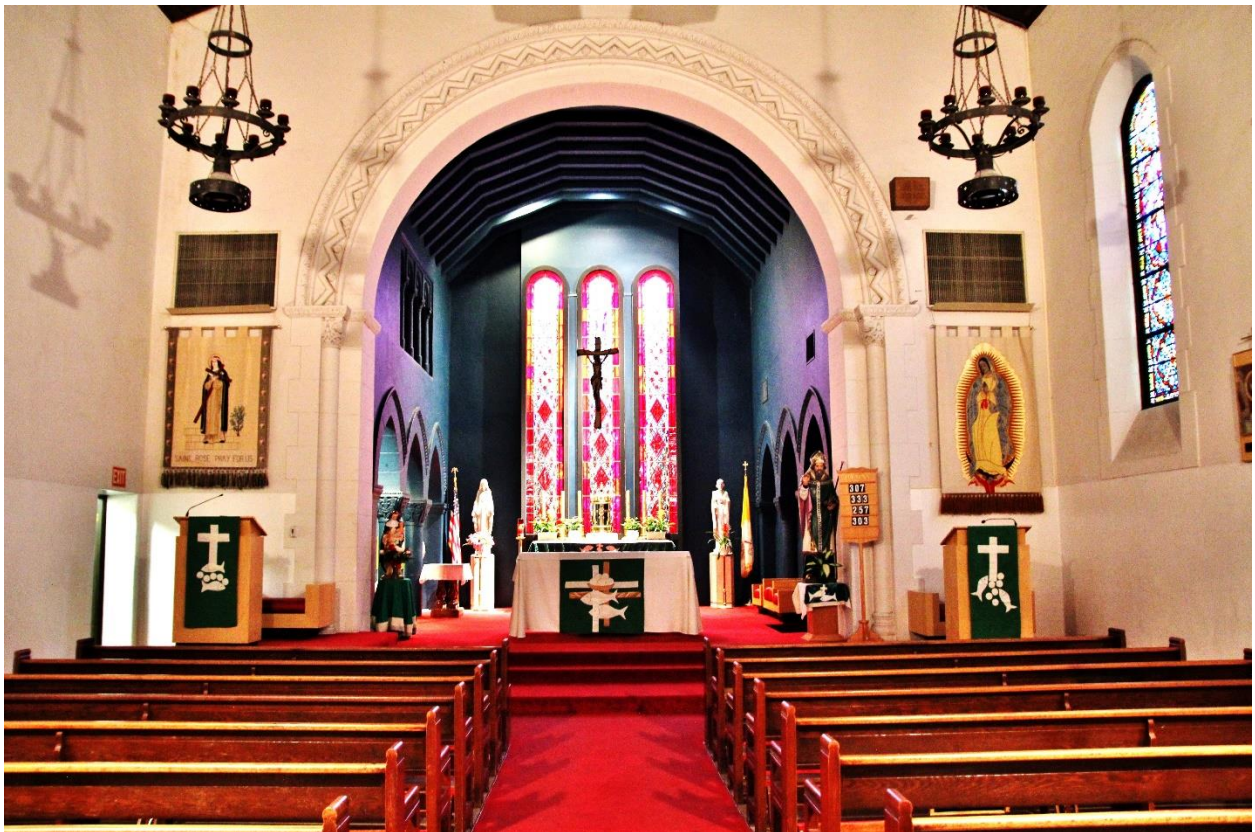


Children of Saint Rose Parish





Parish School and Church



PASTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Saint Rose Parish

Father Patrick Bennett, Founding Pastor	1940 – 1948
Father Carroll Lawsen, Pastor	1949 – 1962
Father Edward Kavanagh, Pastor	1962 – 2006
Monsignor James F Church, Pastor	2006 – 2014
Father Francisco Hernandez-Gomez, Ad pro tem	2014
Father Jovito Rata, Administrator	2014 – 2015
Father Guillermo Hernandez, Administrator	2015 – present

Parochial Vicars/Priests-In-Residence

Father Edward Kavanagh, Associate	1948 – 1962
Father Nicholas Phelan, Associate	1952 – 1953
Father Patrick Vincent Lenehan, Associate	1955 – 1958
Father William K Walsh, Associate	1958 – 1959
Father Gerard Schons, In Residence	1959 – 1979
Father Colin Macdonald, Associate	1982 – 1987
Father Charles S McDermott, In Residence	1991 – 2006
Father Polycarpo Gumapo, Parochial Vicar	1993 – 1994
Father E Francis Lawlor, Parochial Vicar	1994 – 2009
Father Troy Powers, PV, Part-time	2004 – 2006
Father Enrique Alvarez, PV, Half-time	2006 – 2007
Father J Fernando Meza, PV, Quarter time	2007 – 2008
Father Eduardo R Nibelung, IVE, Half-time	2008 – 2008
Father Isnardo Serrano, CO, Half-time	2010 – 2012
Father J Fernando Meza, Parochial Vicar	2012 – 2016
Father Brent Carlton Nall, Parochial Vicar	2016 - present