

# SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

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## RECOLLECTIONS OF A SISTER OF MERCY ABOUT FATHER PATRICK J. SHEEHY



Father Patrick J. Sheehy  
Pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
Auburn, 1947-1972

**Archivist's Note:** Father Patrick Sheehy was pastor of Saint Joseph Parish, Auburn from 1947 to 1972. He collapsed and died on March 18, 1972 while giving his annual talk at the parish St Patrick's Day celebration. The following recollection came from the Archives of the Sisters of Mercy, Auburn, in a box of material given to the Diocesan Archives. This recollection is not dated nor author named. However, it is humorous and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Father Sheehy was both a friend and advisor to Mother M. Carmel McNaughton. Every Sunday Father appeared faithfully at the convent for the 8 am Mass. As he was a well read and educated man, his homilies were "excellent."

A large man with ruddy complexion, sparkling blue eyes, and a fringe of stiff white hair, Father Sheehy was often described as "gruff" (perhaps to cover the fact he was a shy man with a soft heart?). In any case, he did have a "terrible temper" and tended to give the school Sisters a "hard time."

He was also very "political," an avid Kennedy fan. Now during the Kennedy-Nixon Presidential campaign one of the sisters decided to have a Kennedy vs Nixon Debate in the classroom. When Father got wind of it, he was livid; he squelched the debate and "flattened" the poor Sister for even considering such a thing. She was well able to deal with him, however. Shortly thereafter, while his car was parked peacefully in its port, a bumper sticker appeared with the declaration "**VOTE FOR NIXON.**" For several days, Father Sheehy drove about, unaware of its presence. But once it was discovered, he pressed the Sisters to find out who had done the dastardly deed! He never suspected the Sisters but was certain the culprit was either a student or someone from the town. Worse yet, the sticker would not budge and special treatment was required to remove it.