

# SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

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## BISHOP BELL NAMES NEW VICAR GENERAL

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**Monsignor Thomas H Markham Appointed Vicar General**

**Monsignor Thomas H Markham** has been appointed Vicar General of the Sacramento Diocese by Bishop Alden J Bell, becoming only the second priest in nearly five decades—and the first native of the diocese—to hold this post in the Sacramento jurisdiction.

The appointment, which is effective today, February 6, 1969, elevates Monsignor Markham to the role of the number two administrative officer of the diocese. From 1922 until his death last September, the late Monsignor Thomas E Horgan served in this capacity under four bishops, including Bishop Bell.

### **Remains Pastor**

The Vicar General is an administrative officer of the diocesan curia who is appointed by the bishop to assist with ordinary power in the entire diocesan territory. His jurisdiction is the same as that of the bishop, except in matters which the bishop has reserved to himself or which, according to canon law, require a special mandate of the bishop.

Monsignor Markham will continue to serve as pastor of Holy Rosary Parish, Woodland, a post he has held since October 1961, and as diocesan director of the Catholic Welfare Bureau. He was first appointed to the latter assignment in 1935, relinquishing his duties temporarily from 1938-40 when he studied at the Catholic University of America and again from 1942-1946, when he served as a chaplain in the US Army with duty in Africa and Europe. At the Catholic University he earned his Master of Social Service Work degree.



Photo by John E Boll 2013

The new vicar general was born July 11, 1906, in Greenview, Siskiyou County. He studied for the diocesan priesthood at St Joseph Seminary, Mountain View, and at St Patrick Seminary, Menlo Park, prior to his ordination on June 4, 1932, in San Francisco's St Mary Cathedral. He and Bishop Alden Bell were classmates during their seminary days in Menlo Park and have remained friends throughout their adult life.

**Monsignor Markham was born in Siskiyou County near Mount Shasta**

His first diocesan post was as an assistant at the Cathedral before being appointed to the Catholic Welfare Bureau in 1935. In addition to these latter duties, he also served as pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish, West Sacramento, from 1957 to 1961.

Monsignor Markham holds a number of administrative posts in the diocesan structure, having been appointed diocesan director of Catholic hospitals in 1947, a diocesan consultor in 1957, a member of the board of trustees for St Pius X Seminary since 1957, and a member of the building commission since 1958.

In January, 1954, he was honored by Pope Pius XII who named him a Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor. This past year the term *domestic prelate* was changed by the Holy See to *honorary prelate*.

Monsignor Markham was appointed pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Woodland in 1961 and served there until 1970. He was then appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Sacramento where he continued in that role until his retirement. He died on July 12, 1989



Photo by John E Boll

**Holy Rosary Church, Woodland where Monsignor Markham Served as Pastor  
From 1961 to 1970**