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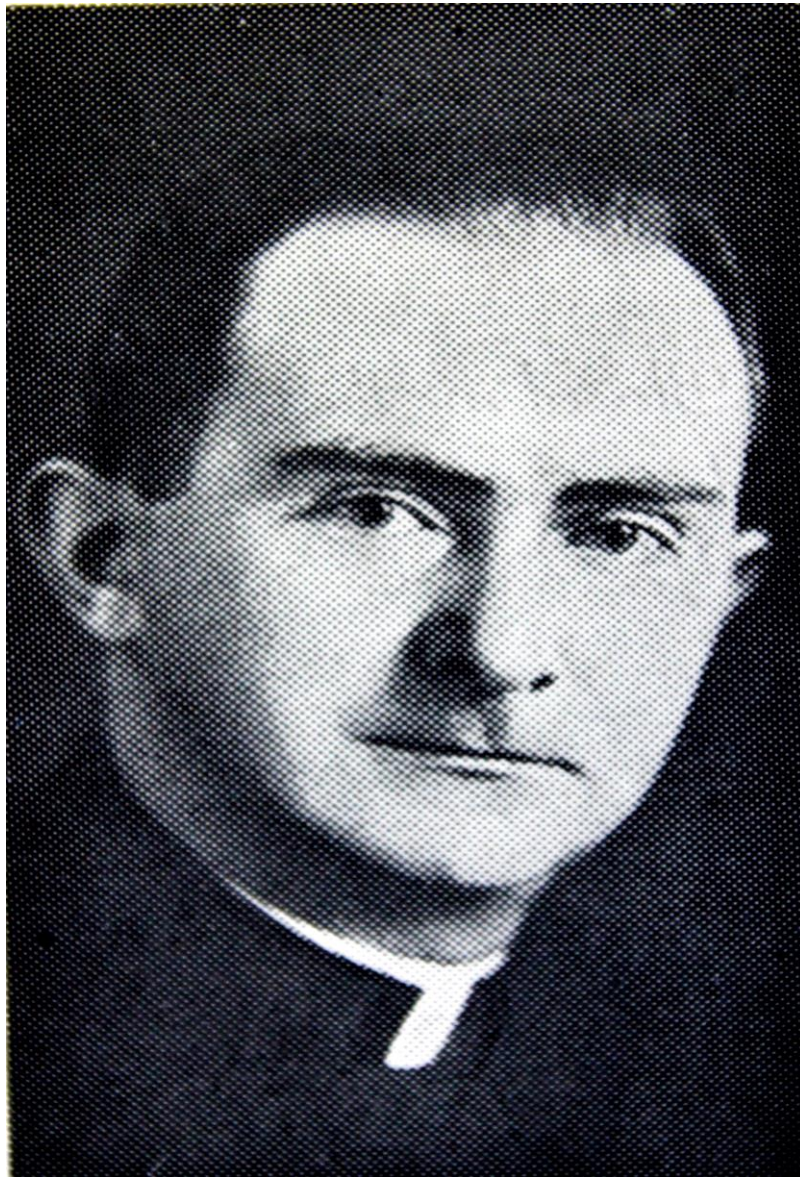
Father John Boll, Diocesan Archivist

No 82

FATHER PATRICK J BENNETT

Pastor of Saint Rose Parish, Sacramento

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Father Patrick J Bennett
Pastor of Saint Rose Parish, Sacramento
1899 - 1948

A Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday, December 28, 1948 for the repose of the soul of Father Patrick J Bennett, beloved pastor of Saint Rose Church and director of Saint Patrick's Home in Sacramento, who died in Mercy Hospital on December 21.

Father Bennett was stricken with a heart attack at Saint Patrick's Home on Monday afternoon, December 20, and died early the next morning. He was born in Kinegad, County Meath, on August 22, 1899. Educated at University College and All Hallows College, Dublin, he was ordained to the priesthood from the latter institution on June 21, 1925. Upon his arrival in Sacramento the fall of the same year, he was assigned as an assistant pastor of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

In the fall of 1932, Father Bennett was appointed director of Saint Patrick's Home for children. Due to the number of families moving into the area around the Home, Saint Rose Parish was created in 1942 with Father Bennett named as pastor.



Photo by John E Boll 2013

Saint Rose Church, Sacramento

Active in many welfare and civic groups, Father Bennett also served several terms as state chaplain of the Ancient Order of Hibernians as well as chaplain of the local division. Diocesan

positions held by Father Bennett included the following: Diocesan Director of the Legion of Decency, Pro-synodal Judge of the Diocesan Tribunal, Director of Catholic Youth work and the Catholic Boy Scouts.



Photo by John E Boll 2013

Former St Patrick's Orphanage and now St Patrick Academy

He took a trip to Ireland this past summer and was with his mother at the time of her death. He is survived by a brother, Thomas Bennett, and a sister, Mrs. John Peppard, both of County Meath in Ireland.

On Monday morning, December 27, a Solemn Requiem Mass was offered for the repose of his soul in Saint Rose Church and was attended by the Sisters and children of Saint Patrick Home. Celebrant of the Mass was Father Patrick McHugh, pastor of Holy Spirit Church and long-time friend of Father Bennett. He was assisted by Father William Serado, assistant pastor of Saint Rose, and Father Carroll Lawsen, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Ione. Monsignor Thomas Kirby was the master of ceremonies.

Celebrants of the principal Requiem Mass in the Cathedral on Tuesday morning included the following: Right Reverend Michael Lyons, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Sacramento; Father

Patrick McHugh, deacon; Father James O'Shea, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in West Sacramento, sub-deacon; and Father William Serado, master of ceremonies. His Excellency, Bishop Robert Armstrong, presided at the Mass, delivering the sermon and offered the final commendation at the end of the liturgy.

Father Patrick Donnelly, pastor of Saint Thomas Church in Oroville, was the assistant priest and Fathers Michael Kearney and John Maguire were chaplains to the Bishop. The priests' choir chanted the Mass. The pallbearers were former students at Saint Patrick's Home.

A very large number of the clergy of the diocese were present in the Cathedral on Tuesday morning. Visiting dignitaries included Right Reverend Thomas O'Dwyer, director of Saint Vincent's School for Boys in San Rafael; Right Reverend William Flanagan, director of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of San Francisco; Reverend Eugene Shea, director of Catholic Youth Organizations for San Francisco; Reverend James Murray, director of the Little Children's Aid Society in San Francisco; and Very Reverend Gregory Wooler, OFM, Provincial of the Franciscan Fathers.

Members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Knights of Columbus formed an all-night guard of honor in Saint Rose Church on Sunday and Monday evenings and the Office of the Dead was chanted by the clergy on Monday night. Interment was made in Saint Mary Cemetery and the funeral arrangements were under the direction of W.F. Gormley and Sons.

The following article about Father Bennett was also published in the Sacramento Bee

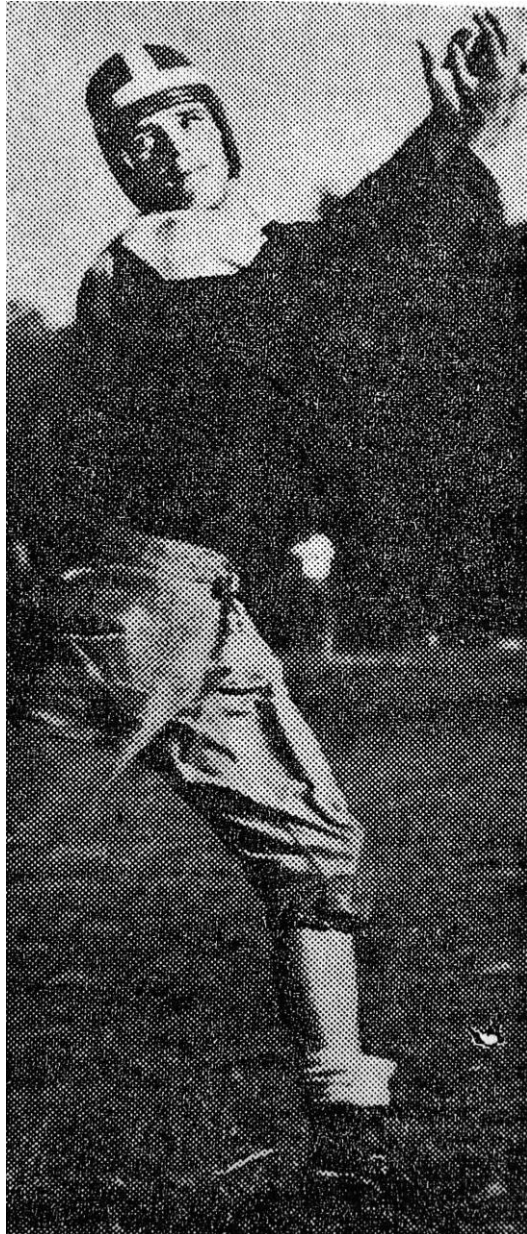
"OUR PAL IS GONE..."

By Hank Hollingworth, printed in the December 22, 1948 issue of the Sacramento Bee

"It was one of the worst blows I've ever had when I heard the news this morning. We all loved him and—it's funny isn't it—I already feel sorta lost. Our pal is gone," Ellis Archerda, 3109 San Rafael Court, said sorrowfully last night, a dozen hours after Reverend Patrick J. Bennett, his "pal," had died of a heart attack in Mercy Hospital.

Ellis was one of a hundred Sacramento youngsters who gained his first knowledge of sports and sportsmanship from Father Bennett, director of Saint Patrick's Home since it was first opened in 1932. Ellis, now a grown man with a family, had little difficulty yesterday recounting his early experiences at Saint Patrick's Home. "All I could ever do before I went to Father Bennett's

home,” recalled Ellis, “was play soccer. And I guess I wasn’t the cleanest player in the world, either.



Sacramento Bee Photo

Ellis Archedra, ...More than Soccer

One of Father Bennett’s most successful teams was his Winter League baseball nine a few years before the war. The team, managed by veteran “Bugs” Fischer and composed of a number of kids from the “Home,” held its own in the league.

Father Bennett never hesitated when it came to kids, especially “his” orphans. The energy he funneled into youth activities probably cost him his life. “Every year Father Bennett worked like

“But, when Father Bennett came into the picture, I learned how to play just about every sport in the book. He would sling us a mitt or a football or a basketball and start batting or shooting with us.

“We could have roughed things up pretty easy, but not with Father Bennett around. He taught us the right way.”

Father Bennett’s way must have been all right. Ellis and his brother, Pete, who now lives at 101 46th Street, were two of the best athletes ever produced at Christian Brothers School.

“I wonder what would have happened to us without Father Bennett,” Ellis mused, “guess we’d still be playing soccer.”

In addition to the Archedras, some of Father Bennett’s “boys” were Joe Borich, Pancho Arellano, Bob Smith, Jack Chappell, Jimmy Sloat, Tony and Joe Vaca, Bill and George Biagi, and Wally Westlake, Pittsburgh Pirate ace.

The latter didn’t reside at Saint Patrick’s Home, but used to play with the “boys” as regular as a clock.

Father Bennett’s protégés are legion. They performed in Sacramento Winter League, with the CYO team in Municipal Basketball League and in many, many more softball, baseball and basketball circuits.

a horse for the orphans' Christmas party," Ellis Archedra claimed, "I knew that's what he was doing just before he passed away yesterday."

Saint Patrick's Home will be just a little different from now on. The kids' favorite pal won't be there anymore.



Photo by John E Boll 2013

Interior of Saint Rose Church, Sacramento