

SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

Vol 4

Father John E Boll, Archivist

No 14

HENRY J NEED, GALT FARMER, Chief Seminary Benefactor

This article was printed in the April 20, 1961 issue of the *Catholic Herald*

One of the principal benefactors of the new St. Pius X Seminary did not live to see the completion of his dream to do "something for the education of young people." He was Henry J. Need, donor of 320 acres of land near Galt, on which the institution is located. Need, then 81 years of age, died on Holy Saturday, 1959, one year after presenting the large parcel of property to the Sacramento diocese.

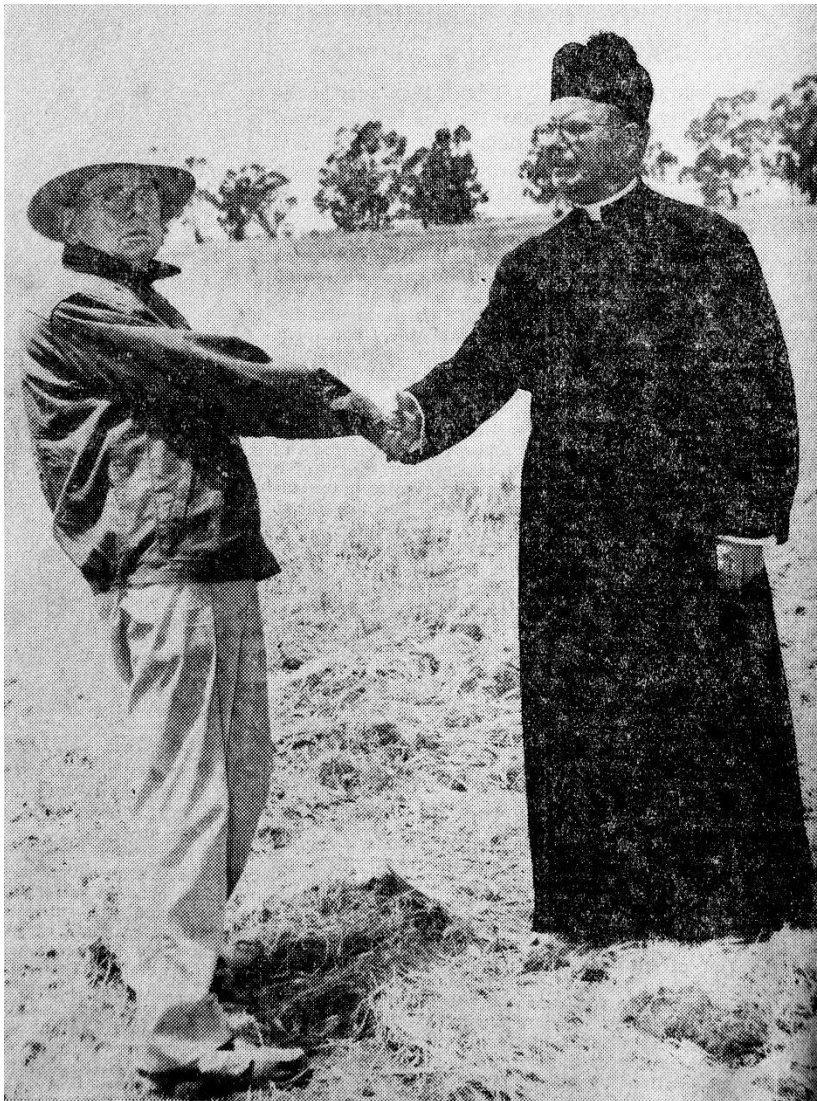


Photo from the Catholic Herald

Harry J Need, Property Doner with Father Patrick Gilligan, Pastor of Galt

Pioneer Stock

He was a descendant of a pioneer family which had farmed in the Galt area since 1858. His father Henry Need, was born in Bavaria, Germany, and came to America in his youth, first settling in Indiana. In 1858, he followed his brother, Michael, to California and obtained a land grant which was the beginning of the Need Farms.

The seminary donor, a bachelor, was the youngest and lone survivor of six children at the time he made the bequest to the diocese. Following the death of his father in 1906, Henry developed and expanded the grain and cattle ranch, assisted by his maiden sister, Louise. The latter died in 1948 after teaching for many years in the Galt schools.

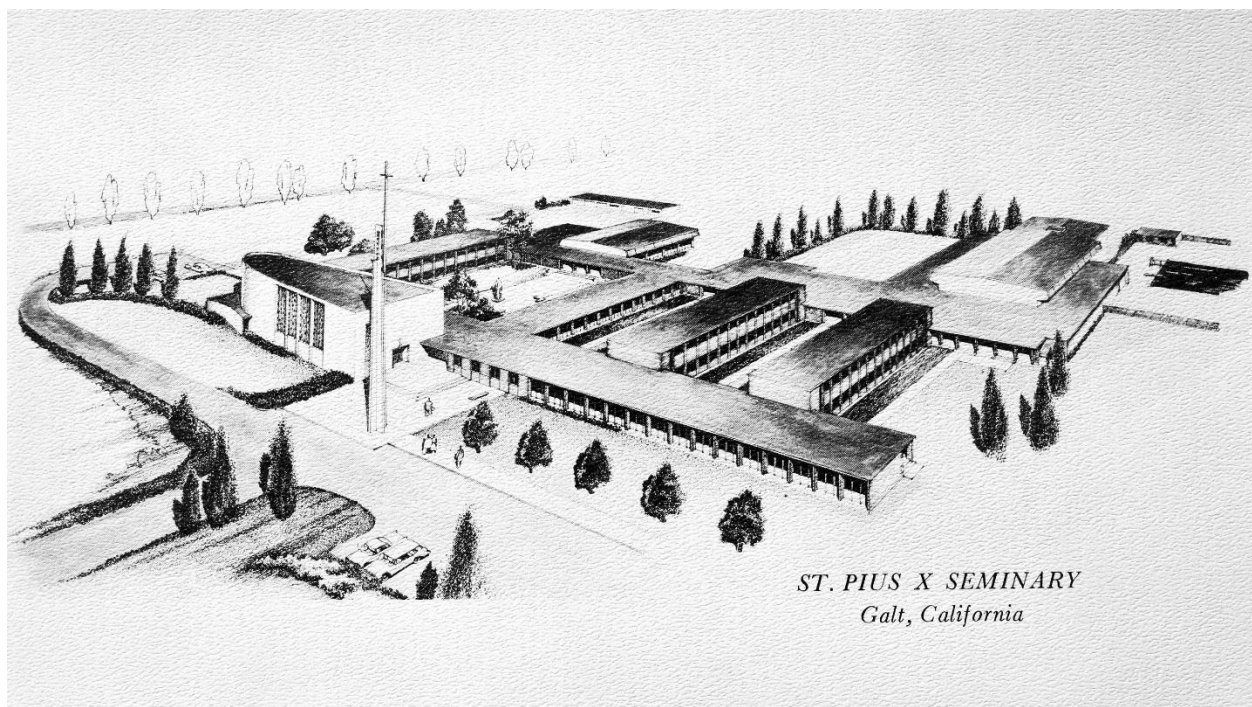
Preceding them in death were Effie Rosana and Francis, who died in infancy, and George and Isabell, who married into prominent Galt families, the Wegats and Keneficks.

A Requiem Mass offered by the pastor, Father Patrick Gilligan in St. Christopher's Church, Galt, for the repose of the soul of the seminary benefactor, Bishop McGucken delivered the eulogy, stated: "His soul will be remembered in Masses and prayers of countless future priests who will be trained at St. Pius X Seminary."

Papal Honor

The year preceding his death, Need was honored by Pope Pius XII with the presentation of the medal, Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice. The decoration had its origin on July 17, 1888, as a memorial or souvenir of the golden sacerdotal jubilee of Pope Leo XIII, The pontiff bestowed it upon men and women who had joined in making his jubilee and the Vatican Exposition successful.

It has been conserved by his successors, with his effigy and is given in recognition of outstanding service to Pope and Church, as its Latin name indicates.



*ST. PIUS X SEMINARY
Galt, California*