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THE HISTORY OF HOLY ROSARY PARISH, WOODLAND

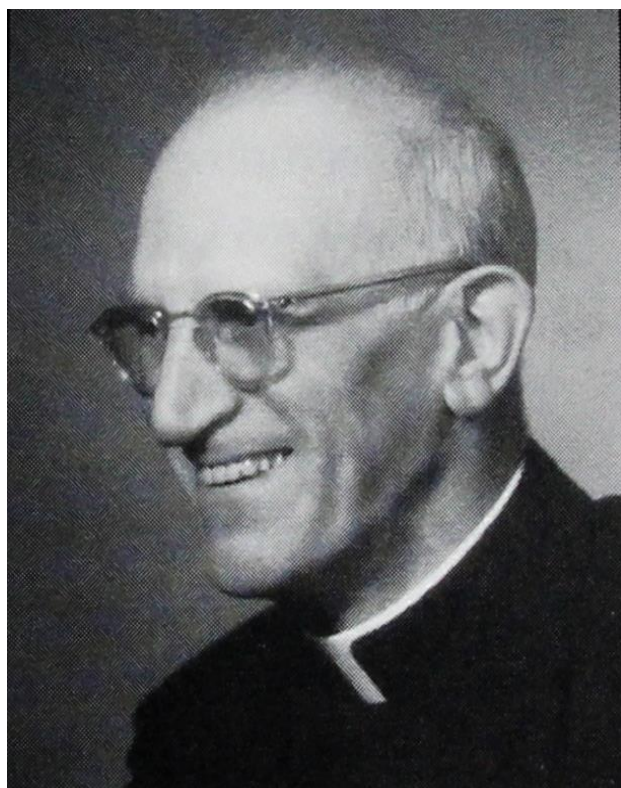
Part II

Thirty Years of Progress

1949 – 1979

The history of Holy Rosary Church during the last 30 years has been a story of progress under three pastors.

Father John Tumulty



Father Tumulty, who in 1959 was made a monsignor, headed the parish for 23 years. A native of San Francisco, he was a convert to the Catholic faith. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 11, 1926. His initial experience with Holy Rosary Parish came when he was assigned as an assistant under Father Thomas W. Horgan.

Following the Woodland assignment, Father Tumulty was named as secretary to the late Bishop Armstrong, a post which he held until 1938 when he returned to Woodland as pastor of Holy Rosary Church.

During the 23 years as Woodland pastor, Father, and later Monsignor Tumulty, built two schools in addition to a new church. Under his supervision, the parish constructed a small school to serve kindergarten purposes, as well as the new Holy Rosary School.

Loss of Holy Rosary Academy by fire in 1952 was one of the most serious reverses which the parish suffered during the last three decades.

Father Tumulty in 1946 was successful in bringing to Woodland a second order of sisters. He rated as the number one accomplishment of his long pastorate the coming of the Sisters of Saint Francis of the Atonement to this city in the year 1945. A catechetical order, the "Little Brown Nuns" as they were fondly called, maintained a community center and Catholic Welfare Bureau office, taught kindergarten and handled the religious instruction of the Catholic students who attended public schools.

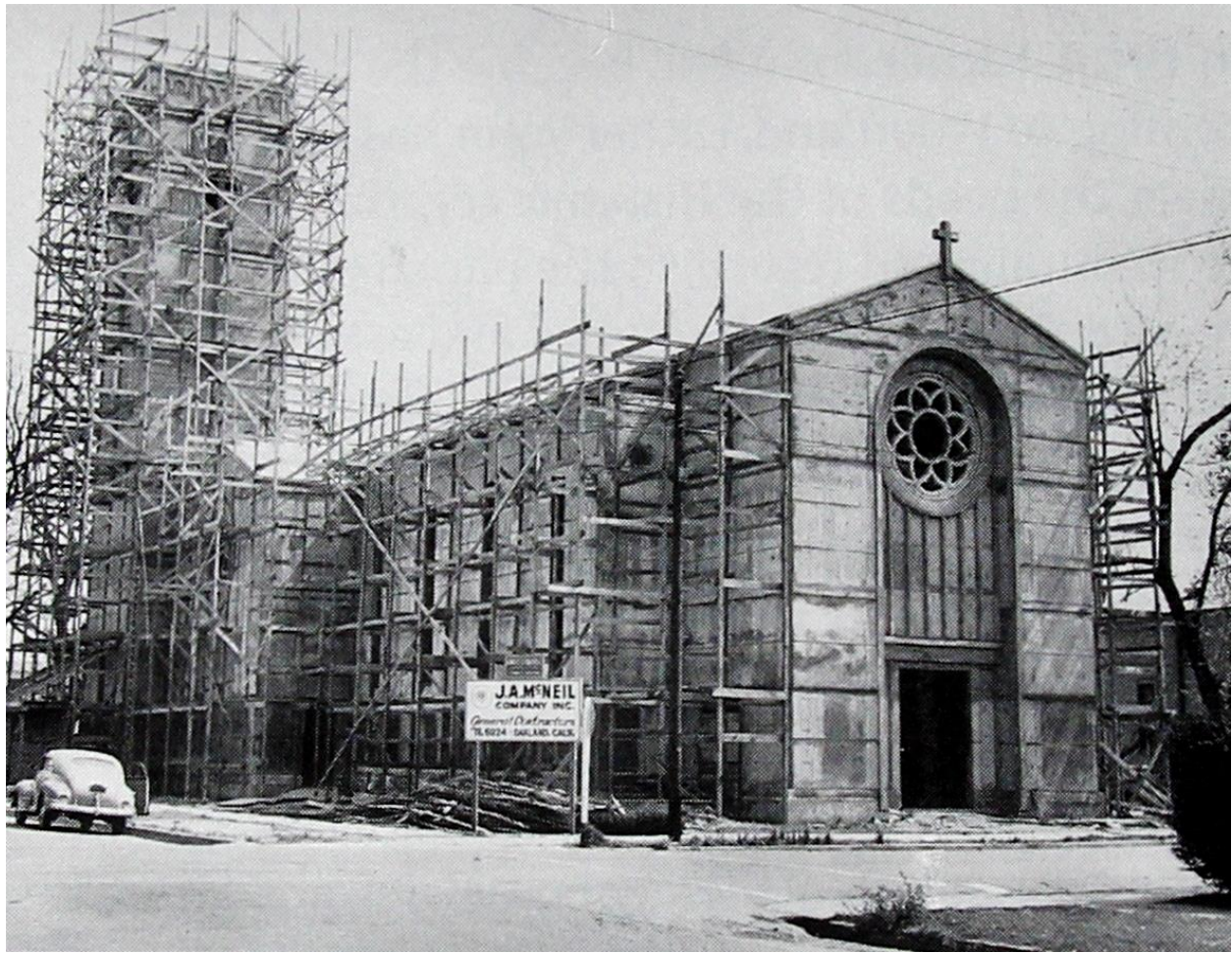
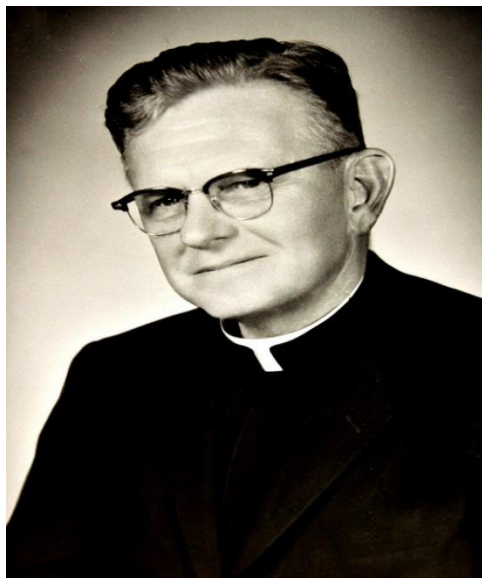


Photo from Holy Rosary Archives

Construction of the New Holy Rosary Church 1948

A residence on Court Street directly across from the church was purchased and remodeled to serve as their home and office.

Following a long period of illness, Monsignor Tumulty died in Mercy Hospital, Sacramento, on August 9, 1961.



Pastorate of Monsignor Thomas Markham

Monsignor Thomas H. Markham who had been pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in West Sacramento and director of the Bureau of Catholic Welfare for the Diocese of Sacramento was named the next pastor of Holy Rosary parish. He spent many hours on the road between Woodland and Sacramento as he continued his duties at the Catholic Welfare Bureau in addition to his pastorate in Woodland.

Ecumenically minded, Monsignor Markham was instrumental in the promotion of good relationships between the Catholic Church and most Protestant churches in Woodland.

New Office and Priests' Residence

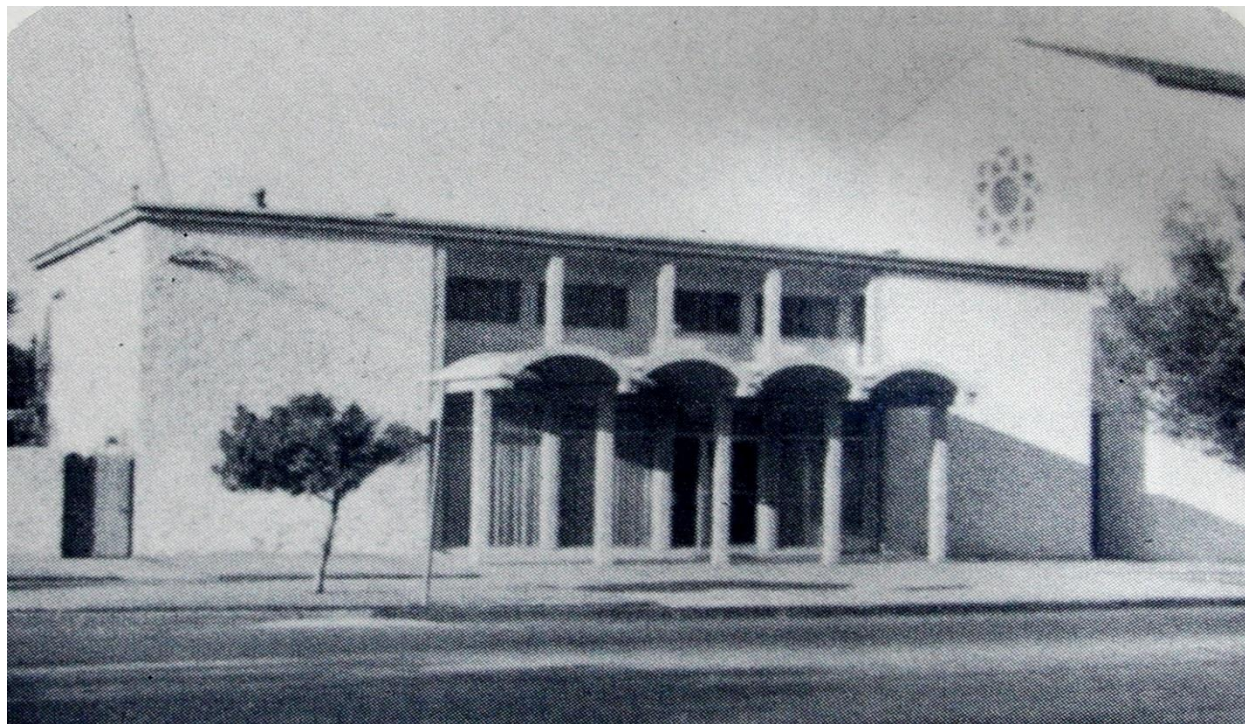


Photo from Holy Rosary Archives

The New Parish Priests' Residence and Office Complex on Court Street

An Introduction to Monsignor Markham

Born in the Mount Shasta area, Monsignor Markham took a most active interest in all movements pertaining to the advancement of the state and the Sacramento Diocese. Under his direction, a large new parish rectory was built. The architect was Robert Crippen and Ernie Vannucci, a member of the parish, supervised the construction crews for the modern 6,100 square foot building which was erected near the east end of the church on Court Street. Easy access to the sanctuary of the church was provided.

While the initial plans called for a rectory to cost between \$96,000 and \$97,000, the building when completed came closer to \$125,000. The rectory was built to accommodate four priests, each having his own small sitting room as well as bedroom with an attached bathroom. This new rectory took the place of the former home of the priests which was located a considerable number of blocks distant from the church.

Parish offices were located in the front of the new parish residence. The priests moved into the new residence on the last day of June, 1964. A formal open house was held during the first part of September.

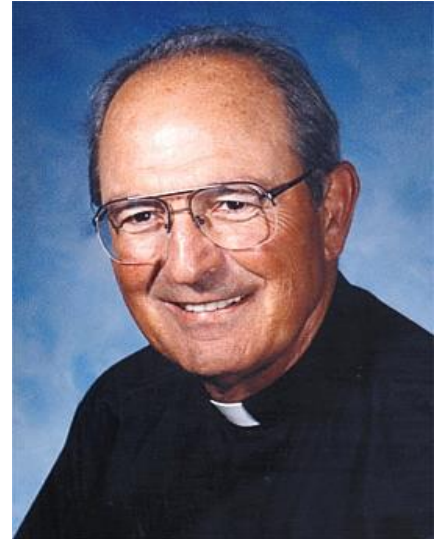
Under the pastorate of Monsignor Markham, the first of the changes resulting from Vatican II were put into operation in the Woodland parish. On January 6, 1969, he was appointed vicar general of the diocese, a position of importance second only to Bishop Alden J Bell.

After nine years as pastor of Woodland, Monsignor Markham was transferred to Sacred Heart Parish in Sacramento as pastor on June 2, 1970. He continued with his duties as head of the Diocesan Welfare Bureau.

Father Anthony Maio Succeeds Monsignor Markham as Pastor

The successor of Monsignor Markham was Father Anthony V Maio who arrived in Woodland in the late spring of 1970. Under his supervision, the parish continued its progressive course.

One of the highlights of his pastorate was the 1974 reconstruction of the old parish hall, the interior of which had deteriorated through misuse and neglect. In February 1974, with the help of 125 men and women, a fund drive began to raise \$125,000 to remodel the hall. Working without any outside direction, the parishioners of Holy Rosary parish with the encouragement of their pastor raised approximately \$100,000 and donated many hundreds of hours of volunteer labor to transform the old parish hall into an attractive church halls close to the parish church.



These 30 years of Woodland parish history, while years of progress and success, have been marked also by disappoint and frustration.

In rapid succession, four promising young assistant pastors at Holy Rosary Church left the priesthood, two of them while still assigned to Woodland and the other two immediately after being transferred from the parish.

The destruction by fire of the old academy, necessitating the construction of new school facilities, imposed a financial hardship upon the parish. The laxity of so many Catholics, which has been in evidence during recent years, has been a cause for concern.

The decreasing number of vocations resulted in the loss of both of the parish's orders of nuns. The Sisters of Saint Francis of the Atonement left in 1966 after 21 years of dedicated service in this area and the Sisters of the Holy Cross departed in the early summer of 1977, resulting in the necessity of an all lay faculty for Holy Rosary School.



Photo from the Parish Archives

Holy Cross Sisters attend the Parish Sunday Mass at Holy Rosary Church *circa* 1950

During the last year, the parish has been particularly shorthanded with the lack of priests assigned to the parish. However, under the supervision of Father Maio and his hardworking and resourceful associate pastor, Father William Hold, followed by Father Michael Turner, the work of the parish has gone steadily forward with many a notable achievement.

HOLY ROSARY ACADEMY

By Margaret Grissom

Holy Rosary Parish strives to meet the needs of all the parishioners, young and old alike. Meeting the needs of the youth of the parish is Holy Rosary School, located at 505 California Street. Children attending Holy Rosary School are offered a quality education in a Catholic atmosphere.

The history of Catholic school education in Woodland goes back almost a hundred years. In its early days, Holy Rosary School was a private academy located on Main Street where Penney's, Woolworths, and the rest of Woodland Shopping Center are presently situated.

The academy began in 1886 with a staff of nine Holy Cross Sisters who had traveled as "Iron Horse Pioneers" from Saint Mary, Notre Dame, Indiana, to open a boarding school for girls in Woodland. Years later, both boys and girls were educated in the grammar school, but only girls were taught in the high school.



Photo from Holy Rosary Archives

Holy Rosary Academy in 1930s

In 1920, Holy Rosary Academy was awarded full accreditation by the University of California and kept its "A" rating until the tragic day in October 1952 when a fire swept through the wood frame building bringing the Academy to a close.

Throughout its existence, Holy Rosary Academy had been well-known for its Christian formation program, its academic excellence, and for its outstanding music and fine arts department.

In 1956, through the generosity of the parishioners of Holy Rosary Church led by Reverend John E Tumult, the present Holy Rosary Parochial Grade School was opened. The Sisters of the Holy Cross, with the help of dedicated lay teachers, continued to strive for the Christian and academic excellence which has been the legacy left to the people of Woodland by those first nine sisters.

In 1973, after the death of Sister Francis James, the first lay principal, Mr Irwin James, was appointed. As in most Catholic schools, there were fewer and fewer sisters to staff schools and in June of 1977, the last of the Sisters of the Holy Cross in Woodland left.



Holy Cross Sisters at the Holy Rosary Academy, Woodland

Now run by an all lay faculty, Holy Rosary School has continued on the clear path outlined nearly 100 years ago. The school, following the excellent example of the old Academy, has reinstated a music and fine arts program that the sisters would have been proud of. Holy Rosary has a fine band and the school presented 2 full length musicals during the 1978-79 school year. The religion program is excellent and attendance at one of the many school Masses is an uplifting experience. Holy Rosary School will offer a 9th grade program for the first time in 1979-80 and is proud to be meeting the needs of these older students.

Holy Rosary Academy and Holy Rosary School have served this parish well and will continue to educate the Catholic youth of Woodland with a strong academic foundation and an understanding of life in relation to God for at least another one hundred years.



Photo from Diocesan Archives

Bishop Joseph McGucken at Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new School 1955

YOLO MISSION

Holy Rosary's Sole Remaining Daughter

Located in the little town of Yolo, one of the county's historic spots and the third of its early day seats of government, is Our Lady of Guadalupe mission church, the only remaining mission of Holy Rosary Parish.

There was a time when several other communities were served by the priests stationed in Woodland. Many years ago, the late Charles St. Louis, one of the early day settlers of the Cacheville area (as Yolo was called in its pioneer days,) set aside in what is now the center of the little town, a site for a Catholic church.

The decades passed. Priests from Holy Rosary Parish made the five-mile trip on Sundays to the neighboring town of Yolo where the Mass was offered in the town hall.

In the late 1950s, a young priest assigned to Holy Rosary Parish, the late Father William Slakey, was bequeathed a small legacy by an aunt. He decided that most of all he wanted to provide a church for the community of Yolo.

Father Slakey went to work immediately to carry out his plans. He enlisted the enthusiastic support of many persons in the Yolo and Woodland areas. They agreed readily to give their services in the building of the little church.



Photo by John E Boll 2003

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission Church, Yolo

Cost of the church in actual money may not have exceeded \$20,000. A majority of the Catholic people of Yolo are of Mexican descent. Father Slakey sought to provide an altar and fixtures which would be in keeping with the traditions of their ancestral homeland.

He called at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Sacramento where Father Anthony V. Maio, current pastor of Holy Rosary, was in charge. The Sacramento church had an authentic Mexican style altar. It served as an exact pattern for the sacrificial table built for the Yolo mission.



Father William Slakey, ordained a priest in 1956, was appointed secretary to Bishop Alden J. Bell. The Yolo church, constructed on the original site provided for that purpose by the St. Louis family, was one of the achievements of the young priest of which he was most proud. The final arrangements for use of the site were made by Nellie St. Louis, last direct survivor of the pioneer Yolo County family. She lived to see the church completed.

Father Slakey died at the early age of 34 while suffering a fatal heart attack while driving home from a Day of Recollection on May 15, 1963.

Father William Slakey

On three Sundays of the month, Mass at the Yolo church was offered in English. On the fourth Sunday, a Mass was Spanish is celebrated.

In later years, because the large percentage of residents living in the town of Yolo were Hispanics who worked in agriculture, the Sunday Mass was celebrated in Spanish language.



Photo by John E Boll 2003

The Altar and Reredos of the Yolo Mission Church

WHEN DAY IS DONE...

Saint Joseph Cemetery

For almost a century, Woodland has had Yolo County's only Catholic cemetery. Father John McGinty, who became pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in 1883, purchased land for the establishment of a Catholic cemetery which was named Saint Joseph.

Over the decades, the final resting place for the mortal remains of the Catholics of the Woodland area has been enlarged, improved and modernized on several occasions.

Centrally located in the rapidly growing City of Woodland, Saint Joseph Cemetery is immediately adjacent to the much larger Woodland City Cemetery. A third and newer cemetery is located some four miles west of the city.



Photo by John E Boll 1998

Saint Joseph Mausoleum and Cemetery

Saint Joseph Cemetery now is part of the diocesan network of Catholic cemeteries offering complete facilities for either ground interment or vault entombment.

The first priest to be buried in St Joseph Cemetery was Father James J Hynes who died in 1899. Since his burial, a number of the priests and religious of Yolo County have been laid to rest in St Joseph Cemetery: Father Michael Wallrath 1917; Father Thomas W. Horgan 1930; Monsignor John E Tumulty 1961; and Father Eugene Lucas 1996.

In the year 1966 the Diocese of Sacramento purchased an additional 2.4 acres of land adjacent to the established cemetery. During the intervening years, many noteworthy improvements have taken place.

Plans were made for the construction of a mausoleum and chapel, along with augmented office facilities. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new mausoleum-chapel took place on February 2, 1972 with Bishop Alden J Bell officiating.

Enlarged to serve the needs of the Catholic people of the Woodland area for another 50 years, Saint Joseph Cemetery now offers the choice of ground burial in the older section with many elaborate and impressive headstones and family plot markers or the newer section in which the headstones are flush with the ground. Adjacent to the mausoleum are lawn crypts. Many of the pre-need purchases of the last few years have been for mausoleum entombment.

During the last two years, an extensive informational and sales campaign was undertaken to encourage Catholic families to take advantage of a pre-need purchase plan whereby burial space is paid for over a period of years with no interest charged.

Provision has been made for those who move from the area to obtain full refunds on their installment payments or to exchange a plot in St Joseph Cemetery in Woodland for similar space in many other Catholic cemeteries widely located in many sections of the United States.



Photo by John E Boll 2010

Statues of Our Lady of Guadalupe and San Juan Diego, Saint Joseph Cemetery