

# SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

Vol 5

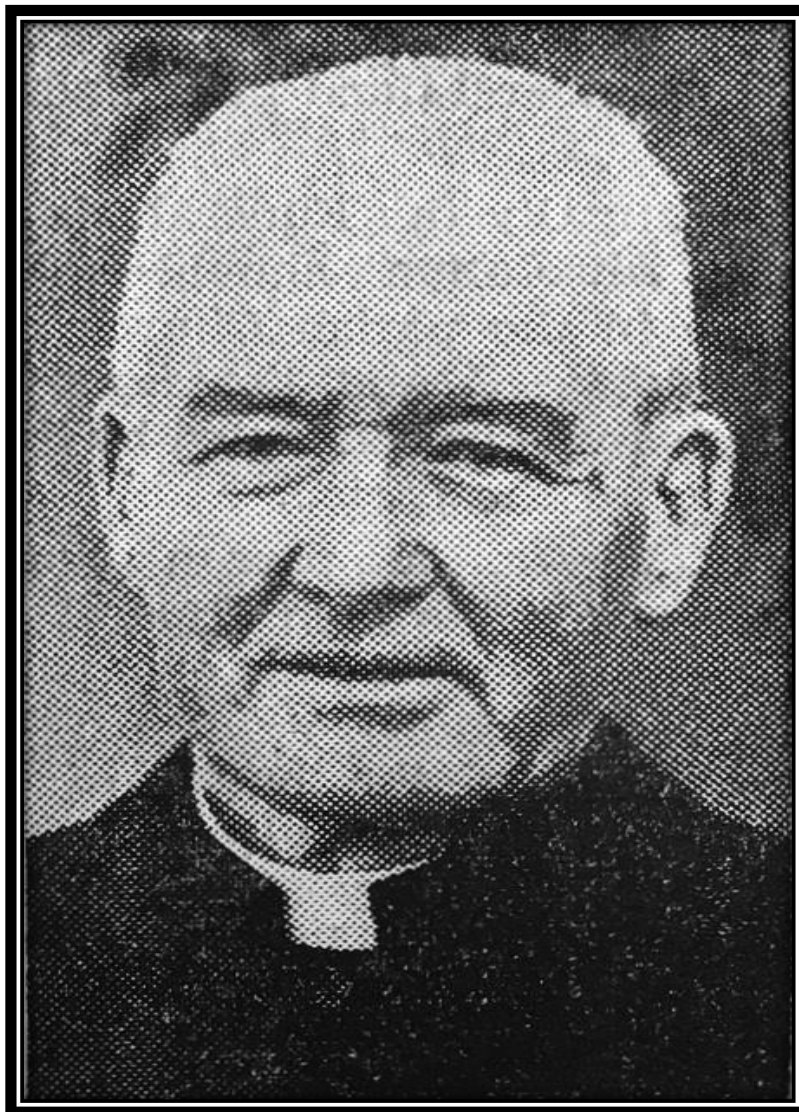
Father John E Boll

No 18

## *Father Thomas Patrick Garrigan*

**Native Son of Cavan, Ireland  
Priest of the Archdiocese of San Francisco  
And the Diocese of Sacramento  
Pastor of Saint Basil Church, Vallejo, CA**

February 18, 1903 -- July 30, 1963



**Thomas Patrick Garrigan** was born on February 18, 1903 in Enagh, County Cavan, Ireland, son of Philip Garrigan and Julia Lynch. He was baptized the next day, February 19, in Virginia, County Cavan.

### **THOMAS BEGINS HIS EDUCATION**

He began elementary school in 1909 at the age of six until 1916. From 1919 to 1923, Thomas attended Saint Patrick's College in Cavan and then transferred to All Hallows College in Dublin to complete his course work in philosophy. He then began his theological studies at All Hallows College.

### **ORDAINED FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO**

Thomas Garrigan was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of San Francisco on June 22, 1930 in All Hallows College chapel by Bishop John Norton, bishop of Bathhurst, Australia. After his ordination he spent some time with his family in Ireland and then began his journey westward to San Francisco.

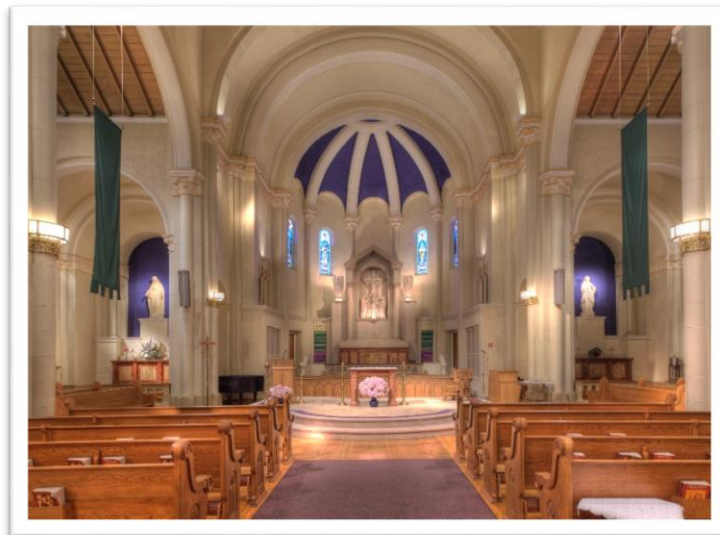
### **FATHER GARRIGAN BEGINS HIS MINISTRY**



**Star of the Sea Church, Sausalito**

Church photos from the web

The first assignment for Father Garrigan in the Archdiocese of San Francisco was to Mary, Star of the Sea, in Sausalito as an assistant from December 9, 1930 to June 17, 1935. After five years in Sausalito, he was assigned as an assistant to Saint Leo the Great Parish in Oakland from November 6, 1935 to June 16, 1951.



**Saint Leo the Great Church, Oakland**

### **ASSIGNED AS PASTOR**



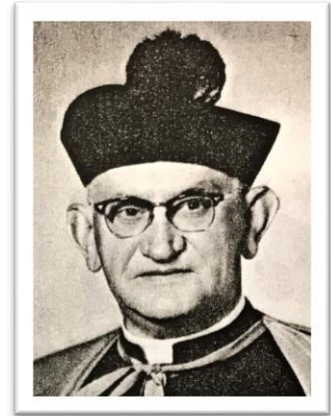
On January 1, 1951, Father Garrigan began his first pastorate at Saint Anthony Parish in Manteca which was part of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. He served only a year there as pastor when Archbishop John J Mitty assigned him to be the founding pastor of Saint David Parish in Richmond on February 28, 1952. He served this parish for four years until October 9, 1956.

### **PASTOR OF SAINT BASIL PARISH, VALLEJO**

Archbishop Mitty appointed Father Garrigan pastor of Saint Basil Parish in Vallejo on October 9, 1956, succeeding Monsignor Thomas F Byrne, the founding pastor of the parish which was established on July 1, 1941.

Father Garrigan was appointed Dean of Solano County and served in that role until May 1962 when Solano County became part of the Diocese of Sacramento.

**Monsignor Thomas F Byrne**



On January 13, 1962, Pope John XXIII created three new dioceses in Northern California, the Diocese of Oakland, the Diocese of Stockton and the Diocese of Santa Rosa. On September 14, 1962, Bishop Alden J Bell, newly installed bishop of Sacramento, appointed Father Garrigan as a member of the Sacramento Diocesan Consultors.



Photo by John E Boll

**Saint Basil the Great Church, Vallejo**

### **FATHER GARRIGAN DIES IN IRELAND**

Father Garrigan went on vacation to Ireland and while visiting his family there, he suddenly died of a heart attack in the home of his niece on Tuesday, July 30, 1963. Since he died in Ireland, a Funeral Mass was celebrated for him in Virginia, County Cavan, with burial in Ireland.

On August 5, 1963, Bishop Alden Bell celebrated a Solemn Requiem Mass for Father Garrigan in Saint Basil Church in Vallejo.

#### **ARCHIVIST'S COMMENT**

Father Thomas P Garrigan served as a priest for 33 years, all but one year as a priest of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Serving as pastor of Saint Basil Parish in Vallejo at the time when three new dioceses were created and diocesan boundaries were suddenly changed must have been difficult for him. After being a priest of the Archdiocese of San Francisco all his priesthood, Father Garrigan suddenly found himself in the Diocese of Sacramento for only one year. His sudden death in Ireland at the age of 59 ended his journey with us in Sacramento. We pray that he is fully alive in the joy and peace of God.

*May Father Thomas Garrigan abide now  
in the Peace of God!*

