

SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

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Father John E Boll

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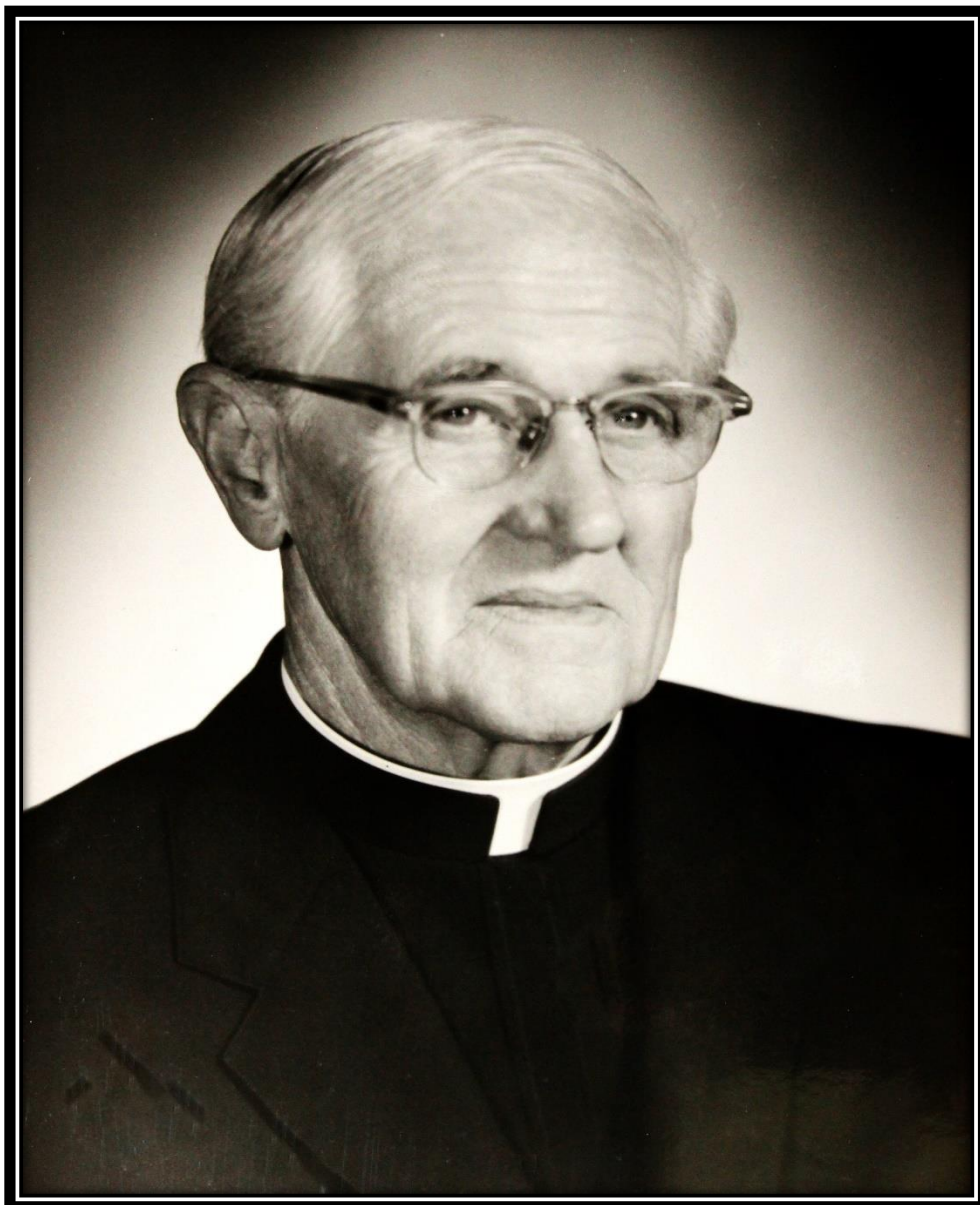
Monsignor Daniel Twomey

Native of Killarney, Ireland

Priest of the Diocese of Sacramento

Pastor of Saint Philomene Parish, Sacramento

March 23, 1900--January 15, 1968



Daniel Twomey, son of Humphrey Twomey and Minnie Lucey, was born on March 23, 1900 in Killarney, Ireland. He was baptized on March 25, 1900 in Saint Mary Cathedral, Killarney.



Photo from the Web

Interior of Saint Mary Cathedral, Killarney, where Daniel Twomey was baptized in 1900

DANIEL BEGINS HIS EDUCATION

Daniel began his primary education in 1906 at Presentation Brothers School in Killarney and in 1913 he transferred to Saint Brendan School, Killarney, for his secondary education, graduating from there in 1917.

ENTERS ALL HALLOWS COLLEGE, DUBLIN

In 1917, Daniel entered All Hallows College in Dublin, Ireland, and continued his studies there until 1920. While living at All Hallows, he attended Dublin University where he received his BA degree in 1920. He left the seminary for two years and when he returned to the seminary in 1922, he enrolled at Saint Patrick Seminary in Carlow where he completed his theological studies.

ORDINATION TO THE MINISTERIAL PRIESTHOOD

At the age of 27, Daniel Twomey was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Sacramento by Bishop Patrick Foley on June 12, 1927 in Carlow for the Diocese of Sacramento. He and Joseph Madden, a fellow student at the Carlow Seminary, were ordained together for the Diocese of Sacramento.

After his ordination, Father Twomey spent some time with his family before he set sail for New York and then on to Sacramento by train to begin his priestly ministry in the Diocese of Sacramento.

FIRST ASSIGNMENT

Father Twomey's first assignment in the Diocese of Sacramento was to Saint Mary Parish in Arcata, Humboldt County. At this point, Humboldt and Del Norte Counties situated along the Pacific Coast were part of the Diocese of Sacramento until Pope John XXIII created the dioceses of Oakland, Stockton and Santa Rosa in 1962. He remained in Arcata only one year, 1927 – 1928.



Picture from Fr Michael Cloney, Eureka, CA

Saint Mary Church, Arcata

NEXT ASSIGNMENT, WOODLAND

In 1928, Father Twomey was appointed to Holy Rosary Parish in Woodland. He moved from the northern recesses of the diocese in Humboldt County to Holy Rosary Parish in Yolo County.

This must have been one of the last appointments made by Bishop Patrick J Keane, the third bishop of Sacramento, who died on September 1, 1928, after only six years as Bishop of Sacramento. It appears that the diocesan practice at this time was to appoint a newly ordained priest to a one-year term in his first assignment. In Father Twomey's case, his first two parish assignments were for a year each.



Photo from the Diocesan Archives

Holy Rosary Church in the 1920s

A MOVE TO SACRAMENTO

Father Twomey's third assignment to Immaculate Conception Church in Sacramento must have been made by Bishop Robert J Armstrong who was appointed fourth bishop of Sacramento on January 4, 1929. Father Twomey served as assistant to Father John H Ellis at Immaculate Conception Parish for the next five years, 1929-1934



Photo by John E Boll

Immaculate Conception Church, Sacramento

FIRST PASTORATE

In 1934, Bishop Armstrong appointed Father Twomey to his first pastorate at Saint Joseph Parish in Lincoln, succeeding Father Michael V Myles as pastor. He served the Lincoln parish, including the two mission communities of Wheatland and Nicolaus, for the next thirteen years until 1947 when Bishop Armstrong appointed him the founding pastor of the newly created parish of Saint Philomene in Sacramento. A new chapter was about to begin in his ministerial life.



Photo by John E Boll

Saint Joseph Church, Lincoln

FOUNDING PASTOR OF SAINT PHILOMENE PARISH, SACRAMENTO

Establishing a new parish is always a daunting and challenging enterprise because it is, as the saying goes, creating something out of nothing.

For the first few months after his arrival in Sacramento in 1947, Father Twomey's focus was on locating his parishioners and finding a place where he could gather with them to celebrate Mass on Sundays. With the help of some parishioners, he was able to secure the Bungalow Club where Mass could be celebrated on Sunday mornings. He worked hard to find Catholics who lived in the area and gathered them together to make this new parish a reality.

Twenty-nine people attended the first Mass. In three months' time, a master plan was created for a five-unit building program drawn up by Nicolas Tomich and presented to Bishop Armstrong

and the parishioners of the new parish. The proposal included a church, school, hall, rectory and convent. After four months' time, six acres of land were purchased on El Camino and Bell Streets and in less than a year, a two-wing building was up and in operation.

ARRIVAL OF THE SISTERS OF LORETTO

In 1949, the Sisters of Loretto arrived to staff the new Saint Philomene School. Enrollment began and the school opened with six grades staffed by six teacher.



Photo by John E Boll

Saint Philomene Church, Sacramento

Over the years, that first successful launch of the parish school expanded to seventeen classrooms, kindergarten through eighth grade, and thousands of children have been educated at this parish school over the decades.

After thirteen years of working, budgeting and building the spirit of community, Saint Philomene, as a parish plant, represented an investment of a million dollars. A million dollars in 1950 would equal ten and a half million dollars in 2019 dollars.

Yet something was missing: the wall of the church sanctuary remained bare.

ARTIST JOHN DeROSEN PAINTS A SANCTUARY MURAL

John De Rosen, a noted artist whose 75 foot mosaic image of Christ can be seen above the altar in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, was commissioned by Father Twomey to paint a mural on the sanctuary wall of Saint Philomene Church, completing the interior of the church.

The motif of the main panel of the triptych is the scene of the Last Supper as Jesus gives himself to his Twelve Disciples and through them to all his disciples as food for the journey through the ages until his return to bring together all things and to hand them over to His Father.

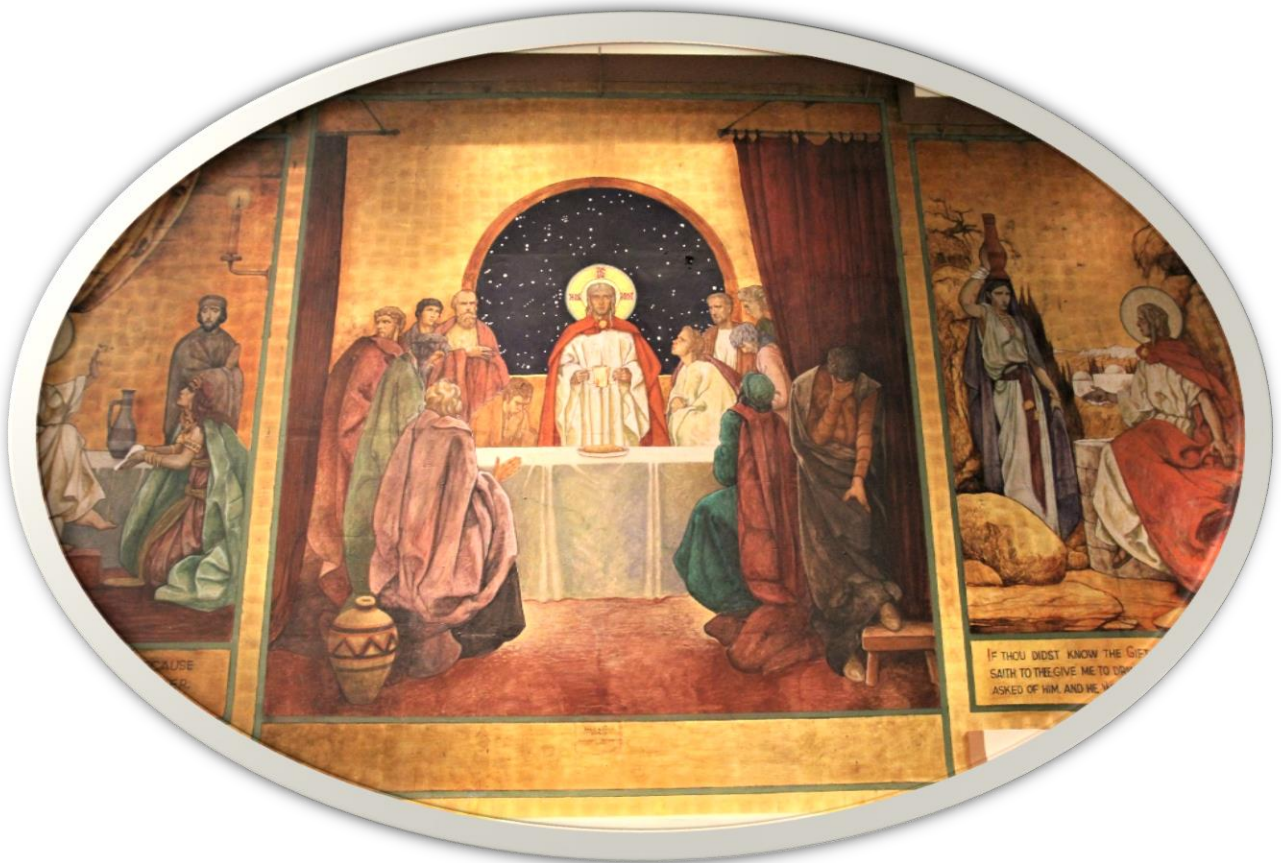


Photo by John E Boll

Saint Philomene Church Sanctuary Mural Painted by Artist John DeRosen

THE CHURCH BELL TOWER



The Church Bell Tower

In 1952, when the parish building plans were being created, an area was set aside for a future bell tower. By 1961, Monsignor Twomey and the architects began designing the tower which was to hold 2¼ tons of bronze bells 49 feet above the ground.

Cast in the bell foundry of Petit and Fritsen in Holland, the smallest of the three bells is 34" in diameter and weighs 880 pounds; the middle bell is 39" across and weighs 1,320 pound; and the tenor bell is almost 48" from rim to rim and weighs 2,200 pounds. These bells call out the hours of the day for the local community.

Photos by John E Boll

Statue of Saint Philomene



A LEGACY OF FINE ART AND BEAUTY

In the process of building Saint Philomene Church, due primarily to Father Twomey's interest in church art, the church was largely handcrafted in order to leave a rich legacy of fine art and beauty in the church beyond the mural and the bells.

Besides these, there are the glass mosaic stations, the stained glass windows by Cummings Studio of San Francisco; the hammered copper baptismal font by Hans Grag, a German-trained Nevada City metal smith, who also made the holy water dispenser fonts, the sanctuary bell and sanctuary candle holder; the brass repousse tabernacle door; the abalone cabochons of the processional cross; the handmade color-glazed tile in the sanctuary; the figure of Saint Philomene over the front door of the church; and the custom-built organ in the loft. From the earliest days and through the years, Father Twomey and the people of the parish left a fine legacy of talented artisans and a treasure of artistic beauty for the generations to come.

NAMED A DOMESTIC PRELATE

In recognition of his hard work to make Saint Philomene Parish one of the most complete parish plants in the diocese at this time, and his dedicated ministry to the people of the parish, Father Twomey was named a Domestic Prelate by Pope John XXIII in 1959 with the title of Monsignor.



Monsignor Daniel Twomey

APPOINTMENTS TO DIOCESAN BOARDS

Monsignor Twomey was appointed to various diocesan boards during his years of ministry in the diocese. He served on the Diocesan School Board from 1949 to 1966, the Sacred Music Commission from 1957, and was a Diocesan Consultor from 1961 to 1968.

DEATH COMES TO MONSIGNOR TWOMEY

Monsignor Twomey took an unfortunate fall at the parish and suffered a fractured hip. He was rushed to Mercy Hospital and a few days later while in the hospital he suffered a coronary occlusion resulting in a heart attack. He died on Monday, January 15, 1968, at the age of 67.

FUNERAL MASS FOR MONSIGNOR TWOMEY

On Thursday morning, January 18, a 10 AM Mass was celebrated with the children of the parish for Monsignor Twomey. That same evening, a rosary was prayed for Monsignor Twomey at 8 PM in the church by the parish community.

The next day, Friday, January 19, a Solemn Requiem Mass was concelebrated for Monsignor Twomey with Bishop Alden J Bell as the principal celebrant. The homily was given by Monsignor Patrick McTague, pastor of Saint Joseph Church in North Sacramento.

BURIAL AT CALVARY CEMETERY

After the Funeral Mass, the body of Monsignor Twomey was taken in procession to the Priests' Section at Calvary Cemetery for the Rite of Committal and burial.



Photo by John E Boll

Headstone of Monsignor Daniel Twomey, Calvary Cemetery

IN MEMORIAM

Daniel Twomey began his life's journey in Killarney on the first year of the twentieth century in 1900. In the course of his youth, he felt a call from God to give his life in priestly service to the People of God in the foreign missions.

During his seminary formation, he made the decision to serve the missions in Northern California where All Hallows College professor Father Eugene O'Connell had been called and sent by Pope Pius IX to the missions of California as the founding bishop of the Vicariate of Marysville in 1860.



Photo from the Killarney Website

The Lakes of Killarney in the Magnificent Beauty of the Fall Season

After service in the parishes of Saint Mary in Arcata, Humboldt County, Holy Rosary, Woodland, Yolo County, and Immaculate Conception, Sacramento, Sacramento County, Father Twomey was for his first pastorate at Saint Joseph Parish in Lincoln, Placer County.

After thirteen years as pastor of the Lincoln parish, Bishop Armstrong asked Father Twomey to be the founding pastor of Saint Philomene Parish in Sacramento. For the next 21 years, he spent his life and energy to create a vibrant and flourishing community of faith at Saint Philomene Church.

His life of ministry was cut short after a fall which fractured his hip. This sudden shock to his body resulted in a heart attack that was the immediate cause of his death. As it happened, both Monsignor Daniel Twomey and Father Michael Fitzgerald, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Sacramento, died within hours of each other. Their sudden deaths were a great loss to the Church of Sacramento.

The Church of Sacramento gives thanks to God for the life and ministry of Monsignor Twomey who served the People of God as priest, pastor and shepherd in Northern California for 40 years. Called home by God, may he enjoy for all eternity the glorious presence of God!



*“Well done, good and faithful
servant Daniel.”*

*Come now and enjoy the life I have
prepared for you and for all who
love me.”*

May he abide in joy and peace!