

SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

Vol 5

Father John E Boll

No 75

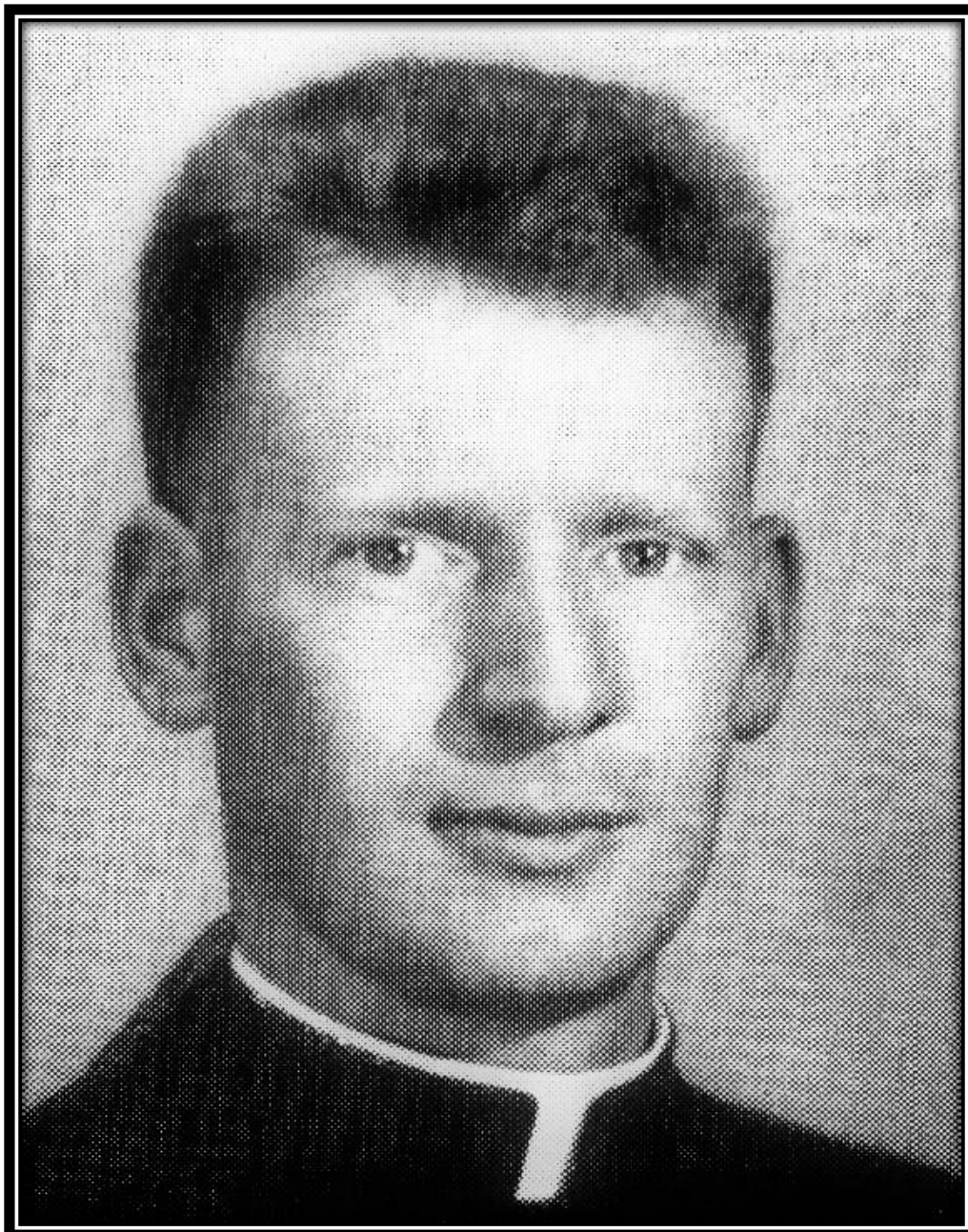
Father Daniel C Cullinan

Native of Kilnahoshogue, Clogher, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland

Priest of the Diocese of Sacramento

Pastor of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Vallejo, CA

November 22, 1924 – January 6, 1979



Daniel C Cullinan, son of Manasses Peter Cullinan and Catherine McSorley, was born on November 22, 1924, in Kilnahoshogue, Clogher, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. He was baptized the next day in the Church of Saint Patrick, Eskra, Omagh, County Tyrone.



Photo of County Tyrone from the Web

County Tyrone, Northern Ireland

BEGINS HIS EDUCATION

Dan began his education in 1931 at Tyreghan School in Fivemiletown, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland until 1938. He then transferred to the Christian Brothers High School in Omagh, County Tyrone, where he completed his high school studies in 1943.

SEMINARY DAYS

In the fall of 1943, Dan began his theological training at All Hallows College, Dublin and completed his studies in the spring of 1949 as a seminary student for the Diocese of Sacramento.

ORDAINED A PRIEST FOR SACRAMENTO

Daniel Cullinan was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Sacramento on June 19, 1949 in the chapel of All Hallows College, Dublin by Bishop Eugene O'Doherty, Bishop of Dromore, Northern Ireland. He was 24 years and 7 months of age when he was ordained a priest.

After his ordination, Father Cullinan spent three months with his family until it was time for him to begin his five thousand mile journey west from Ireland to Sacramento in Northern California.

FATHER DAN CULLINAN BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

The Bishop of Sacramento in 1949 when Father Cullinan arrived in Sacramento was Bishop Robert J Armstrong. It was Bishop Armstrong who appointed Father Dan to Saint Patrick Parish in Angels Camp which was part of the Sacramento diocese at that time. His first appointment as assistant pastor began in October 1949 and ended in May 1952 when he was given a new assignment.



Photo from the St Patrick Parish Website

Saint Patrick Church, Angels Camp, CA

NEXT PARISH, SAINT BERNARD IN EUREKA

Father Cullinan's second parish assignment was to the north-west end of the diocese, to Saint Bernard Parish in Eureka, Humboldt County. This parish assignment was for seventeen months, from May 1952 to October 1953.

Saint Bernard Parish was established in 1886 and the present church was built of redwood in the Gothic Revival architectural style designed by local architect James Simpson under the direction of Father John S Sheridan. It was consecrated by Bishop Patrick Manogue on June 6, 1886. The church is the oldest building in Eureka still owned and used by its original owner, the Roman Catholic Church, for its original purpose.

The church was named for Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, the patron saint of beekeepers and candlestick makers, who was born to a noble family in France in 1090. Saint Bernard Parish was part of the Diocese of Sacramento until February 21, 1962 when Humboldt and Del Norte Counties became part of the newly created Diocese of Santa Rosa.



Photo by John E Boll

Saint Bernard Church, Eureka, CA

NAMED ASSISTANT OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, SACRAMENTO

In October 1953, Bishop Armstrong assigned Father Cullinan to Immaculate Conception Parish in Sacramento as assistant to Father Patrick J O'Sullivan, pastor of the parish. Father Dan served the parish for two years until October 1955.



Photo from the Immaculate Conception Church Archives

Immaculate Conception Church, circa 1958

BACK TO THE NORTH

Father Cullinan's next appointment in 1955 was to Saint Joseph Parish in Yreka, Siskiyou County, as assistant pastor, retuning once again to the northern part of the diocese. The pastor of the parish in Yreka was Father Patrick McTague. Father Dan served this parish as assistant for two and a half years until February 1958. However, on November 7, 1957, Father McTague was appointed pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Sacramento where he served for the next 20 years until he retired on September 1, 1977.



Photo from the Yreka Parish Archives

Saint Joseph Parish, Yreka

ASSISTANT PASTOR, SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH, CHICO

In February 1958, Father Cullinan was appointed assistant pastor of Saint John the Baptist Parish in Chico by Bishop Joseph T McGucken where newly arrived Father Cornelius S O'Connor was named pastor of the parish. Father Dan served the Chico community as assistant pastor for only 13 months until March 1959 when Bishop McGucken assigned him to his next parish.

NEXT ASSIGNMENT, SAINT PATRICK PARISH, PLACERVILLE

This next assignment for Father Dan as assistant pastor of Saint Patrick Parish in Placerville was quite short, from March 1959 to December of the same year. Father Joseph Hanrahan, pastor of Placerville, was a quiet man. His health was beginning to fail and he faced the need to build a new church to accommodate the growing Catholic community of Placerville. That task, however, would fall to Father Cornelius F O'Connor who succeed Father Hanrahan as pastor of Placerville in 1961.



Photo by Winniger Photography, Placerville

Saint Patrick Church, Placerville circa 1956

FINAL PARISH AS ASSISTANT – HOLY SPIRIT PARISH, SACRAMENTO

After only nine months in Placerville, Father Dan was appointed to his final parish assignment as an assistant in December 1959 to Holy Spirit Parish in Sacramento with Father Patrick McHugh who was the founding pastor in 1940. Father Dan served Holy Spirit parish for only fourteen months until February 1961 when he was appointed to his pastorate.

NAMED PASTOR OF BURNEY

On February 16, 1961, Bishop McGucken appointed Father Dan to his first pastorate at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in Burney, an assignment he would hold for ten years until March 11, 1971. He succeeded Father Patrick Corkell who served the Burney community from 1957 to 1961.

Burney is about an hour's drive north east of Redding on Highway 299 and the driving distance between Redding and Burney is about 43 miles. Burney is nestled among the pine trees at an elevation of 3100 feet above sea level. The parish was founded in 1949 by Father John DeAndreis and the log church built during the pastorate of Father DeAndreis and is still in use today.

There are two mission churches in the Burney parish, Saint Stephen Mission Church in Bieber, Lassen County, and Our Lady of the Valley Mission Church in Fall River Mills, Shasta County. Driving to Bieber in the wintertime can be dangerous because of the snow and ice on the road. Father Dan survived the cold winters for ten years until he was given his next pastorate.

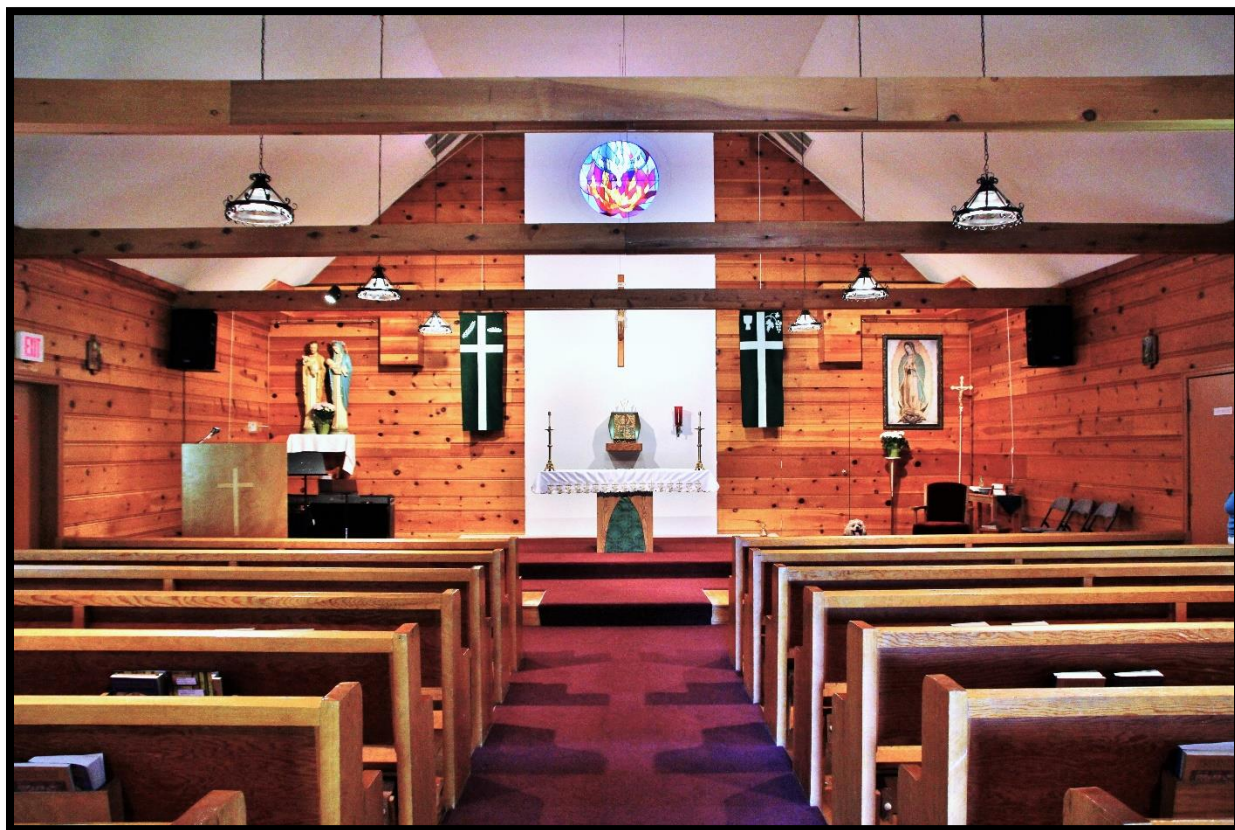


Photo by John E Boll

Saint Francis of Assisi Church, Burney

PASTOR OF SAINT DOMINIC PARISH, ORLAND

Saint Dominic Parish was founded in 1919 by Father William Coen. On March 11, 1971, Bishop Alden J Bell appointed Father Cullinan as pastor of Saint Dominic Parish. The City of Orland is located just off Interstate 5 in the heart of the Sacramento Valley. The parish has one mission church in Hamilton City where Mass is celebrated in Spanish on Sundays at 8:30 AM.

Orland is located in Glenn County, a busy farming region in the Central Valley in one of the most productive agricultural regions on earth. Hundreds of crops are grown commercially in the Orland area but one of the largest crops is tomatoes. The growing of almonds is another large crop in the Orland area, helping to make California the world's largest tree nut producer. Another large crop is rice, especially sushi rice, which has become very popular both in California and in Asia. Needless to say, the Orland area contributes greatly to the wealth of California through its agriculture.

Father Dan served as pastor of Saint Dominic Parish for only three years until April 2, 1974.



Photo by John E Boll

Saint Dominic Parish, Orland

FINAL PARISH, SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA, VALLEJO

On April 2, 1974, Bishop Bell appointed Father Cullinan pastor of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Vallejo, succeeding Father William McLaughlin who died on December 20, 1973.

Saint Catherine Parish was established in 1964 by founding pastor, Father Vincent Lyons. Father Cullinan was the third pastor of the parish.

TRAGEDY STRIKES

Saint Catherine Parish suffered two successive tragedies in December 1978 and January 1979. Father Sean Carrigy who had been associate pastor of Saint Catherine Parish from 1972 to 1978, was working with Catholic Social Services in Butte, Yuba and Sutter counties, when he was killed on Christmas Eve 1978 when his car was struck head-on by a driver going the wrong way on a freeway off ramp on Interstate 5, two miles north of the Colusa-Yolo county line. At the time of his death, Father Carrigy who was just 40, lived in residence at Our Divine Savior rectory in Chico. His Funeral Mass was held on December 28, 1978 in Saint Catherine Church in Vallejo.

A week later, on Saturday, January 6, 1979, Father Cullinan failed to appear for the scheduled morning Mass. He was found dead in his bed by Father Michael O'Holloran, his assistant, and Father John Terwilliger, neighboring pastor of Saint Basil Parish. Father Dan was 54 years of age when he died of a heart attack in his sleep during the night.



Photo by John E Boll

Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Vallejo

FUNERAL FOR FATHER CULLINAN

On Thursday evening, January 11, 1979, a rosary was prayed in Saint Catherine Church at 8 PM for Father Cullinan. Friday morning, Bishop Alden J Bell was the principal celebrant at the Funeral Mass at 11 AM. Concelebrants included Father Cullinan's brother, Father John Cullinan, pastor of Saint Joseph Parish, Phoenix, AZ; Monsignor Edmund O'Neill, the homilist; Monsignors John O'Connor and Patrick Nolan; and Fathers John Terwilliger and Patrick O'Neill. After the Funeral Mass, Father Cullinan's body was taken to Ireland for a Funeral Mass with his family there followed by burial in his home town in Ireland. He was survived by four brothers and a sister.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Like so many Irish born priests before him since the 1850s who left their native homeland to go on mission in the new world of the developing United States of America, Father Daniel Cullinan left his hometown of Kilnahoshogue, Clogher, County Tyrone and headed west for California to begin his missionary work as a priest.

I remember Father Dan when he came to my home town parish in Placerville. I was already in the seminary beginning my studies for the priesthood. He was a young 35 year old handsome and robust priest who stayed in Placerville a very short time.

Father Dan become a pastor for the first time when he was 37 years of age

I clearly remember attending Father Sean Carrigy's Funeral Mass three days after Christmas in 1978 as we bid him farewell and commended him to the Lord. Father Dan Cullinan was at that Mass as well and who would have guessed we would be back in that same church a week later to commend Father Dan Cullinan to the Lord as well.

It became very clear to all of us priests and the parishioners of Saint Catherine Parish that January day that we do not know the day or the hour when we will fall asleep in the Lord as he calls us home. All we can do is live each day as fully and joyfully as we can, for we have no lasting city here.



*Gracious and Loving God,
We thank you for the breath of life
You have given to each of us.
When it is our turn to return home
To You, may we be ready to leave
All things behind as we come into
The gracious and joyful light of Your face.
Give Fathers Sean and Dan peaceful
Rest from their labors and grant them
Fullness of life in your presence.
Amen*



Father Daniel C Cullinan