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Father John E Boll

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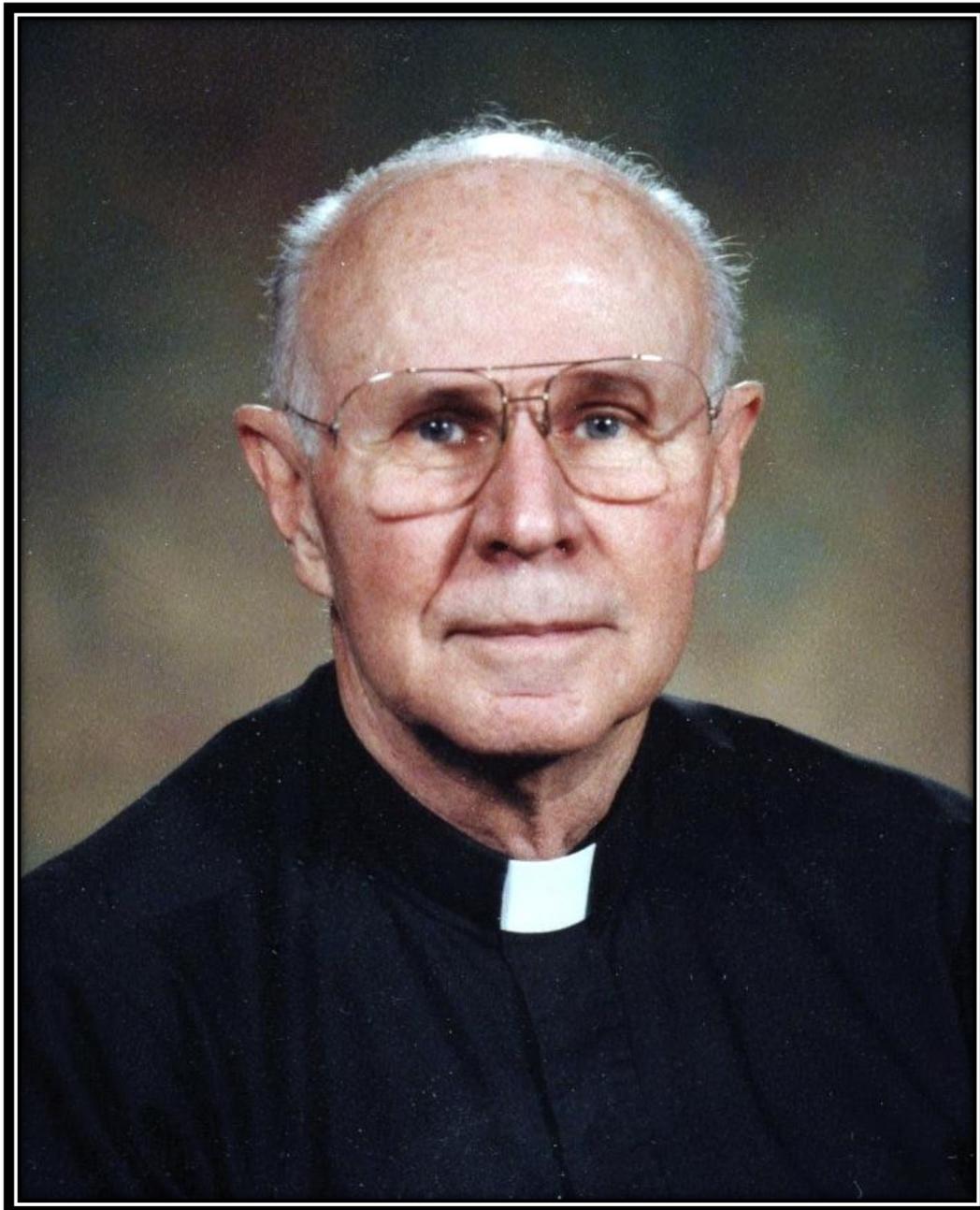
Father Richard Joseph Blinn, S.J.

Native of Nampa, Idaho

Member of the California Province of the Society of Jesus

Parochial Vicar of Saint James Parish, Davis, California

October 23, 1933 – May 11, 2011



Richard Joseph Blinn, son of Gordon Blinn and Mayme Schwartz, was born on October 23, 1933 in Nampa, Idaho. He was one of four children born in the Blinn family. Richard's two brothers were Herbert and Raymond and his sister was Dorothy. Richard was baptized in Saint John Cathedral, Boise, in November 1933.

RICHARD BEGINS HIS EDUCATION

In the fall of 1939, Richard began his education at Saint John School in Boise for the first two years of his primary education. He then transferred to Collister School in 1941 and continued his education there until 1946.

JUNIOR HIGH, HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY

He changed schools once again as he began junior high school at North Junior High in Boise from 1946 to 1949. He then matriculated to Boise Senior High from 1949 to 1951 when he graduated in the spring of 1951. In the fall of that year, he began studies at Boise Junior College for two years and then moved to the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho for his final two years of college, graduating with a bachelor of science degree in 1955.



Photo from the University of Idaho Website

University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho

ENTERS THE JESUIT NOVITIATE

Richard had been thinking of religious life for some time so after graduating from the University of Idaho, he made his decision to enter the Jesuit Novitiate of the California Province of Jesuits in Los Gatos, California on August 15, 1957 to begin the process of becoming a Jesuit priest.

The day a man enters the Jesuit Novitiate, he is considered a member of the Society of Jesus. The novitiate is a two-year process of prayer, work and learning about the Society of Jesus. During the first year, the novice makes a Thirty Day Ignatian Retreat. Richard spent two years at the Jesuit Novitiate in Los Gatos and made his First Vows as a Jesuit in Los Gatos.



Photo from the Jesuit Website

The Jesuit Center, formerly the Jesuit Novitiate, Los Gatos, California

REGENCY

Regency is the time when the young first vowed Jesuit works full time in a Jesuit ministry for two to three years. During his regency, Brother Richard served as a teacher at Saint Ignatius High School in San Francisco where he was a counselor and also taught Latin, speech and music. He was a gifted pianist and enjoyed playing the piano throughout his life.

ALMA COLLEGE

After completing his regency, Brother Richard moved to Alma College, located in the Bear Creek area of the coastal mountain range west of San Jose. The Jesuit community purchased land and constructed classrooms and dormitories to serve as the theologate for the California Jesuit Province. Almas College was the first Jesuit college of theology on the West Coast of the United States.



Photo from the Jesuit Provincial Website

Alma College was the School of Theology for Jesuit Seminarians

Alma College was part of the Santa Clara University theology department for the education of Jesuit students of theology. Richard studied at Almas College from 1957 to 1969. He earned a master's degree in counseling in 1964 and a master's degree in theology in 1970.

ORDINATION OF RICHARD BLINN

Having completed his theological training, Brother Richard Joseph Blinn was ordained a priest for the California Province of Jesuits on June 14, 1969 by Bishop John Ward, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, in Blessed Sacrament Parish Church in Hollywood. This parish is staffed by priests of the Jesuit Province of California.



Photo from the Parish Website

Blessed Sacrament Church, Hollywood, CA

FATHER BLINN CONTINUES HIS EDUCATION

Father Blinn continued his education immediately after his ordination at Harvard Divinity School from 1969 to 1970 and then on to the University of Southern California, 1970-1973, where he earned a Doctorate Degree in Education.

FATHER BLINN BEGINS HIS LIFE OF MINISTRY

Having earned his Doctorate Degree in Education, Father Richard was ready to begin his life of ministry in education. He was appointed assistant principal of Jesuit High School in Carmichael, CA from 1972–1974 and 1979—1980. He served as principal of Jesuit High School, Carmichael, from 1974 to 1977 and then appointed associate campus minister at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu for a year, 1980 to 1981.



Photo by John E Boll

Jesuit High School, Carmichael, CA

VISITING PROFESSOR AT LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

In 1981, Father Blinn was appointed assistant visiting professor of theology at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles where he taught classes for two years until 1983.



Photo from LMU Website

Graduation Ceremony at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles

ASSOCIATE PASTOR IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

In order to give Jesuit priests a well-rounded experience of ministry, Father Richard was next assigned to Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Phoenix, AZ to serve as an associate pastor at this Jesuit staffed parish. He served in this parish for two years, 1983 to 1984.



Photo from St Francis Xavier Parish Website

St Francis Xavier Parish Church, Phoenix, AZ

JESUIT SECONDARY ASSOCIATION, WASHINGTON, DC

Father Blinn's next appointment was assistant to the president of the Jesuit Secondary Association in Washington, D.C. where he worked for the next fourteen years, 1984 to 1998. The work of this association was to initiate programs and provide services that enabled its member schools to sustain their Ignatian vision and Jesuit mission of educational excellence in the formation of young men and women of competence, conscience and compassion.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF AMERICA MAGAZINE

After completing fourteen years working in Washington, DC, Father Richard was next assigned as associate editor of the Jesuit magazine called *America*. He worked as an editor of the magazine from 1987 to 1988.



America Magazine, the Jesuit Review of Faith & Culture

CAMPUS MINISTRY AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

In this interim period of assignments, Father Richard was appointed to the Stanford University Campus Ministry team for one year, 1988 to 1989. At this point, he was ready to return to parish ministry.

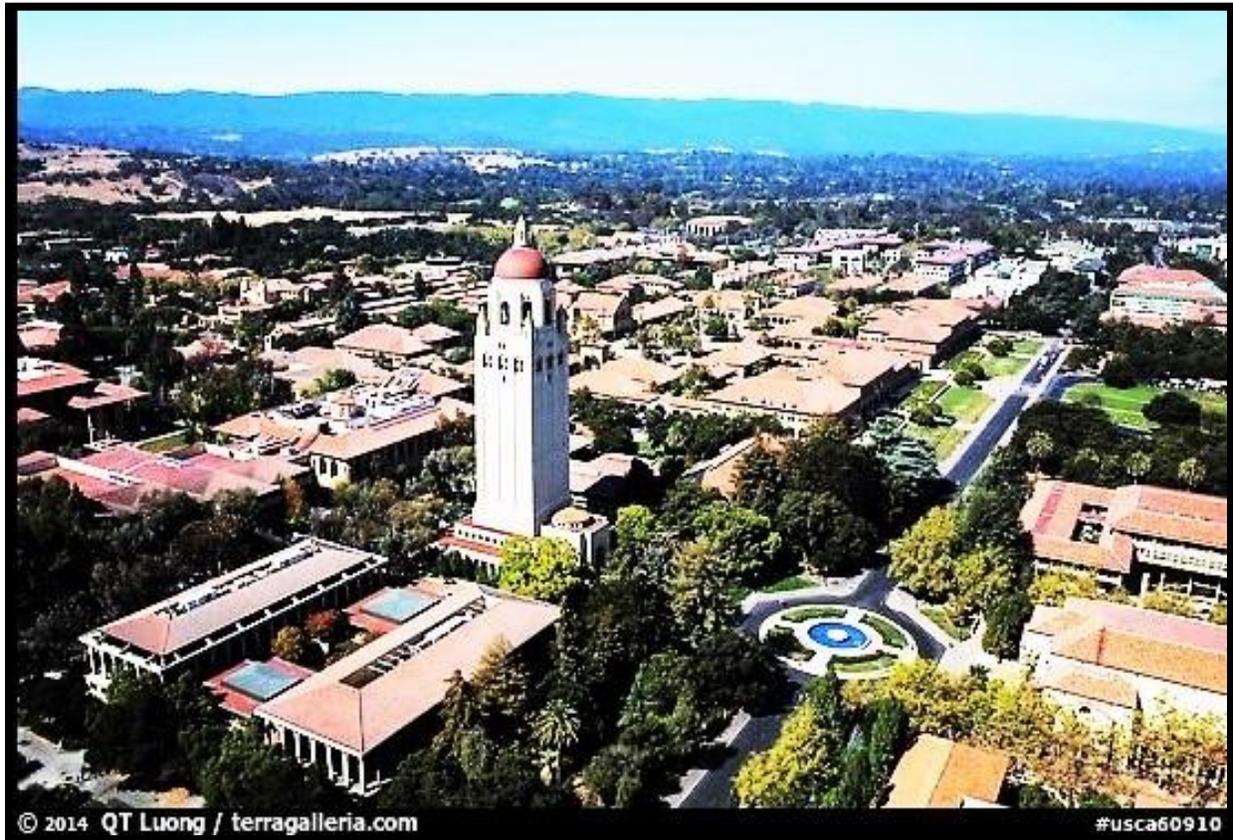


Photo taken from the Web, QT Luong/terrageria.com

Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

RETURN TO PARISH MINISTRY

At the age of 56, Father Richard was welcomed back to the Diocese of Sacramento where he was appointed associate pastor of Saint James Parish in Davis on October 7, 1989, to minister to the parish community of Davis with Monsignor Andrew Coffey.

Father Richard served Saint James Parish as a parochial vicar for nearly nineteen years. He and Monsignor Coffey developed a good friendship and worked together in a compatible and supportive way.

In 1999 to 2000, Father Richard served as interim director of the Davis Newman Center when the need arose, using the skills he developed when he was a campus minister at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu and Stanford University in Palo Alto.

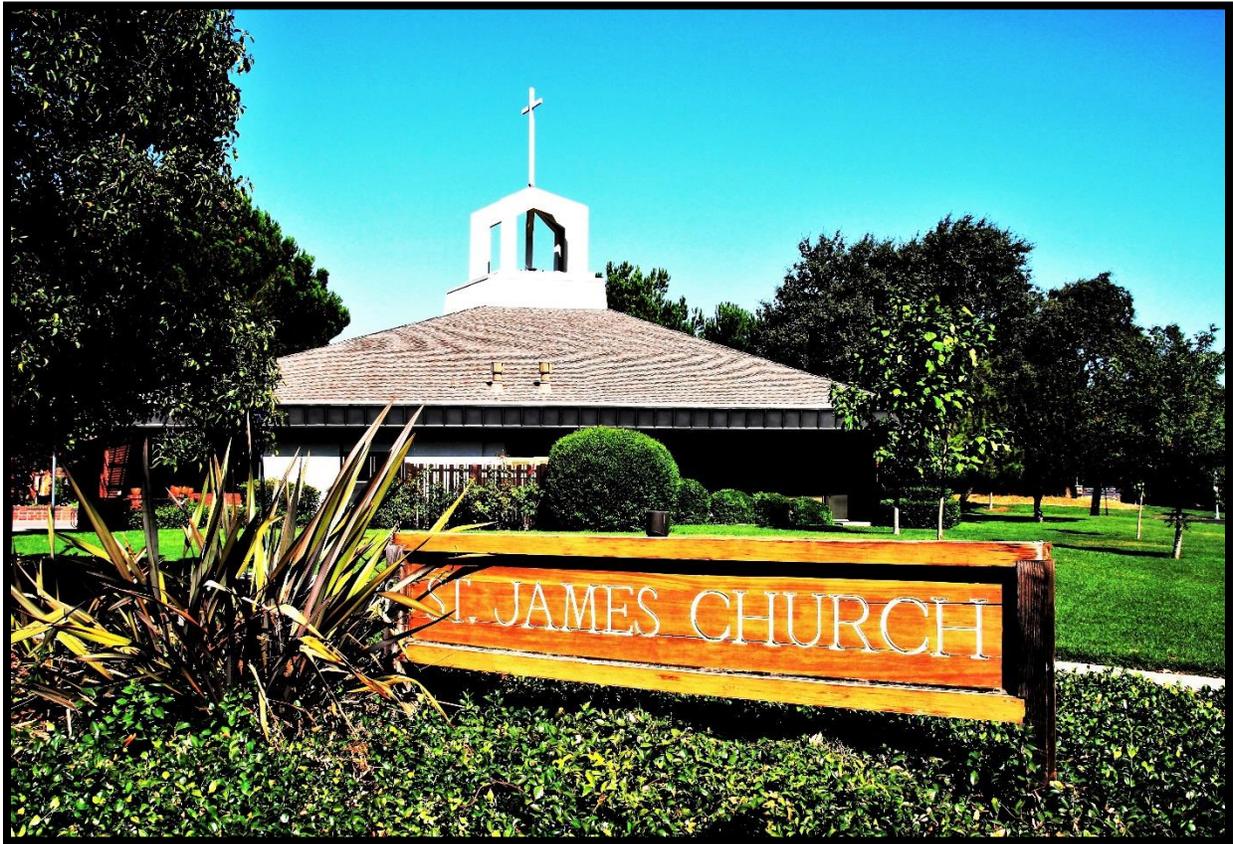


Photo by John E Boll

Saint James Church, Davis, CA

FATHER RICHARD RETIRES FROM ACTIVE MINISTRY

At the age of 75, Father Richard Blinn retired from active ministry at Saint James Church in Davis on July 1, 2008 and returned to the Jesuit Center in Los Gatos where senior Jesuit priests retired. It was to this same facility in Los Gatos where Father Richard entered the Jesuit Novitiate on August 15, 1957 fifty-one years prior, that he began his retirement.

DEATH COMES TO FATHER BLINN

Father Blinn soon began to suffer from dementia, losing the ability to use his keen mind and talented skill to play classical music on the piano. He remained at the Jesuit Center in Los Gatos until his death on May 11, 2011. He was 77 years of age when he died.

FUNERAL MASS FOR FATHER BLINN

The Funeral Mass for Father Blinn was celebrated on Tuesday, May 17, 2011, at Sacred Heart Jesuit Center Chapel in Los Gatos. After the Funeral Mass, the body of Father Blinn was taken to the cemetery on the grounds of University of Santa Clara where the Jesuit priests of the California Province are buried. From that place, the body of Father Richard awaits the final coming of Jesus the Lord when He will raise from the tomb all the dead who await the final resurrection and eternal life to come.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Father Richard Blinn, SJ, was blessed with an excellent education, achieving a master's degree in theology and a doctoral degree in education. During his 54 years as a member of the Society of Jesus, Father Richard began his ministry in the Diocese of Sacramento where he served as assistant principal and then principal of Jesuit High School in Carmichael. He taught at Jesuit high schools and universities, worked in campus ministry in Hawaii and California and for fourteen years, served the Jesuit Secondary Association in Washington, DC and then associate editor for *America Magazine*.

But Father Blinn's longest ministry was as parochial vicar at Saint James Parish in Davis. He did well in parish ministry and the people of Davis enjoyed his presence at their parish. He continued to travel during his vacation times and often shared the photos he had taken on his various travel adventures with the parishioners of Saint James Parish.

He was an excellent pianist and enjoyed playing classical music at home in the rectory on his grand piano at Saint James Parish. He fitted in well with the diocesan clergy and enjoyed helping out at the Newman Center when the need arose.

He retired from ministry at the age of 75 as his health began to weaken. His keen mind began to suffer the effects of dementia as he aged. His Jesuit community brought him home to the Jesuit Center in Los Gatos where he began his religious life as a Jesuit novice on August 15, 1957. It was there that he breathed his last breath of life on May 11, 2011 as he closed his eyes to this world and opened them to see the glory of God whom he faithfully served as a member of the Society of Jesus for 54 years.

*Eternal joy and peace grant to
Father Richard Joseph Blinn, O Lord,
For he was a faithful servant of yours,
Always working for the good of Your People
Throughout his life.
May his soul and the souls of all the faithful
Departed, abide now in Your peace!
Amen*

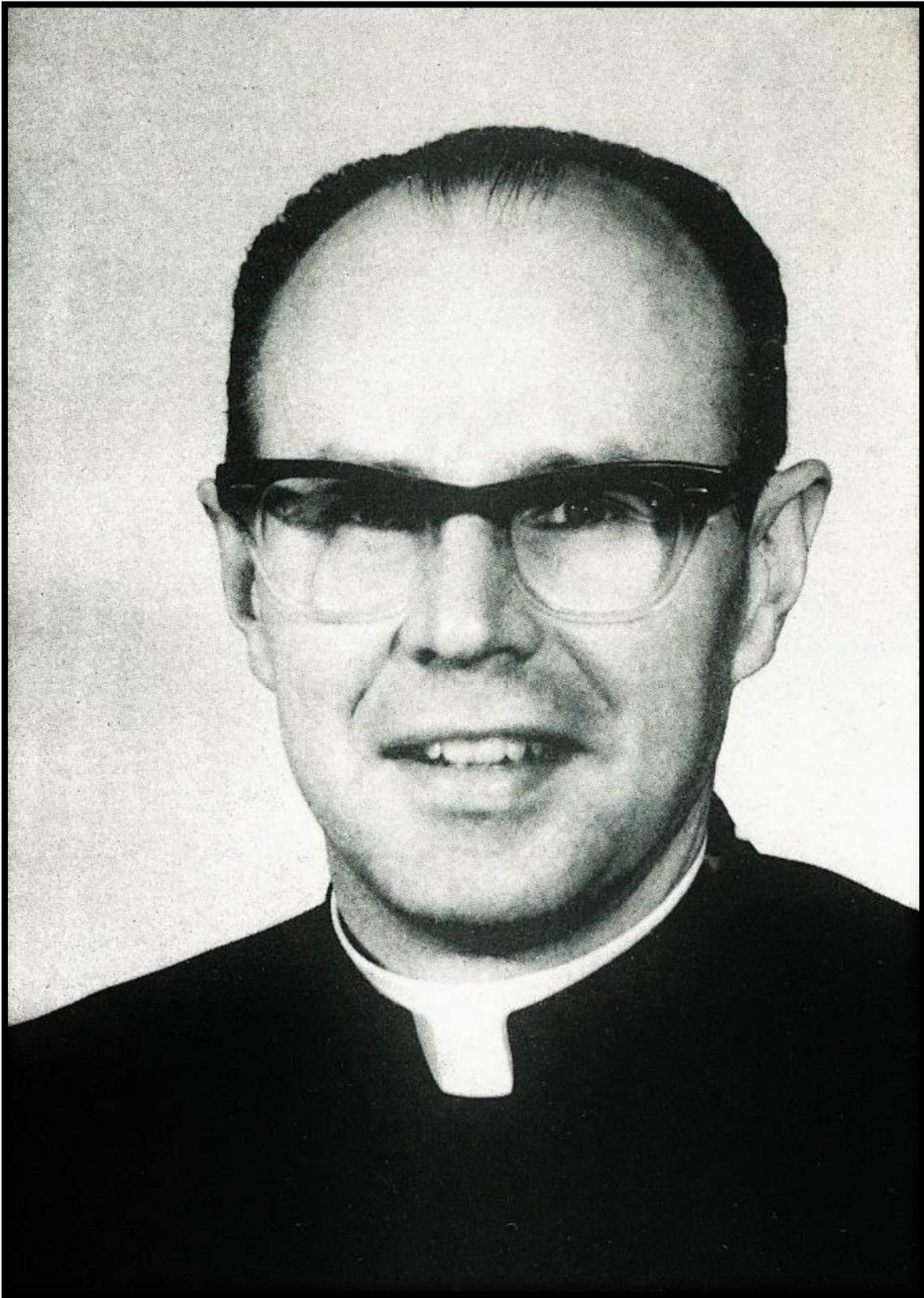


Photo from Jesuit Archives and Research Center, St Louis, MO

Father Richard Joseph Blinn, SJ

Ordination photograph of 1969