

**A HISTORY OF
ST. ANTHONY PARISH**
St. Anthony Church and St. Martin Mission

Dorothy O'Neil
2017

Our Pioneer Priests

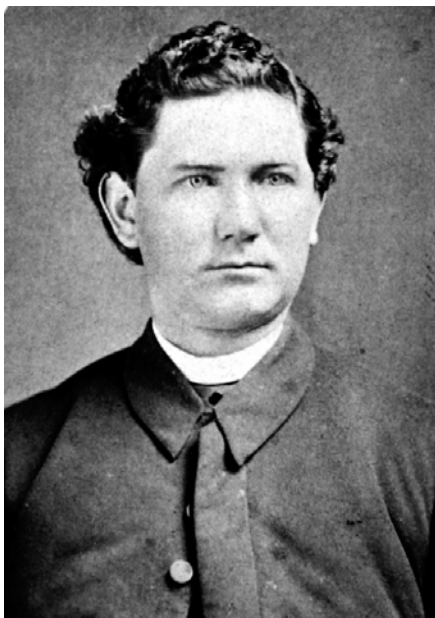
The history of the Catholic Church in Yolo County began in 1921 when a Franciscan Friar from Mission San Francisco baptized a Native American Indian near what is now Knights Landing. At that time, the Liwai village of about one hundred Patwin Indians lived in dome shaped huts along the banks of the river that is now Putah Creek. Before the Monticello Dam was constructed, Putah Creek was a river flowing from Lake into the Putah Creek Canyon.

By 1834, most of the Liwai people had been relocated to Mission San Francisco de Solano in Vacaville, one of the twenty-one missions built by the Spanish Missionaries for the native American people they found living in the upper California area. They were converted to Christianity, but tragically many died of small pox and malaria. After the missions were closed, the remaining tribe members returned to their land along the river which had become part of the Wolfskill Rancho. In 1842, William Wolfskill obtained a large Spanish land grant which was farmed by his brother John. Many native people stayed on to work at the ranch, and the elder Wolfskill children grew up speaking the Patwin language.

About six miles to the northwest of the Wolfskill Rancho, a community called Buckeye began to form at a crossroads near the Ely and Briggs ranches; and by 1870, Buckeye boasted a post office, Masonic Hall, a saloon, a hotel, two stores, a blacksmith, a shoemaker's shop, a boarding house, a Christian Church and the Union School which was located on County Roads 31 and 90A.

In 1870, Holy Rosary Church was built in Woodland, but it only lasted one year as it was damaged by heavy rain. In 1874, a church was built in Woodland, on the corner of Main and Walnut St, as well as one in Knights Landing and Davisville, which were then all part of the San Francisco Diocese. A priest would celebrate Mass in each of these churches on designated Sundays.

"In August 1873, the first Holy Mass was celebrated in Winters at the James McMahan Ranch by a priest from Napa. During 1874 and 1875, the Rev. P. Ward from Dixon held divine services in the same house and in the Union School between Madison and Winters." A brief history of Catholic missions in Yolo County, Daily Democrat, Aug. 18, 1997.



Father Thomas Gibney



**Edward Simeon Graf on porch
of McMahan Ranch**

Reverend Thomas Gibney: Some of the early Masses celebrated in the Winters area were said by Fr. Thomas Gibney from Sacramento at the home of pioneer Thomas Lynch in Norton, about four miles north of Winters. Father Gibney, who rode out on horseback to Winters from Sacramento, was pastor of St. Rose Church in Sacramento from 1868-70, and part of the St. Rose Cathedral committee.

In 1875 the Vaca Valley Railroad extended a rail line across Putah Creek two miles west of the Wolfskill ford. A depot was built at the spot and a town mapped out by D.P. Edwards and Theodore Winters. Buckeye businesses were pulled by logs and oxen to the new town which was named Winters. By 1879 the only building left in Buckeye was the old Union School.

Madison town site was laid out in 1877 when the railroad expanded north from Winters. As the Railroad expanded further in 1888, the next town site was named Esperanza (hope); the name was changed in 1890 to Esparto (feather grass). In 1889, a three-story hotel was completed in Esparto featuring gas lights, a pressurized water system and electric bells. (The hotel was damaged in the 1892 earthquake and repaired, but the building was torn down in 1935.)

Postmasters were appointed at Guinda and Rumsey. The Guinda store (still in use) was built in 1891; the Guinda Hotel in 1893 (torn down in the 1990's.) Both were busy and successful during their early years.

A Mission of Woodland

Reverend Powers: It wasn't long after the town of Winters was established, that Rev. Powers alighted from a passenger car of the Southern Pacific Railroad and inquired of the station agent if there were any Catholic families in the neighborhood. He was directed to the DeVilbiss home. By 1877, Father Powers had established Winters as a mission of Woodland and was holding services in various places: The W.J. Cannedy home, the McMahon home located between Madison and Winters, and the one room school house in Buckeye.



The Union School

“And to this place the Catholic people of Winters were often taken on a hand car by an employee of the Southern Pacific.” Winters Centennial, May 22, 1875 Catholic Services Held in Homes, by Rob Giddings

Reverend Patrick Ward: Fr. Ward came with high recommendation from the Brooklyn Diocese (San Francisco Archdiocese Archives) in 1858. He is listed as having served in Winters around 1880.

Reverend John Francis McGinty: “Fr. McGinty was born in Sunderland, England, Jan 2, 1855. He attended the Grand Seminary of Montreal and was ordained on Dec. 18, 1880, leaving Montreal for the United States on that same day. Fr. McGinty got his “Exeat” from the Diocese of Scranton, U.S.A. in August 1878,” Archdiocese of San Francisco.

“In 1883, Father John McGinty arrived in the Woodland parish. He purchased land on West Street to

serve as a Catholic cemetery. This is the present St. Joseph Cemetery. In May of 1884, he purchased five acres of land on Main St for \$250 and built Holy Rosary Academy. Sisters from Notre Dame in Indiana came by train to teach at the school. Two years later, Woodland became part of the newly formed Diocese of Sacramento. Previously, all Northern California was part of the San Francisco Diocese,” Holy Rosary Church Story

From 1884 to 1886 Father McGinty held monthly services for the Catholic people of the Winters area at the Union School, Seaman Hall (the Opera House) and a private home on Abbey St. owned by W.J. Cannedy. But as the congregation continued to grow, Winters began to request a parish of its own.

Reverend P. Greely served in the Winters area from 1901-1912: Fr. P.A. Greely was born in Ireland in 1885, died in 1953. In 1906, under Rev Greely, both Madison and Knights Landing built small wooden churches. The Guinda Mission was opened in 1907 and a church was built there in 1912. Also under Father Greely, the old Holy Rosary Church in Woodland was moved to the north corner of the lot to make way for a new building. The old church was turned into a Parish Hall and a year later in 1912, new church, was built on Main St.



Holy Rosary Church, Woodland, built in 1874

In 1905, the year after Winters became a “dry town” (during prohibition), a movement had started for the building of a Catholic Church. The Mission of Winters owned two lots left in the will of the late James Foy. These lots were sold and a site chosen on Main street by S.C. Sanborn and P.H. McGarr, who were appointed by the Rev. P. A. Greely, then the resident pastor of Holy Rosary church, Woodland. Rev. Greely gave the contract to A. Ritchie of Winters who lost no time in construction the church, a frame building 25’ x 50’. In 1911, the church was wired for electricity, a bell was put up and two adjacent lots were purchased to build a residence for a pastor. Father Quinn erected a pastor’s residence the same year at a cost of \$4,000.

The church was named for St. Anthony of Padua by Esther DeVilbiss. “John DeVilbiss, from 1872, was the most prominent Catholic in this section. He owned 500 acres of land close to the town and built the Winters hotel. His wife, Esther Cunningham, was a convert to the Catholic faith and because of her many good works, was given the honor of naming St. Anthony as the patron of the Winters church. Her children and grandchildren are at this time the most known members of this congregation. The Griffin, Sparks, Vasey, Islip, Pleasant, Graf, Popes, Brison, Sanborn, Paul, Lucy, Hansen, McCarthy, Murray, McGarr, Collings, Founder, Beecher, Lowrey, Williams, Dunnagan, Willis, Doll and Brady families are enrolled in the parish records.” Winters Express.



First Catholic Church built in Winters, 1909

On October 29, 1911, the church was dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua by the Reverend Thomas Grace, Bishop of Sacramento. On the same date, after the dedication, the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered for the first time in Winters.



Winters about 1905, Hotel DeVilbiss, now the Buckhorn; train tracks to far left

The Birth of Our Parish

With the completion of the new church in the growing town of Winters, a new Parish was formed. "The Parish, made up of the communities of Winters, Davis, Madison, Capay and Guinda, was established January 1, 1913 with Rev. Father J. F. Quinn as first Pastor. With 100 members, the church became known as the Winters Parish. There are about 100 persons who by baptism are Catholics. Seventy of these are practical, fifteen are careless and the rest have cast their lot with the Protestant denominations. Twenty-five children are in the Sunday school." From the Year Book and Directory of St. Anthony and St. James Church, including Missions of Madison, Esparto, Capay and Guinda, Rev. John F. Quinn, Rector, 1915.



Father John Quinn

Reverend John Quinn served the Winters Parish, of Winters, Davis, Madison, and Guinda from 1913-1921: This colorful churchman was born in Albany, N.Y. on Jan. 24, 1847. It was said that he ran away from home and enlisted in the Army after the Civil War broke out. He joined the Twenty-Fifth New York Volunteers, but was discharged because of his age; he was only 14 years old. Two years later he joined Morrison's Black Horse Calvary and was again discharged for being underage. He finally joined the Ammunition Corps and saw active service at Petersburg, Virginia and other famous battles.

After graduating from Albany Law School, he opened a law office, the firm of Quinn and Cohn. He was nominated for City Judge in Albany and was offered the nomination for Congress in his district. About this time, he developed his vocation for the priesthood. He entered Niagra Seminary, and was ordained May 26, 1877 for the Diocese of Omaha, Nebraska. He was pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Omaha. In 1881, he moved to Denver, and in 1883 became pastor of the Cathedral there and was founder and editor of the Colorado Catholic.

Fr. Quinn joined the Diocese of Sacramento in 1886. His first assignment was the pastorate of Red Bluff, where he celebrated one of the first Masses in that area. In 1889 he was transferred to Yreka and later to Sacramento where he was attached to the Cathedral for 12 years. In 1913, Fr. Quinn became pastor in Winters, a position he held until the time of his death in 1921. Winters Express, Friday, December 9, 1921, "Father Quinn passed away at the Sisters' Hospital, Sacramento, at 5 o'clock Tuesday morning. Those who had been at his bedside the day before reported him on the decline. Father Quinn had been in poor health for nearly a year. Some attributed his illness to the results of an accident in Davis about a year ago when Father Quinn was in

company with a friend and walking near the track was stuck by a freight car. His injuries at the time were considered trivial. He spent the summer months at this place near Shasta Springs but came home in the fall unimproved. He was taken to the Sisters' Hospital about a week before his death. LOCAL NEWS: "Vasey Bros, store will be closed all day today on account of the funeral of Father Quinn."



First Communion photo taken about 1930: Marge and Frances Walters, Bill and Jack Vasey, Lois and Barnard Walters, and Ann (DeVilbiss) Vasey (seated). The Walters children came down from Pope Valley to receive their First Communion at the Winters Church.

Reverend Christopher Tevlin served our parish from 1921-1923: Father Tevlin was born in Ireland; he served as rector in Winters, Davis, Guinda and Madison. He died June 26, 1940. Woodland Daily Democrat, Jan. 2, 1923, "Father Tevlin left last week for the east where his sister is reported to be seriously ill. Rev. Patrick Sears of Sacramento now has charge of the Winters Parish which includes Davis and Madison."



Father Patrick Sears

Reverend Patrick Sears, served out parish from 1922-1923: Woodland Daily Dem., Dec 22, 1922, "Christmas morning the masses will be in Winters at 9 and Davis at 10:30 officiated by Rev. Patrick Sears."

Reverend James Grealy served our parish from 1923-1933: Born in Ireland, Oct. 19, 1885 and died March 5, 1953. Woodland Daily Democrat, July 3, 1925 "James Grealy of Winters attended ceremony for Cornerstone of New Hall for Holy Rosary Church in Woodland."

The Spanish Community: Immigrants from Spain began to fill the pews of our Parish in the 1920's when farmers who had come to find work in California began to move into the area, clear land and plant crops. Carmen Rubio," I was born in this country, but my parents and older sister were born in Spain. My father came first, and was working at the Uhl Ranch in Vacaville when he sent for my mother and older sister. I was born in 1923, and when I was nine months old, my dad and my uncle went together and bought 96 acres in the hills above Winters. It was called the Olive District, about six miles west of Winters. There was a Spanish Community there; they called us "Spics" then. It was hard for him at first because there was no water there; they had to get water from a spring, but he had a company come and dig a well. My father planted apricot trees and raised beans and other crops between the trees until they began to bear fruit. We grew or canned most of our own food. We raised chickens, rabbits and cows and had a large vegetable garden and everyone made sausage."

Depression Years: Farmers struggled with low prices all through the 1920s, but after the stock market crash in 1929 things began to get hard for city workers as well. During World War I, farmers worked hard to produce record crops and livestock. When prices fell, they tried to produce even more to pay their debts, taxes and living expenses. In the early 1930's prices dropped so low that many farmers in the U.S. went bankrupt and lost their farms. By 1934, there were 142 agriculture workers for every 100 jobs in California. Because of the warm climate and what out-of-work people perceived as opportunities, about 300,000 people came to California hoping to find work in the fields. Wages in 1933 in California's Imperial Valley were as low as 15-cents an hour; that was also the rate in the San Joaquin Valley. Yet that low wage seemed like heaven for those pouring in from other areas of the U.S., including the Oklahoma Dust Bowl.

Mary Hemenway remembers giving food to men who came around to her back door asking for work. "There were families living in tents down by the river. We used to keep big pots of soup on the stove and they would come to the back door, hat in hand, asking if they could do some work. I would give them a chore to do and then a bowl of soup and some to take back to the family."

Reverend Michael Hogan served our parish from 1933-1937: Father Hogan was born in Ireland, Aug. 28, 1886 and died April 17, 1960.

Woodland Daily Dem., Sept 8, 1936, "Margaret Chiles, 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Chiles, prominent ranchers of Davis district, was killed when she fell from the running the board of an auto driven by her brother. She is survived by two sisters and two brothers, Austin, Eugene, Clara Sue and Patricia Chiles. Funeral services were held Tuesday morning at Davis Catholic Church with Rev. Michael Hogan officiating."

A Mission of Davis



Father Joseph Madden



First Communion: Fr. Madden, back. Girls: Joan Rominger (Martinez), Lucille Rominger (Russell), Elizabeth Graf (Martin), and Barbara Graf (Thomas). Boys: Raymond Lopez, Gary Mayer, Bill Biasi, Tom Pearse.

Reverend Joseph Madden served as pastor of St. James's Church in Davis and St. Anthony, St. Martin Missions from 1937-1949: Born in Ballylongford, Ireland in 1906. He became a priest in 1927 and came to the United States where he served in Susanville, Redding, Weaverville, Grass Valley and Scotia before becoming pastor of Winters-Davis in 1937. He was pastor for 11 years before being transferred to St. Anthony's in Walnut Grove. He died Sept. 27, 1969 while visiting Ireland.

In 1937, Father Madden sold the parish house in Winters and moved to Davis, whereupon Winters once again became a mission, this time of St. James in Davis. The Parish house next to the church was bought by Anna DeVilbiss Sparks who years later sold it back to the church.

With Fr. Madden's help, the Holy Name Society was organized in 1939. It became a very strong organization with many members and regular spiritual retreats. Popular social events which also raised money for the church were an annual Roast Beef and Spaghetti Dinner and a Mother's Day Breakfast. The Altar Society held a St. Patrick's Day Dance in the Masonic Hall for fundraising in the 1940s and 50s.



Served as Parish Church 1931 - 1964; Now Newman Chapel.

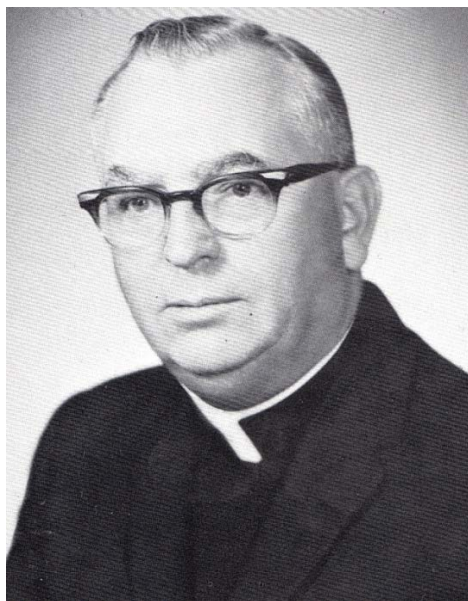
The War years: Although the war started in Europe in 1939, The United States entered World War II when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 8, 1941. The conflict ended when Japan surrendered Sept. 2, 1945. Many of our men were fighting in Europe. There was rationing and much of the economy was diverted to the war effort. Many women stepped up and filled in doing a “man’s work,” working in factories, running family farms and businesses. Japanese farmers in Winters and surrounding areas were moved to camps. Carmen Rubio who was going to Olive School then said that her best friend, a Japanese girl, was taken away. Some of the farms were rented out to Spanish farmers. Many of the farmers who settled the land here in Winters and contributed to the Apricot industry were immigrants from Spain.

In 1944, St. Martin’s church in Madison was moved to Esparto. From the Woodland Democrat, May 29, 1945, “New Church for Esparto Area: Dedication of the first Catholic Church at Esparto was held Friday night with the most Rev. Robert Armstrong, bishop of Sacramento, and several priests of the diocese present. The church building was moved from Madison to Esparto about a year ago. Since that time, the structure has been completely renovated. The new Esparto Catholic Church, St. Martin’s, will be a mission of the Catholic Church at Davis which the Rev. Father Joseph Madden is the pastor.”

The small wooden church, built in 1905 and originally part of the Woodland Parish was moved to Esparto in 1945 when a new front entrance was built with new front doors. Now owned by On Fire Fellowship, the old church still stands. It was remodeled again and a hall built onto the front of the building.



The original wooden structure of St. Martin Church, 26534 Madison St., Esparto, minus bell tower, and front of building.



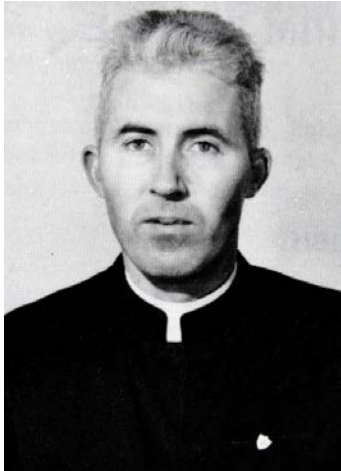
Father Bernard McElwee

Rev. McElwee served the Davis, Winters and Esparto Parish from 1949-1952: He was born in Slieve Gallion, South Derry, Ireland. He was ordained in 1934 at All Hallows Seminary in Dublin, and served in St. Joseph's Parish in Marysville and St. Anthony's in Walnut Grove before coming to Davis. Father McElwee succeeded Father Madden as pastor of the Winters mission and served as pastor of both the Davis and Esparto churches up to the time of St. Anthony's formal dedication in Winters on October 1, 1950.

During that time, he was also a member of the Sutter County Housing Authority and the Tri-County Commission for the Aging and Board of Directors of the County Family Service Agency. He was named pastor of a new parish of St. Isidore, Yuba City, in 1952 and served as pastor there for 21 years and as pastor emeritus until his death in 1952.

The chief celebrant at his funeral mass was Bishop Quinn, and Father Eugene Lucas preached the homily. The Yuba-Sutter Oratoria Society sang the Mass. The society performed Handel's Messiah at the church every Christmas, a tradition begun by Father McElwee.

In February of 1949, Father McElwee called a meeting of St. Anthony parishioners in Winters to talk over plans for a new church. On a motion by Charles Graf, seconded by Ed Graf, a committee of five persons, G.M. Vasey, Alex Kimes, Charles Graf, J.J. McCoey, and Ed Graf, was nominated to consider a new site if necessary and the raising of money for a new church. The old church building was torn down and the new building, designed by Barovetto and Thomas, Architects, was constructed by James A. Waterbury of Sacramento at a cost nearing \$31,000.00.



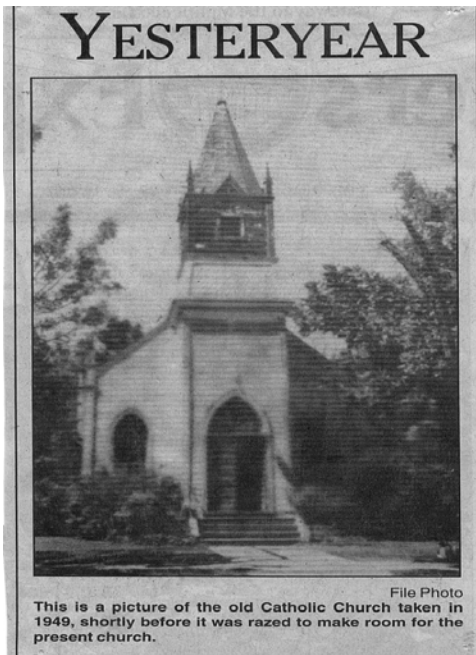
Father Patrick Lyons



Father Lyons working on Davis Parish Hall

Rev. Patrick Lyons served as associate pastor, from 1947-1951: Father Lyons was born in Dunmore, County Galway, Ireland in 1917. He entered Mt. Mallery Minor Seminary at Waterford in 1935 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1945 at All Hallows in Dublin. A year later he arrived in the Sacramento Diocese and was assigned as assistant Pastor at St. John the Evangelist in Dunsmuir in June of 1946. In 1947 he was appointed assistant pastor to St. James Church in Davis, where he remained until 1951 when he was sent to establish a new parish in Tahoe, St. Theresa of the Pines. He oversaw the construction of a rectory and a church erected in an outdoor area to accommodate the great number of vacationers there. He died in 1956 after being ill for a year with leukemia.

Assistant Pastor in Davis, Father Lyons was more at ease teaching CCD or saying mass in Winters or Esparto Missions, and was well liked here. But every weekend he was hard at work “learning to hit the nail instead of his thumb.”



Report of St. Anthony's Church Bldg. Fund Acct. for year 1950
by - Clemence Graf - Sec. & Treas.

Balance - December 31, 1949	\$18,900.00
Receipts-	
Weekly & Monthly Envelopes and Sunday Cash Collections	\$1678.15
Donations	\$219.00
Request - Mrs. I. Tarleton, Dec.	1000.00
St. Patricks Dance	834.42
Extension Magazine Gift	2975.00
Total receipts for year	\$8200.56
Borrowed from Bank of America by Bishop Armstrong to complete our church	\$18,000.00
	\$40,200.56
Expenses for year 1950	
Actual cost of church	\$31,814.24
Organ	1286.60
Interest on note	244.90
Painting Statures	200.00
Sacramento Trucking	19.97
Drill	12.00
Insurance	245.44
1/2 share of Parish Car	325.00
Total	\$33,244.91
	\$6,955.65
	\$26,289.26
Payments on note \$5000 and \$750	\$5,750.00
Total Expenses	\$39,039.15
Bank balance Dec. 31, 1950	\$201.41
\$18,000.00 Original Note	
Payment by Building Fund - \$750.00	
Payment by Altar Society toward Organ - 750.00	
Total	\$2000.00
Present debt on church	\$11,500.00
Donations toward church	\$500.00
\$500.00 for stained glass window.	
\$500.00 for Stations of the Cross and handles for the Altar.	

Minutes of Meeting held Feb. 18th, 1949

Meeting of the Parishioners of the St. Anthony's Church was called to order by Father McElwee. Purpose of this meeting was to talk over plans for a new church. Report was read of the money in bank the present balance being \$8422.69.

Mr. Barovetto, architect, told us a church with seating capacity of about 200, stucco finish, could be erected for approximately \$25,000.00, if a basement is desired at least \$5000.00 additional cost.

Due to the fact that sometime in the future we may have a parish priest here in Winters, it was decided the present site was too small. On motion of Chas. Graf, seconded by Ed Graf a Committee of five men were appointed to look for a new site, if necessary, and also to get some idea how much money could be raised annually. Committee composed of the following:

G. M. Vasey, Alex Klimas, Chas. Graf, J. J. McCoe and Ed Graf.

These men are to have a report for us at our next meeting.

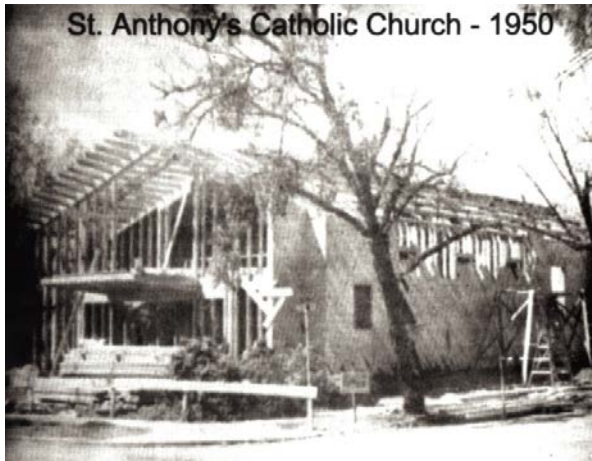
There being no further business meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Clem Graf
Clem Graf, Secretary

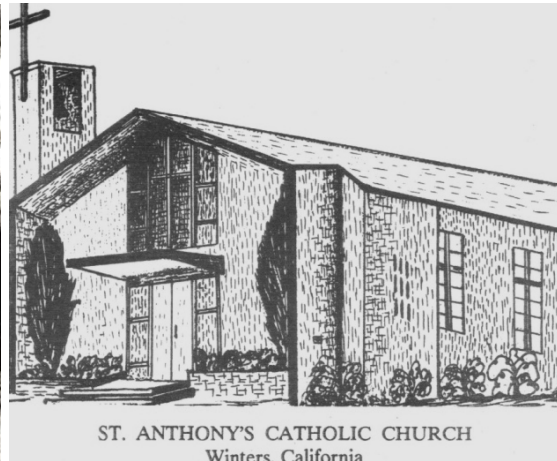
Building Com -
Chas Graf : ~~Ann Rominger~~
G.M. Vasey : ~~Richard Rominger~~
J.J. McCoe : Bob Gale
Ed Graf : Andy Danzger
Clem Graf : J.A. Birmingham
 : J.M. Aguedo.

A page from the St. Anthony Church Building Fund Records, 1949-1956, kept by Secretary and Treasurer, Clemence Graf



St. Anthony's Catholic Church - 1950

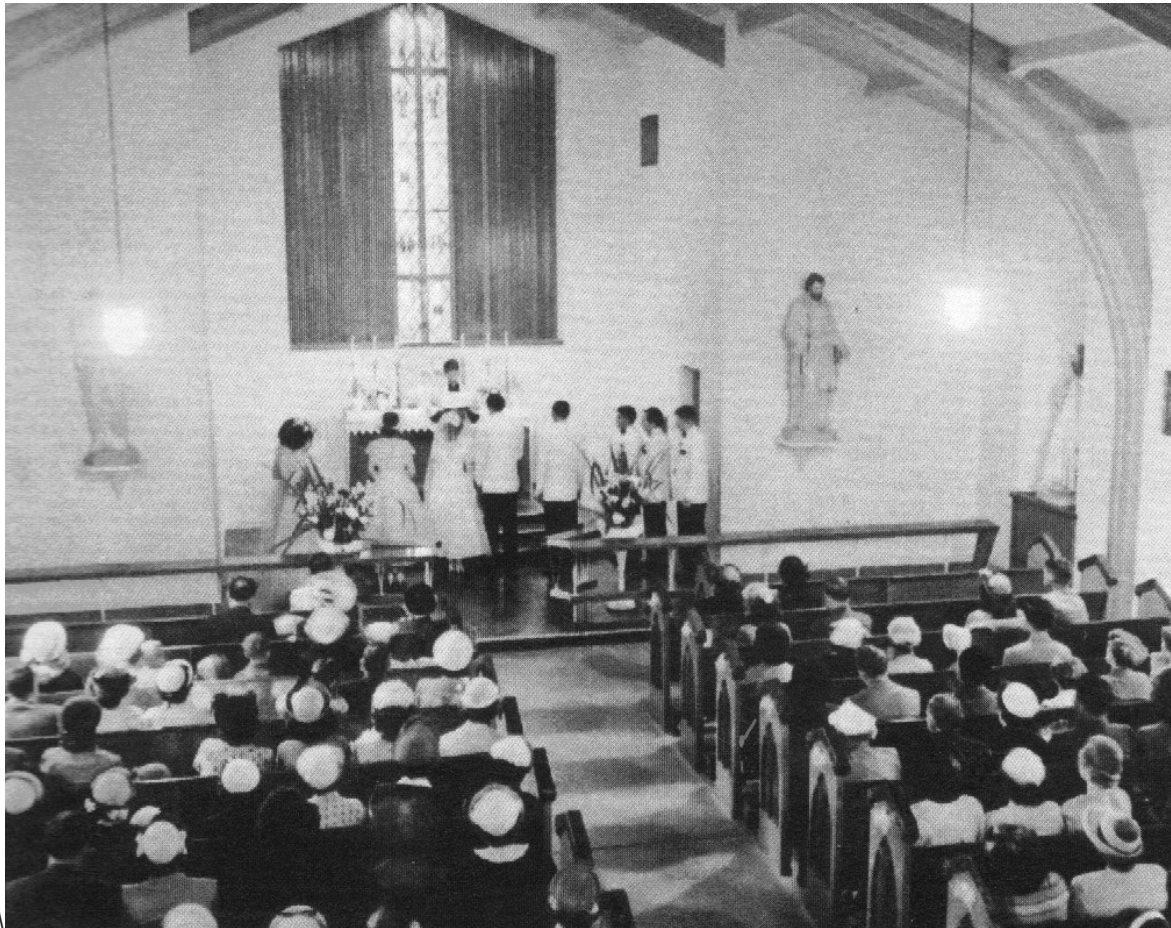
Building a new church



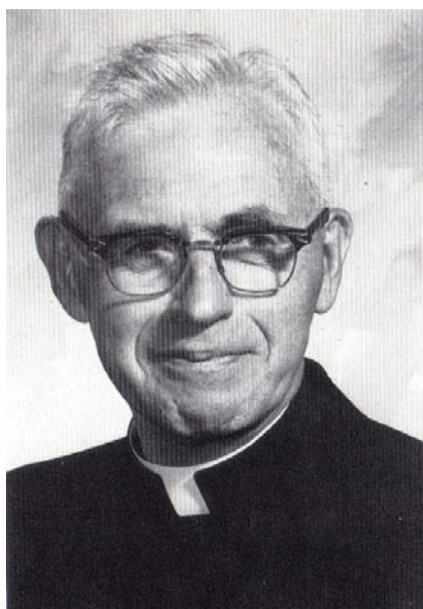
ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Winters, California

Drawing by Sister Isabel

The formal dedication of St. Anthony's church on Oct. 1, 1950, was supervised by Bishop Robert J. Armstrong and followed by High Mass sung by Rev. Bernard McElwee and the Davis Senior choir. This new facility would seat 200.



John Carrillo Wedding,
May 4, 1952, St. Anthony Church, 301 Main St. Winters, Ca



Father Paul Degnan

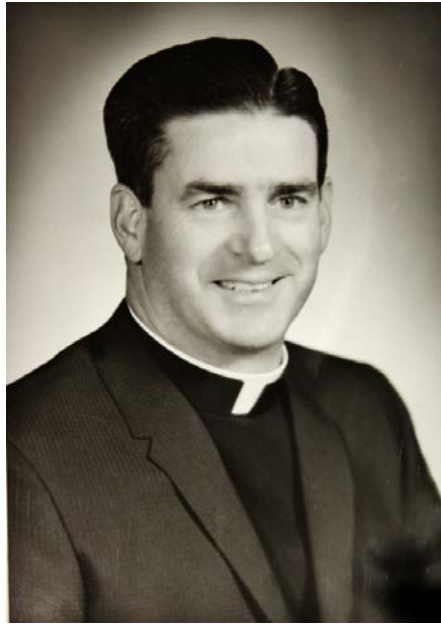
Monsignor Degnan served our parish from 1952-1955: Father Degnan was born in Legga, County Longford, Ireland, in 1907. From St. Kieran's Seminary in Kilkenny, he continued his studies at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park and was ordained in 1932 in St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco.

His first assignments were as parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Maryville and St. Patrick Parish in Sonora. He then was appointed pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Humboldt County, 1942-48; St. Joseph Parish in Crescent City, 1948-50; and St. Paul Parish in Knights Landing, 1950-52, before coming to St. James in Davis from 1952-63.

In 1955, after a new church was built in Winters, St. Anthony again established its own parish, but Father Degnan served in Davis until 1963. The Second Vatican Council (1962-65) began while Father Degnan was pastor in Davis. Vatican II began a new era in the Catholic Church with a new vision for the church in the modern world. During this time, both the student body at U.C. Davis and the Davis community was growing. His request to move to a smaller, less hectic parish was granted by Bishop Alden J. Bell when he was appointed pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Oroville, where he served until his retirement in 1976. His sister Mary served as his housekeeper for most of his ministry and moved with him in his retirement to the former Sisters Convent in Oroville where she cared for him until his death at age 89.

Father Troy Powers who succeeded Monsignor Degnan as pastor in Oroville, stated that, "Monsignor Degnan's devotion to God, to his sister Mary, and to parishioners who continued to visit him was quite evident." Monsignor Degnan suffered with Parkinson's Disease for the last 16 years of his life. At the time of his death, Aug. 16, 1997, he was the oldest living priest in the Diocese of Sacramento, and the oldest living priest who had been ordained in 1932, including Bishop Bell.

ST. ANTHONY PARISH RE-ESTABLISHED, 1955



Father Andrew Coffey

Reverend Andrew Coffey served the re-established Parish of St. Anthony and St. Martin from 1955-1963: Father Andrew V. Coffey was born in County Meath, Ireland. He studied theology at St. Patrick's College in Maynooth and was ordained in Meath. He came to Sacramento on a 'five-year' loan," and was assistant pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Chico for eight years before coming to St. Anthony in Winters. By 1955, the community had grown so much that he was appointed pastor, and St. Anthony Parish was re-established. Under Father Coffey, St. Anthony's and St. Martin's Church in Esparto became one parish with Father Coffey as fulltime priest. He resided at 16 Anderson Ave., as the rectory next to the church had been sold.

Father Coffey was instrumental in welcoming four Carmelite Sisters from Spain to our Parish and acquiring the building next to City Hall as a convent. The new arrivals from Barcelona Spain, members of the Congregation of Missionary Discalced Carmelites, came to Winters in part to study the needs of Spanish speaking community. "The Carmelites combined both cotemplative and the practical through teaching and nursing." *The Catholic Herald*. Carmelite Sisters: Carmen, Mercedes, Isabela, Consuelo, Mary Pilar and Ofelia assisted our Faith Formation Programs from 1962 until 1976.

Father Coffey was a beloved priest and had strong friendships with many families here in Winters. "*Father Coffey used to have breakfast with Clem Graf, across the street from the church, at 304 Main St. almost every morning, and would go to dinner at the Rominger Ranch a lot.*" Barbara Thomas. "*Don and Shirley Rominger welcomed Father Coffey to their home and family. He loved to hunt and ride, and bought a retired racehorse named Squeeler, a large Palomino, six hands high, that he boarded in their barn.*" Lorraine Rominger. From her book, *The Rangity Rango Kids*.

He served here from 1955 to 1963 when, on May 14, 1963, he was transferred to Davis Parish and became pastor of St. James. It was under Father Coffey that St. James School was built. It first opened its doors in 1965 to first, second and third grade students with three teachers from the Daughters of the Holy Spirit Order. One additional grade was added each year, and in 1970 a Kindergarten and Junior High was added. St. James today serves about 300 students from Davis, Dixon and Winters.



Nine woman from Winters and three from Esparto received diplomas from Bishop McGucken and were present for the establishment of the confraternity of Christian Doctrine in the Winters Parish.



Graduates of the program for teachers of catechist classes were; Back, left to right: Father Degnan, Father James Poole, Father Coffey. Middle row: unknown, unknown, unknown, Mary Lou Washabaugh, Mary Liz Graf, Mary Hemenway. Front row, Sister Mary Carmel, Anne Rominger, Frieda Martinez, Margaret Chapman, Bishop McGucken, Mary Gale, Alice Stefani, Annette Gale, and Sister Isabel.

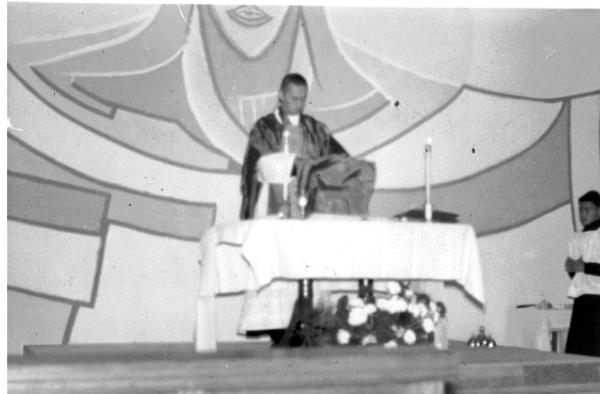


Father Coffey and the St. Martin First Communion Class:

On steps of old Esparto Church, moved from Madison to Esparto in 1944. Front row: Lt to rt.: unknown, Ann Pearson, unknown, Janice and Jacque Siveats, Linda Green and Steve Scriber; Second row: Mickey Peak, Mary Kain, unknown, Diana Galdiroz, Elizabeth Rubio, Beverly Poloski, and David Aldrich. Back Row: Barry Burns, Tom Hampton, unknown, Tom Reed. Back row: Elena Burns, Father Coffey, and Angie Osborn.



Father Meyer, back, Carmelite Sisters Carmen Mercedes, Isabella, Consuelo, Front: Annette Cody, Diana Rubio, Sally Thomas, and unknown.



Father Meyers saying Mass at St. Martin Church

Reverend Paul Meyers served our Parish from 1963-1968: Father Meyers served as assistant pastor at All Hallows Parish, S.F., 1944-46; St. James Parish, S.F., 1946-50, and Sacred Heart Church, S.F., 1952-59; as pastor of St. Anthony Church in Oakley, 1959-61 and assistant pastor for St. John Church in Napa for 2 months before an illness and surgery. He then served at Holy Spirit Church in Fairfield from 1962-63 before coming to St. Anthony s Parish as Pastor in 1964. Father Meyer also served as a Chaplain in the U.S. Army National Guard. He took a leave of absence in 1967 and died in Sacramento in 1976.

Father Meyer was pastor for five years and during that time a new mission church was built in Esparto. The mission in Esparto had outgrown its small wooden church. A new mission church was constructed at 25633 Grafton St. after many years of fundraisers and donations. The original bell was incorporated into the recess on the front right of the building. The old church on Madison St. continued to be used as a Catechism class until 1968 when a new mission hall was built with the efforts of the St. Martin Altar Society.



The new St. Martin Mission, designed by Alfred Graf, and constructed by Griffen and Co., at the cost of \$41,000.

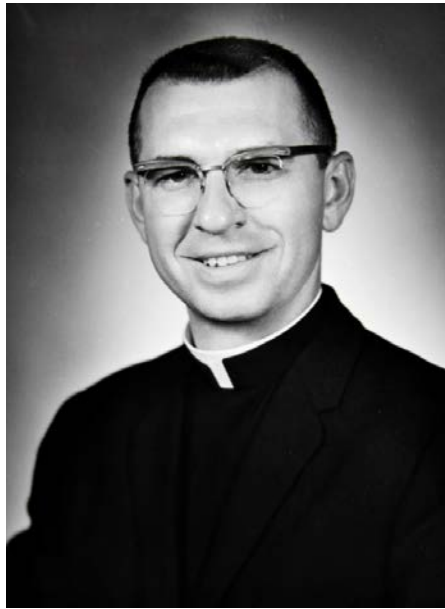


20 foot Christos painted by Mr. Rasky, a high school art teacher and parishioner



11/21/63
Infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Al Graf baptized at ceremony Sunday
 Bradley John Graf, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Graf, was baptized Sunday, November 17, at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. Sponsors were Mrs. Barbara Graf Thomas and Mr. William C. Cody.
 Following the ceremony, which was performed by the Rev. Fr. Maximo Villanueva, Mr. and Mrs. Graf presided at a buffet luncheon in their home on Russell Street. Present were Fr. Paul Meyer, Mother Superior Carmelo, Sr. Consuelo, Orphelia, Mercedes and Isabel, Mr. and Mrs. Norval Morlan of Sacramento; Meses John Graf, Inez Lewis, Johanna Ball and Miss Margaret Graf.

Bill Cody, Father Max Villanueva, Barbara Thomas and baby, Bradley John Graf, Winters Express. Reverend Maximo Villanueva served our Parish as an Associate Pastor in 1963.



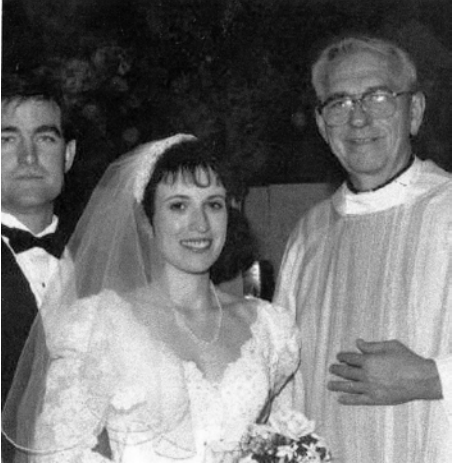
Father Eugene Lucas

Rev. Eugene Lucas served our parish from 1968 to 1973: Fr. Lucas was born Jan 13, 1930, in Adena, Ohio, the son of Peter and Mary Lucas. He entered the minor seminary in Columbus, Ohio in 1943. After his parents moved to Woodland, Seminarian Lucas transferred to the Diocese of Sacramento and completed his studies for the priesthood at St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park. He was ordained on March 26, 1955 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Sacramento and celebrated his first mass at Holy Rosary Church. He served as assistant pastor at St. Isidore's Church in Yuba City, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Sacramento before becoming pastor of St. Anthony's Church in Winters in 1968.

Father Lucas instituted the first Spanish Mass at St. Anthony in 1968 to accommodate the growing Spanish speaking community coming to the area from Mexico, with a 12:30 Spanish Mass said on Sunday after the 7a.m. and 11 a.m. English masses in Winters. He founded the Cursillo Movement in both English and Spanish in 1962 and in 1977 became the Diocesan Director of the Spanish speaking Cursillo Movement.

He also formed the first Parish Council in 1969 and 1970 with Al Graf as president. "Upon his arrival in 1968, Father Eugene Lucas (1968-1973) asked parishioners to elect a Parish Council to bring the English and Hispanic communities together. Ballots were collected from the Masses in 1969 and the elected members of the Parish Council met on a regular basis. In fact, Father Lucas asked us to vote that he would or would not be our priest. The Parish Council in 1969 unanimously voted that Fr. Lucas should be our pastor even though he already had been appointed by the Bishop. Alfred Graf was the president for the first two years, and Jorge Villalobos served as the interpreter for the Hispanic community. During this two-year period, we purchased the house behind the church at the corner of 3rd and Abbey Streets from the Mermod family for \$13,500. The house, now named the Abbey House, was used for meetings and catechism classes." Al Graf

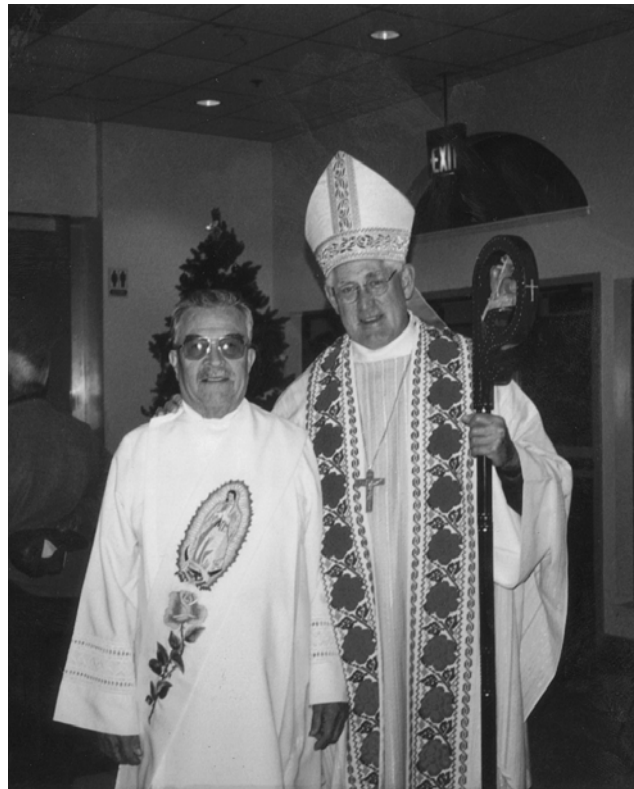
Kay Graf said "When I was teaching the high school Catechism class in the early 1970's, the Rominger family offered their cabin at Dillon Beach to the class for a weekend. I talked with Father Lucas and asked if he would come to the beach to say Mass for the high schoolers. He said, 'Yes, of course' and asked one of the student's mothers to make the bread for communion. We all arrived at the beach and got settled. The next morning Father Lucas and I set up a card table in the dunes; and he arranged the table for Mass. We all had a wonderful and very spiritual Mass in the dunes of Dillon Beach, thanks to a wonderful priest."



Elaine Rubio and Father Lucas

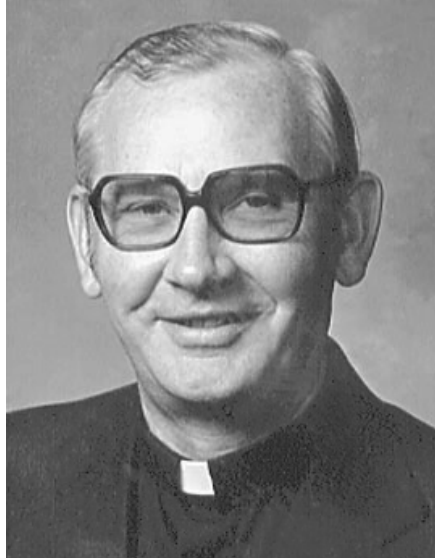


**Father Lucas, baby Jason Baylor, and Godparents,
Georgie and Dennis Mariani**



Alejandro Arroyo and Bishop Weigand

Deacon Alejandro Arroyo has served our Parish from 1971 until 2014. Alejandro Arroyo came to the U.S. in 1955 and married Mercedes Pena in 1966. He worked for the Button Ranch for 55 years as a farm mechanic. For the church, he worked at the Madison migrant camp, the Cursillo movement and Comunidades de Base movement and became a Deacon in 1991. He retired in 2014.



Father William Walsh

Reverend William Walsh served our parish from 1973 -1987: Fr. Walsh was born in Ireland Sept. 30, 1925 and was ordained a priest on June 6, 1949. He was the pastor of St. Joseph parish in Rio Vista from 1987 to 1994. When he retired, he chose to continue to live in Rio Vista and has been the Pastor Emeritus ever since. He will celebrate his 90th Birthday on Sept. 30, 2015.

In late 1980, Father William Walsh (1973-1987), informed the parish of a large gift from Ms. Greiner. It was sometime before we realized its magnitude which included farm land in Yolo and Solano counties, a house, brokerage and bank accounts. Father Walsh and a committee started looking for property for the parish. The process was slow, but finally the 5.5 acre property at the corner of Grant and Main streets was purchased for about \$230,000. During this period, because of the additional income we provided a daily bus service for our students who attended St. James Parish School in Davis. The costs were about \$30,000 a year for up to 30 students; after several years, this was discontinued and parent carpooling began.

Father Walsh allocated Greiner money for the construction of the Social Hall adjacent to St. Martin's Mission Church in Esparto." Al Graf. From Martha Boring, "Father Walsh personally visited parishioners if they didn't come to Mass. He brought Communion and gifts of fruit to the ill. He visited Ireland a lot and collected Irish Waterford Crystal."



Ms. Virginia Greiner



Mrs. Alice Stephani

Virginia Greiner was born in Solano County on August 18, 1905, the daughter of Otto J. and Rose Vieu Greiner. She lived in Dixon until the age of 8 when her family moved to Woodland so Virginia could receive the educational benefits of Holy Rosary Academy. She was active in parish activities and was President of the Young Ladies Institute in Woodland in 1935.

In May 1935 her father was killed in an auto crash on the Yolo Causeway. Virginia was named the heir of the family fortune and became the manager of 1,500 acres of farmland in Yolo and Solano Counties. She was a longtime member of Holy Rosary Church in Woodland. She never married but was good friends with Anna DeVilbiss Sparks, Clemence Graf and Ann Rominger, all members of St. Anthony Parish and was generous with her gifts to St. Anthony Parish during her lifetime.

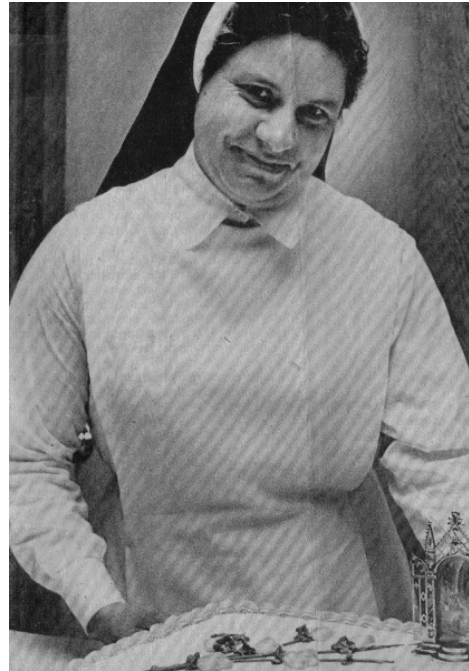
Virginia died on Nov. 3, 1980 and was buried in the Greiner plot in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Woodland. In her will, executed in 1971, she left the bulk of her estate to St. Anthony Parish. Her generous gifts to the Parish include the 5.5 acre site, on which was constructed the Parish Hall in 1990, and the 600 acre Creek Ranch, now Putah Creek Preserve, in Solano County. The two million dollar sale of the conservation easement helped to complete the new Mission style church which was completed in 2014. Her gifts have also enabled our St. Martin Mission to enhance its facilities and made the Parish able to provide some programs that would have otherwise been impossible.

"Due to Ms. Greiner's gift, the Parish continues to enjoy the bountiful income from the 600 acre Creek Ranch which it owns free and clear. What a legacy she has left us!" Al Graf. "Virginia Greiner and my mother, Ann Rominger, were good friends. She would come out to the Rominger Ranch, have tea and then go to the St. Anthony Altar Society meetings. Sometimes she spent the night. She was a member of the Woodland Parish but she loved our Altar Society." Joan Martinez

Alice Elizabeth Stephani was born in Lincoln, California on November 12, 1897. She married Harry Stephani and moved to his Winters ranch in 1949. She was the choir director and purchased the first organ. She played the organ for St. Anthony Church for many years, up until the early 1980s. She was also a school teacher, an active member of St. Anthony Altar Society and a member of the Winters Fortnightly Club. She died June 29, 1988 and left an endowment to the church that helped enable the building of the new center.



First Communion at St. Anthony Church (front row, l to r) Ismael Alarcon, Justin Mariani, Ruben Valencia and Rudy Baylor; (second row) Iliana Contreras, Jessica Jimenez, Maria Ochoa, Krisitna Knabke, Casie Kelly and Christina Mendoza, back row are Sister Lois Hagarty S.N.D., Father Walsh and teacher Judy Garcia.



“More than 100 people lined up for the buffet in honor of Sister Consuelo at a farewell dinner of Mexican and Irish Cuisine,” Daily Dem. July, 1975. Sister Consuelo left for Medilin, Columbia after 12 years of service in Esparto.



**Sister Nicoletta and Molly Mariani
Sister Nicoletta, ACSJ, and Sister Marilyn Reyes, CHM, served from 1984-1985**



**Barbara Thomas, Mary Hemenway,
Sister Lois Haggerty**



Father James P. Sheets

Rev. James Sheets served our parish from 1987-1989: Father Jim was ordained a Deacon in 1974 and ordained a priest the following year at St. John the Baptist Church in Chico, Ca. He served as associate pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Auburn and St. Charles Borromeo in Sacramento; and pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Alturas and St. James Church in Cedarville before coming to St. Anthony in 1987. In October of 1989 he was appointed pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Sacramento; and was the priest-chaplain at Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento before retiring in 2011.

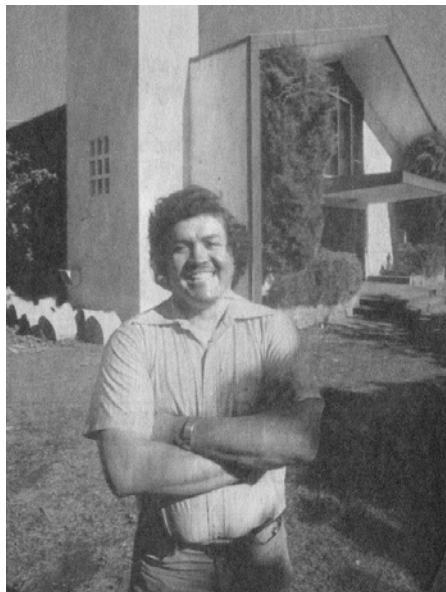
A message to the people of our Parish from Father Jim: “I have fond memories of the time at the churches of St. Anthony and St. Martins, a diverse parish with almost an equal number of Anglos and Hispanics. I learned very quickly that both communities had a very strong faith and parish traditions. I was overwhelmed by the wonderful parishioner response when we initiated the parish renewal programs called DeSales and Renew. It was such a joy to see the positive reaction of the people when we bought new furnishings for the church in Esparto. I was so proud to see the foundations of the new Parish Hall in Winters being poured. I was sad that I was not able to see the new Hall completed, but after many years of hoping and planning for a new worship space, I was elated to be able to visit your new church. It is so beautiful inside and out. You deserve to be very proud of a dream come true. I continue to ask God’s blessing on you all. May the Lord Bless you and keep you. May the Lord’s face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord Grant you peace, now and forever.”

“With the arrival of Father James Sheets in 1987, the planning for the new Parish Hall in Winters began in earnest. Don Rominger was chairman of the local building committee, composed of members from Winters and Esparto, with the money for the project coming from the estates of Virginia Greiner and Alice Stephani as well as from parish members. Ground was broken in August, 1989 with Auxiliary Bishop Gallegos present, and completed and dedicated on September 9, 1990 with Bishop Quinn in attendance. The contractor was Trace Engineering of Sacramento and Alfred Graf as Architect. The cost of the project was \$1,306,000. Fr. Sheets was also instrumental in the purchase of the old Gonzales family house on Abbey Street. It was adjacent to the Abbey House and directly behind the Parish house, giving the Parish a total of 4 lots, including the Church built in 1950.” Al Graf

“The new Pastoral Center will occupy 13,235 sq. ft. on the 5.5 acre site on the corner of Main and Grant with parking for 92 cars. Future plans include a new church and additional parking. The new Center includes a large assembly hall with physical education capabilities. On the north side, two conference rooms can be set up, and on the south side, three conference rooms open onto a landscaped patio. A commercial kitchen is capable of serving large dinners, according to architect Al Graf.” Winters Express.

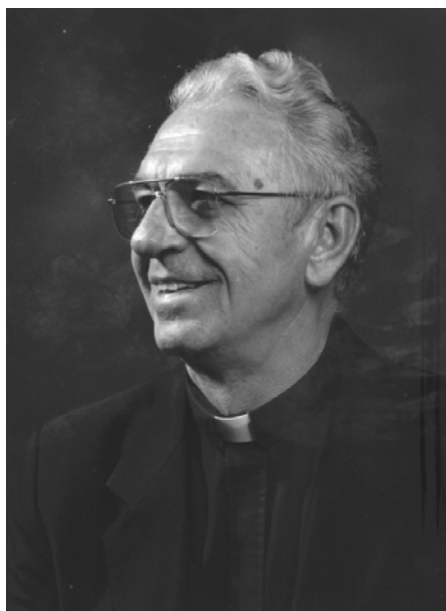


Father Sheets; Al Graf, Architect; Don Rominger, Chairman of Building Committee; Michael Bowman, Job Superintendent; and Steve Wright, President of Trace Engineering



Father Rafael Pena

Reverend Rafael Pena served as an Associate Priest. “When Pena first arrived in Winters some of the parishioners noticed his preference for native footwear and affectionately dubbed him Father Huarche. Pena wears no priest collar because it is the custom in his hometown in Juchitlan, Jalisco, Mexico. Believing in simple, straightforward living, he is ‘like family’ says Angie Mendoza at City Hall, “Everyone loves him.” Mike Castro of Sacramento Bee.



Father Eugene Lucas

Reverend Eugene Lucas returned to serve our parish from 1989-1992: In 1981, Father Lucas became director of the Hispanic Apostolate for the diocese and served in this role until 1985. He then served as parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Marysville from 1987-89. In 1989 Father Lucas returned to our Winters Parish for a second time and served until 1992. In 1994 he was appointed pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Rio Vista and served there until he retired in September of 1996. Only three months after his retirement, Father suffered a massive heart attack when eating lunch with a friend in San Francisco. One of his priest friends said, "Father Gene was a priest who could relate to the needy, the poor, and those who were deprived of most of the blessings the United States could offer."



Photo by Pepe Buenavista

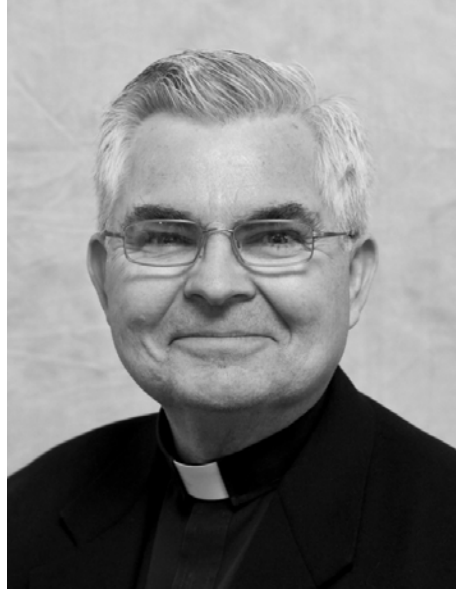
THE KITCHEN OF THE NEW PARISH CENTER of St. Anthony Parish, Winters, is blessed by Bishop Francis A. Quinn. Next to the bishop is St. Anthony pastor Fr. Eugene Lucas. The new center was dedicated with a special Mass Sept. 9. Concelebrating the Mass with Bishop Quinn and Fr. Lucas were Fr. James Sheets, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Sacramento, and former St. Anthony pastor, Fr. Richard Wagner, supply help, St. Anthony, and Fr. Edward Lewis, Bishop Quinn's secretary. The center was built from funds generated through bequests of wills of two deceased St. Anthony parishioners, Virginia Greiner and Alice Finney Stephani.



Amanda McLaughlin, Father Lucas, Dottie McCoey



St. Anthony Church, 301 Main St. circa, 1990



Father Phillip Wells

Reverend Phillip Wells served our parish from 1992-1994: Father Philip Wells was born and received his faith formation from his family, god parents, and the pastoral staff of Our Lady of Rosary Parish in Paramount, California. His family moved to Anderson in 1966. After high school and college he was a public school teacher, from 1974 through 1979. He was ordained to the Catholic Priesthood for the Diocese of Sacramento on November 26, 1983. Fr. Wells served as pastor of St. Anthony and St. Martin from December, 1992 through August, 1994.



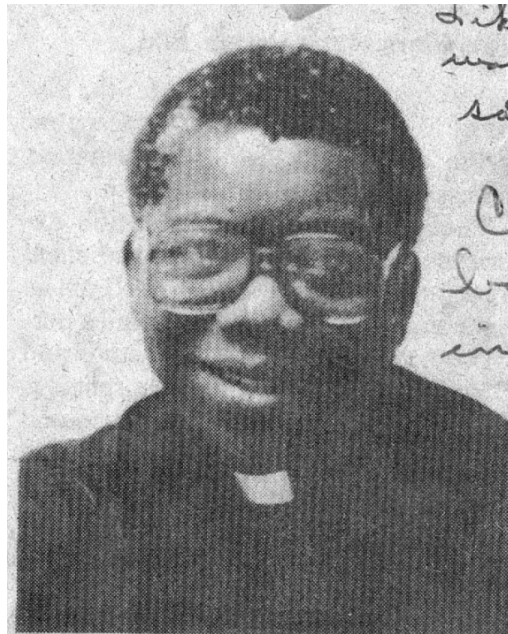
**First Communion with Mallory McLaughlin, Father Wells
Courtney, Jackie and Melanie Stocking in front.**



Fr. Wells and Deacon Alejandro Arroyo, 1993



Fr. Wells officiated at Debbie and Ben Geerts Wedding



Father Innocent Emechete

Reverend Innocent Emechete, (Father Innocent) served our parish as an Associate Pastor. The first black priest assigned to the Diocese of Sacramento, Fr. Emechete, a native of Nigeria, was ordained in 1972. He began his associate pastorship at St. Basil Parish in Vallejo. When visiting a cousin in Sacramento, he was encouraged by Msgr. James Kidder to serve in the Sacramento Diocese. Although Father Innocent especially liked visiting and administering to the sick, he also liked to work with youth.



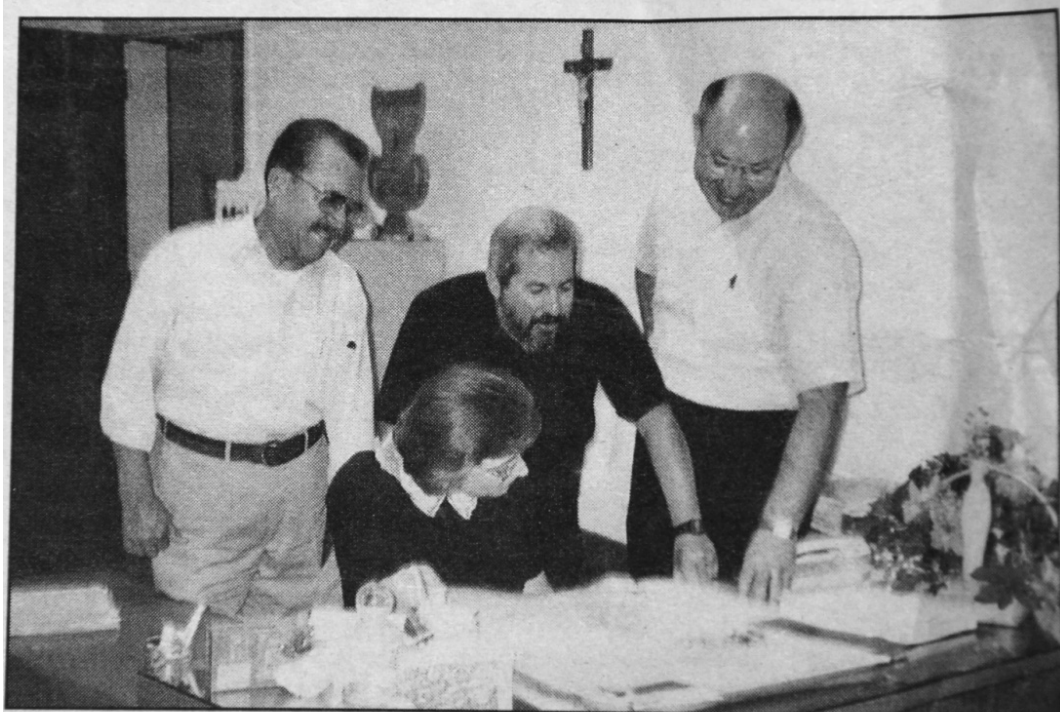
Father Joseph Ternullo

Reverend Joseph Ternullo served our Parish from 1994-2000: Father Joe was born in Sacramento, Aug. 2, 1947, and grew up in St. Francis Assisi Parish where he became an altar boy, received his First Communion and Confirmation and graduated from St. Francis Parish School. He got his vocation from his parents who showed him about love and compassion and helping others. In the sixth grade after serving Sunday Mass he and his parents were in the local donut shop and a parishioner asked him if he ever thought about being a priest. He said no, but the seed was planted. He obtained his AA degree from St. Pius X Minor Seminary in Galt; and a BA degree in Humanities with a concentration in Psychology and graduated with a Masters in Theology Degree from St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Alden J. Bell at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

He served as an associate pastor at Holy Family, Citrus Heights; Immaculate Conception, Sacramento; St. Theresa, South Lake Tahoe; and as Parish Priest at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Truckee (1986-1994); St. Anthony/St. Martin, Winters/Esparto (1994-2000); took a sabbatical to Rome, Italy; and served as Parish Priest at St. Lawrence the Martyr, North Highlands (2000-2009); and Chaplain to St. Francis High School, Sacramento (2009-2012). He retired in 2012 and now helps parishes as needed. In Truckee, he became an EMT and was a chaplain for the Fire Department and involved with the Placer County Sheriff's Dept. and CA Highway Patrol and served Tahoe Forrest Hospital. After he moved to Sacramento, he was appointed by Bishop Weigand to be a liaison to the Law Enforcement and Fire Service in Sacramento. In April of 2005, he graduated from the Law Enforcement of Sacramento County Chaplain's Academy and served as a Law Enforcement Chaplain. "If I hadn't been a priest, I would have been a cop or a firefighter."

He is an extrovert and enjoys people. He enjoys hospital work and teaching. Recreationally he enjoys the travelling, the outdoors, hiking, backpacking, bicycling, snow and water skiing, sailing, swimming, and photography. In retirement, he has served as priest chaplain on cruise ships and has traveled the world. The reason he is a priest is to help people to express their relationship to God as a family. He got his vocation from his parents who never said anything about being a priest but showed him that life was about love and compassion and helping others. The priests, religious brothers and sisters of St. Francis parish were an inspiration to him. Bishop Francis Quinn and Pope Francis continue to inspire him.

"The highlights of my time in Winters was the formation of a committee to explore the possibility of a new church, my 25th anniversary, the welcome attitude for my dad when he came to live with me after his stroke and death in the rectory, the youth day celebrations, and the fiestas with the Spanish speaking communities and parish festivals."



Deacon Alejandro Arroyo, left, Father Joseph Ternullo, Deacon Colby Smith and St. Anthony Parish secretary Linda Rodriguez gather for planning meeting.

Linda Rodriguez was our first church secretary, starting in 1989 and working for fourteen years until 2002.

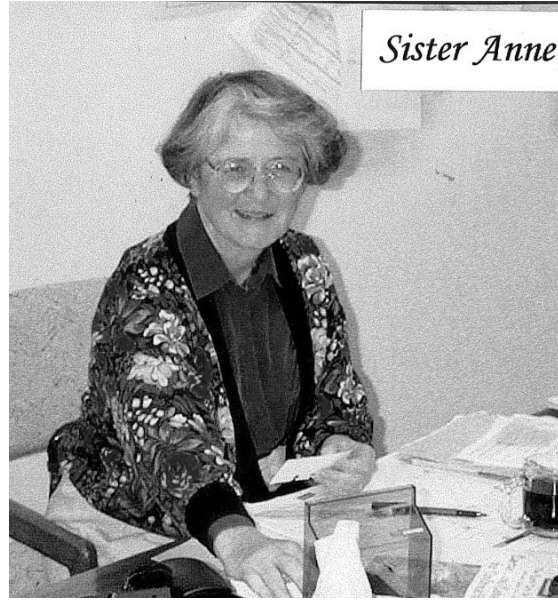


Parish Council

Parish Council Re-established, 1996; left to right: John Vukelich, Steve and Carmina Caselli, Carolyn Purtil, Kathy Pranke, Father Joe Ternullo, Joe Kerrian, Gloria Thomas, Phil Bettencourt, and Deacon Alejandro Arroyo.



Deacon Colby Smith
assisted from 1996-99

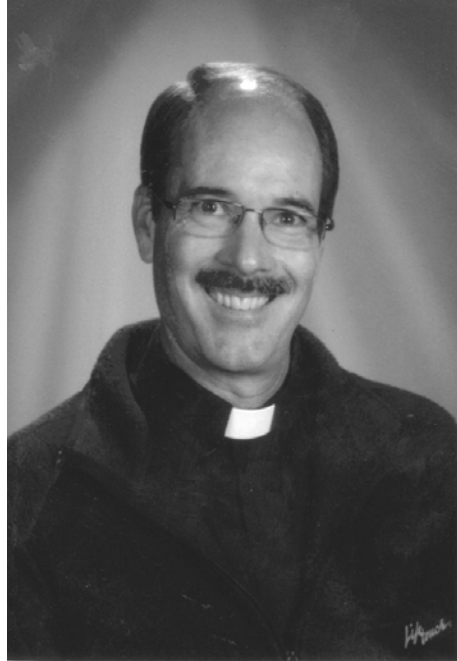


Sister Anne Chester, RSM, served from
1997 until 2000.



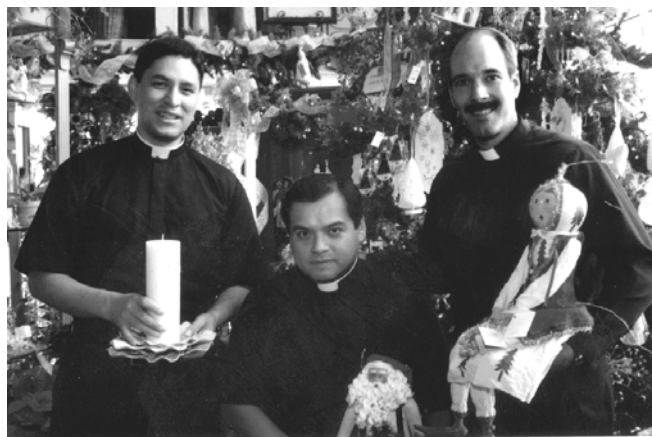
Father Lucianno Valenzuela

Reverend Lucianno Valenzuela served our Parish from 2000-2001. Father Lucianno was an administrator in the Philippines, at Our Lady's Nativity in Pangil in 1987. After a leave to Rome to study, he served as a resident Priest in Manila, Philippines at Espirito Santo Parish. He then came to this country where he served as Parochial Vicar at Holy Spirit Parish in Fairfield in 1994 and came to Winters as Parochial Administrator of St. Anthony Parish on Sept. 1, 2000. He was granted a leave of absence in 2002.



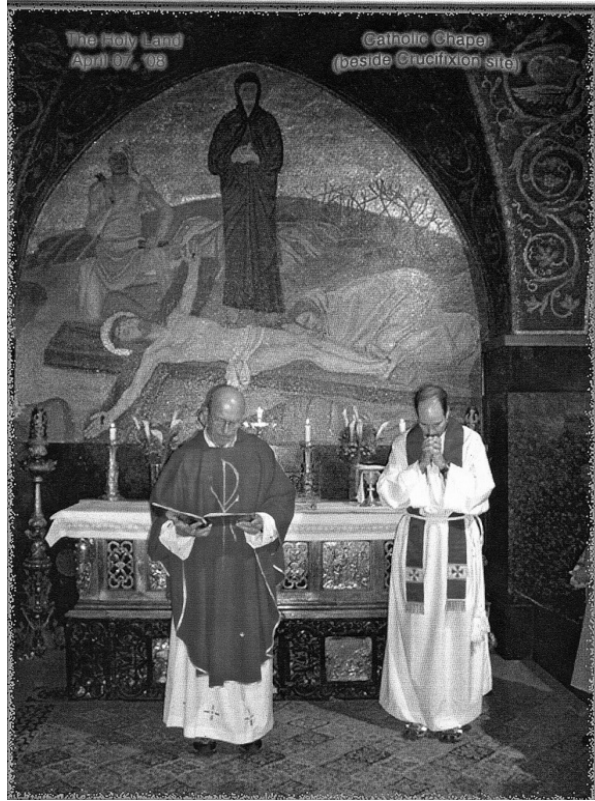
Father Chuck Kelly

Reverend Chuck Kelly served our Parish from 2002-2009: Father Kelly was born in 1959 in Lynwood, CA. When he was eight years old the family moved to Paradise where his parents live to this day. He graduated from Sacramento State University in 1983 with a degree in Marketing and was a golf professional for four years and a high school teacher at St. Francis in Sacramento for another four. In 1993 he entered seminary and was ordained in 1999 by Bishop Weigand. He spent two years at St. Theresa Parish in South Lake Tahoe, and one year at Holy Family Parish in Citrus Heights. Father Chuck then came to Winters where he stayed for seven years, from 2002-2009. From Winters, he served as Vocation Director for two years before going to St. John Vianney Parish in Rancho Cordova, where he currently serves.



Father:Humberto Father:Carlos Father:Chuck
Father Chuck's Christmas Card

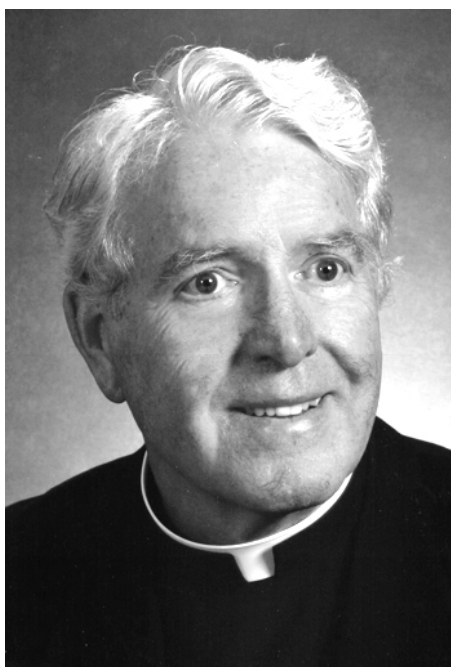
“By 2007, St. Anthony’s Parish was home to over 700 registered families and served a large Hispanic Community. Half of the masses are in Spanish. The Parish was involved in organizations such as Altar Society, Abbey House Clothes and Food Closet, Knights of Columbus, Angels Nest, PICO Immigration, housing and language ministry, Bible studies, rosary prayer group and many others.” St. Anthony Church feasibility statement, July, 2007.



“Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus,” Two-week Holy Land tour with Fr. Kelly. Apr. 2008, included the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Cana, Nazareth, Jerusalem, Mt. of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Jericho, the Dead Sea, St. Catherine in Egypt, and Cairo. Photo on left is on steps of Holy Sepulcher Jerusalem.



St. Martin Altar Society, 2003: Left to Right, front row, Freda Herger, Aurea Bettencourt, Lila Barsotti, Angie Osborne, Teresa Bruno, Maria Hromada, Epimonia Galvan, Velma Harris; Back Row, Fr. Chuck, Ruth Dallman, Lucy Cadena and Donna Love.



Father Michael McFadden

Reverend Michael McFadden, Parochial Administrator, has served our Parish since 2009: “If I had to sum up my reasons for deciding to become a priest it would have to be the word Adventure. I thank God that the sense of adventure has not left me to this day. I was born in the west of Ireland, went to seminary school in Dublin, and was ordained in June 1961 for the Diocese of Sacramento.

Of the 103 parishes in our diocese, I must have spent some time in at least 30 of them. Why so many? The old adventurer spirit made me something of an ‘ecclesiastical gypsy.’ But I thoroughly enjoyed all my church assignments and especially my short time of duty at St. Anthony in Winters, a parish family to which I’m still very attached.

I deem it an honor to be asked to help with Sunday masses both at St. Anthony and St. Martin, and hope to continue to do so, the good Lord willing, for a long time to come. I take this opportunity to express my deepest thanks to all the people of both communities for their kindness, love and respect, which I’ll always recall with fondest memories.”



Father James Doogan

Reverend James Doogan served our Parish from 2009-June 2011. Father Jim was born James Anthony Doogan to James Thomas and Mary Doogan during a blizzard on Christmas Eve 1959, Father Jim was raised in the Bronx, in the Irish neighborhood of “Tolentine,” the Parish of Nicholas of Tolentine run by the Augustinians. His parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and other residents of Tolentine were immigrants from Ireland, able to travel after WWII. His father’s name was changed from Duggan to Doogan by immigration, the rest of his family spelling and pronouncing the name differently, but he is related to a few Fr. Duggan’s.

After receiving his undergraduate degree in Journalism and Psychology from the State University of New York at Geneseo (SUNY Geneseo) in 1982, his adventurous spirit led him to “go west” where he ran a home for juvenile offenders/emotionally disturbed boys in Vista, Ca. From there, in 1988, he entered the Society of Jesus. This was followed by many years of school, travel and ministry. Along the way he learned Spanish, received a Licentiate degree in Philosophy from Gonzaga University, and a Masters of Divinity at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. He taught at Jesuit High School from 1998-2004; and in October of 2009, left Blessed Sacrament Hollywood Parish to begin ministry in the Sacramento Diocese and St. Anthony Parish. Father Doogan says, “It was during my time in Winters that my father passed away and I received such great support from the parishioners of St. Anthony Church. It is a community that will always be dear to my heart.”



Blessing of the Animals, Lupe Gomez and Father Doogan



Father Doogan and Peggy and Larry Kelley at their 50th Wedding Anniversary



Father Michael Hebda

Reverend Michael Hebda served our Parish from June 2011-Jan. 2016: It was a blistering hot August afternoon when my mother and father walked to the hospital, yes walked. I was born on August 5th, 1948 in Chicago Illinois. I attended St. Hyacinth Elementary School and Archbishop Joseph Weber H.S. I graduated from Northeast Illinois State College with a credential to teach in Illinois. I taught at Fr. Francis Gordon H.S. for eight years and then moved to Sacramento and taught at Christian Brothers High School for 13 years.

I had always wanted to be a priest, but due to various circumstances I did not fulfill that goal until I was 44 years old. I owe my decision to apply to enter seminary to a dear lady in Sacred Heart Parish, Antoinette Egan, a descendant of the original leather jackets that accompanied Junipero Serra to California. I attended Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners Wisconsin. If you ever had a plastic Jesus on the dashboard of your car, it most likely came from the Priests of Sacred Heart in Hales Corners, Wisconsin. I was ordained to the presbyterate December 29, 1996 in Sacred Heart Church in Sacramento.

Most of my ministry has been in the northern part of the Sacramento Diocese: Chico, Red Bluff and Redding. I loved the mountains, lakes, rivers and the agricultural communities. During my time, up north, I had the opportunity to fish, raise chickens and even to ride a brahma bull (He wasn't cinched so it was safe.) Bishop Soto appointed me Episcopal Vicar for Clergy. That was a very challenging ministry working with my brother priests. After two years, I was appointed to St. Anthony to "Build a Church." These four plus years have been a learning experience and a time for personal growth. I have met many wonderful people here at St. Anthony and St. Martin.

I am most proud of two ministries that have begun while I was pastor here: Club 33 (our youth group has taken off and developed into a ministry that affects the youth of Winters) and the St. Vincent de Paul Conferences in Esparto and Winters. St. Vincent de Paul provides more than just material to those in need. They see in the poor the face of Jesus and minister to the spiritual and physical needs of the persons they help. I have some good memories of First Communions, Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals. It is always a privilege when a family invites you to be a part of the important events in their lives. The sad part is that the Bishop is sending me to Sacramento to be the pastor of Holy Spirit Parish. I was hoping to stay in Winters until retirement in the next four or five years. I will miss Winters and Esparto. This is a growing and dynamic community. Keep spreading the Gospel through your example of faith.



Father Mike Ritter

Reverend Mike Ritter served our parish from 2013 until 2015. Father Mike Ritter was raised in Rocklin and entered Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon to complete a bachelor's degree in philosophy. Then took some time off with the Discalced Carmelites, learning that he was called to be a parish priest someday. He continued his theology studies at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park before returning to Mount Angel Seminary to complete a master's degree of divinity. He came to St. Anthony in 2013 and was a great help to Father Hebda. He was instrumental in starting Club 33 for youth and was much loved and admired at St. Anthony. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 6, 2015 and served his first mass as a priest the following week here at St. Anthony Church.



Esther and Deacon Jorge Villalobos

Deacon Jorge Villalobos has served our Parish from 2012 until the present. In 1968 Father Lucas asked Jorge Villalobos if he would like to attend a Cursillo de Cristianidad. Jorge accepted and he loved the experience. Since then Jorge has been involved in St. Anthony's Church community at all levels: altar boy, catechist, Sacramental preparations such as baptisms, RCIA, and Quinceanera's. On June 30, 2012, he was ordained a Deacon. He has been married to Esther Villalobos for 46 years.



Deacon Jorge Villalobos was ordained by Bishop Soto. June 30, 2012

The Hispanic Community: The first Mass in Spanish at St. Anthony's Church was officiated by the Rev. Eugene Lucas in 1968 to a small number of Mexican parishioners. As the word spread that Masses in Spanish were said, they soon started filling the church. Father Lucas was the founder of the Cursillo movement in the Diocese. Many men and women attended the three-day retreat that promoted leadership in the parishes. The Cursillo Movement organized the first Mexican Fiesta in the fall of 1972. Mr. Jesus Montenegro was the first president of the organization and Miss Elva Ornelas, daughter of Isidro and Francisca Ornelas, was the first Queen of the Fiesta.

Fr. Coffey was instrumental in acquiring five Carmelite nuns from Spain and Columbia who resided in the convent next to the old fire station by City Hall on Abbey St. The Carmelite Sisters went to work right away forming the Sociedad del Altar Guadalupana, modeled after the Altar Society, and assisting many families in their needs, especially preparing couples to marry in the church. Leaders of the Guadalupanas were Mercedes Arroyo and Esther Villalobos.

A devout parishioner, Mr. Salvador Valadez, who came from Jesus Maria Jalisco, Mexico, along with many of our Hispanic Winters residents, started the devotion of the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and he also went to Mexico City to buy an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and bring it to St. Anthony. The image of Our Lady is currently at our new church.

Alejandro Arroyo was ordained as a deacon in 1991 and served until he retired in 2014. He worked with the migrant camp in Madison and the Cursillo movement. His wife, Mercedes Arroyo wrote the first Spanish article for the Catholic Herald, and put together the Parish Family Albums in 1968. She used to drive to Sacramento to work with the nuns for the Spanish Education Program and always helped with Catechism and Altar Society.

Jorge Villalobos, greatly encouraged by Fr. Chuck Kelley, was ordained a deacon in 2012, and has since become an indispensable part of our church family, serving in all parts of our parish, and with masses in both English and Spanish. As a deacon, he also helps with counseling; visiting the sick, hospitals and jails; orientation and training for the sacraments; preparation for baptism and marriage; and many other things to help the priest and the parish.

Our pastors have been influential in promoting the traditional Mexican cultural and religious celebrations: Quinceanera's, Presentations, Candelaria, weddings, anniversaries, etc. The statue of Santo Toribio Romo, the immigrant saint, was the latest addition to our new church.



Our church at 301 Main St., Winters, 2014

Building a New Church: After a five-year Capital Campaign, and the reduction of the original plan for a 750-seat church was reduced to 450, construction was begun on the corner of Main and Grant St., adjacent to the St. Anthony Parish Center. Bill McCandless from McCandless Associates in Woodland was the Architect and Mary Kessler was project manager. Modern Building, Inc. from Chico was the contractor with Gage Chrysler as the lead project manager followed by Bob Einck as superintendent.



New church building, 511 Main St., on the corner of Main and Grant, next to the remodeled Center. The bell from the old church was moved to the bell tower.

A number of parishioners spent countless hours on finance, liturgy, landscaping and other groups that contributed greatly to the planning of the new church, the grounds and the design of much of the interior.

Construction of the new mission style church was begun in Sept of 2012, with the erection of steel support beams and was completed on May 10, 2014 at the cost of 4.7 million dollars, which included the parking lots, landscaping, and the remodeling of the old Center. Westgate Hardwoods did all the wood in the church except for the pews, the beautiful entrance doors, corbels and cabinets.

Father Hebda did a lot of the design of the front plaza, the fountain and raised flower beds where people can sit. Joi McNeal painted the mural over the sanctuary, Christine Amri Studio did the beautiful stain glass. Father Hebda and Mary Kessler designed the cross and Dutra and Sons did the fabrication. The restoration of the statues was done by Beate Bruhl design. Erin Hasbrook designed the chandeliers. The quadrafoil design of the fountain was repeated in a raised design just below the cross on the outside of the church. Some individual parishoners and families donated items to the new church, such as a statue restoration, baptismal font, altar, or the outside fountain, in memory of loved ones. Rosaura Viaz donated a beautiful altar cloth which took two years to complete. The Center was also remodeled, and a broken glass mosaic of St. Anthony and baby Jesus was installed between the front entry doors to welcome visitors.



One of the statues restored by Beate Brule Design



Mural over sanctuary painted by Joi McNeal



Mosaic of St. Anthony and Baby Jesus
Catholic Herald, November/December 2014;
Edna Jamison, Rosie Lucero, Anna Doughty,
Dorothy O'Neil and Father Mike Hebda.



Stained Glass window by Christine Amri Studio

DEDICATION OF THE NEW ST. ANTHONY CHURCH, MAY 17, 2014

Bishop Soto officiated; and many of the people responsible for the building of the church: Bill McCandless, architect; John Hasbrook, finance manager; Mary Kessler and others from the facilities committee, were on hand for the opening ceremonies on May 17, 2014. The celebration, planned for 500, was enjoyed by over 700 people. The Mexican community decorated the church with beautiful flowers and contributed music and dancing.



Bishop Jaime Soto



Father Hebda opens the doors



Blessing of the Altar



Deacon Jorge and Bishop Soto



**Carolyn and Luci Heines,
And St. Nicholas (Father Hebda)**



The Ballet Folklorica, Dec, 2014, St. Nicholas Day



**Sister Teresa, Catechists Sisters
of Jesus Crucified, Sacrameto, and
Sandy Holland, Music Director.**



**Teen youth group, Club 33, volunteering at SummerVacation
Bible School, 2015, Organized by Sister Teresa**



Interior remodel St. Martin Church and grotto of Our Lady of Guadalupe built by parishoners



Father Cormac Lacre

Reverend Cormac Lacre, our Current Pastor, Jan 16, 2016 to present. Fr. Cormac was born in the province of Bohol, in the central Philippine Islands, on Sept. 12, 1973; the fifth of nine children; eight are still living. “I was ready for the seminary as soon as I graduated from high school,” says Father Cormac.” I credit my parents and grandparents for cultivating my desire to become a priest.” His parents, the late Lydia and Julio Lacre, and his grandparents, joyfully welcomed the local priests to their family compound, his grandmother cooking up a storm. He remembers walking one and a half miles to church with his grandparents to mass in the town proper. From a young age he was drawn to the priesthood, thinking that it would be fun to be a priest, “They were highly regarded in the community, but most important of all, they were well fed!”

Fr. Cormac attended Colegio de la Medalla Milagrosa high school, run by the Augustinian Recollect Sisters, where he excelled in math and was a lector at mass. Eager to learn English, he joined the seminary right after high school. He spent the next five years at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary (IHMS), Tagbilaran City, and then spent four years studying theology at the Seminario Mayor de San Carlos, Cebu City, Philippines. In January of 2001, he transferred to St. Patrick Seminary, Menlo Park, Ca., and in December of 2002 was assigned to All Hallows Parish in Sacramento where he spent six months in the diaconate and the remainder of his time as a transitional deacon.

On November 1, 2003, he was ordained to the Priesthood by Most Rev. William Weigand at Our Lady of Assumption Parish, Carmichael. His first assignment was as Parochial Vicar at St. John the Baptist Church in Folsom. From there he was transferred to Good Shepherd Parish in Elk Grove as associate Pastor. In 2007 he served at St. Vincent Ferrer Church in Vallejo, and in 2008 to St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, Antipolo City, Philippines as guest priest.

In Feb. of 2010, he returned to the U.S. accepting a transfer to St. Isidore Church, Yuba City as a Parochial Vicar. In April of 2011, Fr. Cormac was transferred to the position of parochial Administrator at Immaculate Conception Parish in Corning, Ca. and remained there for five years. He considers his greatest achievements there as building the Parish Center and building a sense of unity among Hispanic and English speaking parishioners. In January of 2016, Father Cormac transferred to St. Anthony Parish.

“On my days off, I love to play basketball, tennis or table tennis with fellow Filipino priests in the area, “ says Father Cormac. “ We even play basketball with various youth groups in the diocese. I greatly enjoy the camaraderie of my fellow Filipino priests. With them, I experience the brotherly love that was taught to us by

our Lord Jesus Christ.”



Office Staff: L to Rt.: Bob Campbell, Building Maintenance; Katy Long, Religious Education Coordinator; Deacon Jorge Villalobos; Mary Kessler, Parish Operations Manager; Dawn Barrera, Parish Operations Assistant and church secretary for past 15 years; Father Cormac Lacre.



Finance Committee: L to Rt; John Hasbrook, Father Cormac Lacre, Brian Paddock and Mike Evans; front row: Sandi Vickrey and Grace Brett.



Installation of Pastoral Committee by Father Cormac Lacre: Wally Laforga, Mike Sanford and Sam Cody (Esparto); Joni Anderson (Winters); Ricardo Rivas (Esparto); Jorge Villalobos

and Elizabeth Ehnat (Winters)



Deacon Alejandro and Mercedes Arroyo with Bishop Jaime Soto. Alejandro passed away on Feb. 14, 2017.



Fathers Joe Turnillo, Cormac Lacre, and Michael Hebda pose with St. Anthony Altar Society servers. Front, Lt. to rt.: Blanca Ficsher, Father Joe Turnullo, Father Cormac Lacre, Janie Baylor, Marian Kammerer, Esther Villalobos, and Monica Rodriguez. Back:

Martha Boring, Diane Rayburn, Anna Doughty, Dorothy O'Neil, Joan Martinez, Father Mike Hebda, Gayle Cusick,



Monday money counters: L to Rt: Grace Brett (Winters,) Paula Galvan (Esparto), Barbara Thomas, Anna Doughty an Carmen Jean Rubio (Winters.)

There are so many groups, as well as individuals, both at St. Anthony and St. Martin, who contribute greatly to our parish, from choir to St. Vincent de Paul, from altar servers to religious education teachers, that it is impossible to include them all in this history. They are greatly appreciated by our church communities, and most of all by Our Lord Jesus Christ.

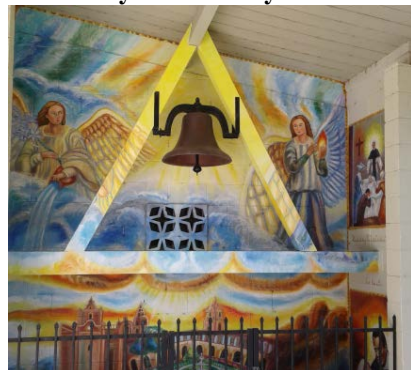


St. Martin Mission



**Stain glass windows at St. Martin Mission
Donated in Memory of Parishioners**

**Mural painted by
Cristy Cuadra Reyes**





St. Anthony Church

