

SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

Vol 2

Fr John E Boll, Diocesan Archivist

No 50

CARDINAL JAMES FRANCIS McINTYRE, THE WEST'S FIRST CARDINAL ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Printed in the January 22, 1970 issue of the *Catholic Herald*



Photo by Corbis.com

Cardinal James McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles

James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, archbishop of Los Angeles since 1948, who is known as the archconservative of the American hierarchy, has retired according to an announcement made by the Vatican on Wednesday.

Pope Paul VI accepted the resignation of the 83 year-old cardinal for reasons of age. The cardinal had served his archdiocese for eight years longer than the recommended retirement age of 75 which had been fixed by Pope Paul VI.

Vatican sources announced that automatically succeeding Cardinal McIntyre as archbishop of Los Angeles, one of the largest jurisdictions in the United States, is Archbishop Timothy Manning, formerly bishop of Fresno and now coadjutor bishop in Los Angeles with the right of succession.

Frequently involved in headline making disputes with clergy and religious of a liberal bent, the cardinal is praised by Catholics of many viewpoints for his consistent endeavors to raise the standard of Catholic education in his archdiocese.

A native of New York, Cardinal McIntyre, who will remain a member of the College of Cardinals, will be 84 on June 25. He was named archbishop of Los Angeles in 1948 and was made a cardinal by Pope Pius XII in 1953.

Cardinal McIntyre has been one of the leading conservatives in the American church, a stance which often led to controversy with liberal elements of his archdiocese.

The most recent occasion was on Christmas Eve, when he was officiating at mid-night Mass in St Basil Church, located in the affluent Wilshire Boulevard district. A group of 350 Mexican-Americans battled with police in the vestibule protesting that the Church was not helping enough in the fight against poverty.

The cardinal concluded the Mass by saying: "We are ashamed of the participants and we recognize that their conduct was symbolic of the rabble that stood at the foot of the cross, shouting, "Crucify Him!"

[Not a Stranger in Sacramento](#)

Cardinal McIntyre, the only "Prince of the Church" in the west, is no stranger to the Sacramento Diocese where he has participated in church functions on numerous occasions. Even closer ties have been forged through his personal association with the current spiritual leader, Bishop Alden J Bell, as well as his immediate predecessor, Bishop Joseph T McGucken, now archbishop of San Francisco, for both men served the cardinal as auxiliary bishops in Los Angeles.

The occasion of the first visit of Archbishop McIntyre to Sacramento was in April, 1950, when the diocese observed the 100th anniversary of the celebration of the first Mass in this city. Members of the hierarchy from throughout the west, including the late Cardinal Stretch of Chicago, poured into the city for a week long observance. Archbishop McIntyre was also present for the celebration that week.

The first official visit of Cardinal McIntyre to Sacramento after he had received the Red hat took place on April 28, 1954, when he came here for the silver jubilee of the late Bishop Robert J Armstrong's Episcopal consecration.

The following year, on October 26, 1955, Cardinal McIntyre returned to take part in Sacramento's official welcome for Bishop McGucken as coadjutor bishop with the right of succession to Bishop Armstrong, who by then was in failing health.

Two times in 1957 Cardinal McIntyre visited Sacramento. The first occasion was in January of that year to preside at the funeral of Bishop Armstrong. He returned in March to officiate at the formal dedication of a high school which was to bear the late prelate's name, Bishop Armstrong High, since changed to Christian Brothers' High.



Photo from Diocesan Archives

Cardinal McIntyre Blesses Crucifixes at the Dedication of Christian Brothers High School, Sacramento in 1957

The first Red Mass in 1958, sponsored by the Catholic Attorney's Guild, was the next occasion to attract the presence of the cardinal. The colorful Mass, offered in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, was followed by a civic dinner at the former Hotel El Dorado, which Cardinal McIntyre attended accompanied by his auxiliary, Bishop Timothy Manning, now his successor.

That night, the reunion of the three prelates occasioned Bishop McGucken to remark: "It is like old times to be reunited with the original triumvirate from the firm McIntyre, McGucken and Manning."

Cardinal McIntyre's next official visit to the diocese took place in 1960 when he journeyed to Squaw Valley on the eve of the opening of the Winter Olympics. There he dedicated the Queen of the Snows Chapel and blessed the skis and skates of athletes from around the world.

On April 23, 1961, Cardinal McIntyre again returned to this jurisdiction to participate on the dedication of Sacramento's first permanent junior seminary, St Pius X in Galt.

His last official visit to Sacramento occurred in May 1962, when once again he presided at the installation of one of his auxiliary bishops, this time the Most Reverend Alden J Bell, who was being welcomed as the sixth bishop of Sacramento.