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PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO BY PARISHES FROM THE 1887 CATHOLIC DIRECTORY

By Monsignor John T Dwyer

The following is the January 10, 1986 cover letter from Monsignor Dwyer for the following article:

Enclosed is a rearrangement of the 1887 Directory (sent to you previously) arranged by parishes so you can see which the original parishes in the new Sacramento Diocese were and who the original priests were.

Likewise I have listed some commentaries on the Directory, since many years of experience has taught me how to analyze them and make comparisons.

I have also listed the counties which made up the old Grass Valley Diocese, and the counties ceded by San Francisco to the new Sacramento Diocese as well as those which were given to San Francisco.

As I continue to do further research I will continue to send the information so you can add to the Archives.

Very sincerely yours,

Rev. Msgr. John T. Dwyer

A Rearrangement by Parishes of the 1887 Catholic Directory

PARISHES

MISSIONS

PRIESTS

1 Sacramento (1850) St Rose

Thomas Grace, Rector
Leon Haupts, Assistant

2 Arcata (1883)

Thomas Nugent, Rector

3 Auburn (1886)

Lincoln
Rocklin

Luke Tormey, Rector

4 Bodie F Ruddy, Rector (S.F. Priest)

5 Cherokee (1879) Birchville
Moore's Flat
French Corral
North San Juan
San Juan Michael Kiely, Rector

6 Chico (1878) Cherokee Flat
Oroville
Colombia Hill James J Hynes, Rector

7 Colusa (1870) Grand Island
Orland
Maxwell
Willows Michael Walrath, Rector
Francis Reynolds, Assistant

8 Crescent City (1869) Trinidad C.C. McGrath, Rector

9 Downieville (1856) Alleghany
Celestial Valley
Forest City
Hopkinsville
Horse Creek
Howland Flat
La Porte
Mugginsville
Poker (Flat)
Portwine
Richmond Hill
St Louis
Taylorsville
Wiskey Diggins James J Claire, Rector

10 Eureka (1863) James D Sheridan, Rector
Patrick Clyne, Assistant

11 Ferndale (1872) Mattole
Rohnerville
Table Bluff Lawrence Kennedy, Rector

12 Folsom (1859) Galt
Line Oak Michael Gualco, Rector
(S.F. Priest)

13 Forest Hill (1861)	Colfax Horshoe Bar Dutch Flat Iowa Hill Iowa Hill Bar Lowell Hill Michigan Bluff Yankee Jims	Michael O'Reilly, Rector
14 Grass Valley (1855)	Georges Bar Rough & Ready	Thomas J Dalton, Rector Peter McDonnell, Assn't
15 Mariposa	Coulterville Hornitos	A. Fassanotti, Rector (S.F Priest)
16 Marysville (1852)	Browns Valley Kentucky Ranch Forbestown Linda Township	James Tanham, Rector Hugh McCabe, Assistant
17 Mendocino City (1863)	Albion Anderson Valley Caspar Navarro	Daniel O'Sullivan, Rector Patrick O'Kane, Assistant
18 Nevada City (1851-53, 1867)	Fall Creek Omega Red Dog Washington	John M Nulty, Rector
19 Placerville (1855)	Coloma Greenwood Georgetown	Renatus Becker, Admin.
20 Red Bluff (1867)	Horsetown Shasta	James Hunt, Rector
21 Shasta-Redding (1853)		Bernard McFeely, Rector
22 Round Valley (Mendocino Co.)		Domingo Governo (SF Priest)
23 San Andreas (1851)	Angels Campo Seco Copperopolis	Theodore Van Schie, Admin.

24 Smartsville (1872)	Lancha Plana Mokelumne Hill Murphy's	Matthew Coleman, Rector
25 Sonora (1851)	Columbia Big Oak Flat Chinese Camp Jamestown	Patrick Lynch, Rector (S.F. Priest)
26 Sutter Creek (1856)	Jackson Ione Valley Volcano	Raphael DeCarolis, Rector (S.F. Priest)
27 Weaverville (1853)	Big Flat Canyon City Douglas City French Gulch Oregon Gulch Trinity Center	Michael Dillon, Rector
28 Woodland (1870)	Davisville	John McGinty, Rector (S.F. Priest)
29 Yreka (1855)	Callaghan's Ranch Fort Jones Sawyers Bar	Leon Haults, Rector

STATE OF NEVADA

30 Austin (1865)	Bunker Hill Yankee Blade	Joseph Phelan, Rector
31 Carson City (1858)	Empire City Pleasant Valley Genoa Washoe City Ophir	Daniel Meagher, Rector
32 Eureka (1872)		Michael Kiely, Rector

33 Gold Hill (1864)	Dayton Silver City	Andrew O'Donnell, Rector
34 Reno (1871)	Steamboat Springs Truckee Meadows	William Moloney, Rector Michael Walsh, Assistant
35 Virginia City (1862)	Flowery District Six Mile Canyon	Charles M Lynch, Pastor Thomas Tubman, Assistant

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY ON THE 1887 Hoffman's Directory and the 1888 Sadlier's Directory For the Diocese of Sacramento

- 1 To be noted: All pastors are listed as "rectors." As long as missionary territories were under the jurisdiction of Propaganda Fidei there were no canonical parishes, therefore all "pastors" were classified as "rectors."
- 2 Directories always published the listings as things were in the previous year. Because some bishops were either slow or careless in sending in their reports – or only sent in the changes, listings in the directories were sometimes two years behind and at times a priest is listed as being in two places at the same time, e.g., Leon Hapts and Michael Kiely in the 1887 directory listing.
- 3 The old Grass Valley boundary with the Archdiocese of San Francisco was only of the parallel lines, the 39th parallel. It bisected both Mendocino and Lake Counties. When the new Sacramento diocesan lines were made, Mendocino and Lake were given to San Francisco. When the 1887 directory was published this correction was not made; thus Mendocino is wrongly listed as belonging to Sacramento. When this was corrected in 1888, Mendocino itself was removed but no one bothered to remove its "missions". Thus Albion, Anderson Valley, Caspar and Navarro continue to be listed for a while longer.
- 4 With the addition of the Mother Lode country to the new Diocese of Sacramento, the priests listed as rectors of those parishes were formerly priests of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. We will notice a readjustment as several of them returned to San Francisco.
- 5 The old line ran West to East across the State of Nevada. The new line between Sacramento and the new Vicariate Apostolic of Utah ran North and South, thus dividing Nevada into a western half (Sacramento) and an eastern half (Salt Lake). Readjustments

were made then also. Thus Esmeralda County, Nevada was added to Sacramento but Lander County (two parishes – Austin and Eureka) went to Utah.

- 6 The original counties in the Grass Valley Diocese were: Del Norte, Humboldt, Modoc, Siskiyou, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, Plumas, Glenn, Butte, Sierra, Nevada, Yuba, and Colusa. The 39th parallel ran through and divided Placer, Colusa, Sutter, Lake and Mendocino. A large territory was taken from San Francisco and given to Sacramento, namely all of Placer and Yolo, together with Sacramento, El Dorado, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Amador, Alpine, Mono and Mariposa. When the Monterey-Fresno Diocese was established in 1922, Mariposa and Mono were removed from Sacramento. But between 1886 and 1922 these were the responsibility of Sacramento.

PRIESTS WHO RETURNED TO SAN FRANCISCO

- 1 John McGinty from Woodland returned to San Francisco; Matthew Coleman of Smartsville went to Woodland.

Eureka, Nevada was now in the eastern half of Nevada, therefore in the Vicariate of Utah, so Michael Kiely was moved from Eureka, Nevada to Reno, where he replaced William Moloney who was sent to Sutter Creek.

- 2 Raphael de Carolis from Sutter Creek returned to the Archdiocese of San Francisco
- 3 Patrick Lynch from Sonora returned to the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Michael Walsh, formerly assistant in Reno became rector of Sonora.

Correction of Error in 1887 Directory

James J Callan was rector of Marysville, not James J Tanham.

Cherokee was closed down as a parish in 1886 and James Tanham transferred to nearby Nevada City as rector.

Michael Kiely could not have been in Cherokee because he was in Eureka, Nevada.

Since Mendocino was no longer part of the diocese, Patrick O’Kane was withdrawn from Mendocino and sent as assistant to Eureka, California. No pastor was spared from the cross!

C.C. McGrath was transferred from Crescent City to Yreka.

Leon Haupts went to St Rose, Sacramento to care for the German speaking people of Sacramento.

Patrick Kirley formerly of Reno and Alturas became pastor of Crescent City replacing C.C. McGrath.

Young John F Quinn (temporarily at St Rose) sent as rector of Red Bluff to replace James J Hunt who went to Chico.

Renatus Becker, administrator in Placerville left the diocese. P.J. Clyne sent to replace him in Placerville.

NEW PARISH ESTABLISHED

St Monica, Willows. Francis Reynolds, formerly assistant in Colusa, named rector of Willows.