

# SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

Vol 5

Father John E Boll

No 46

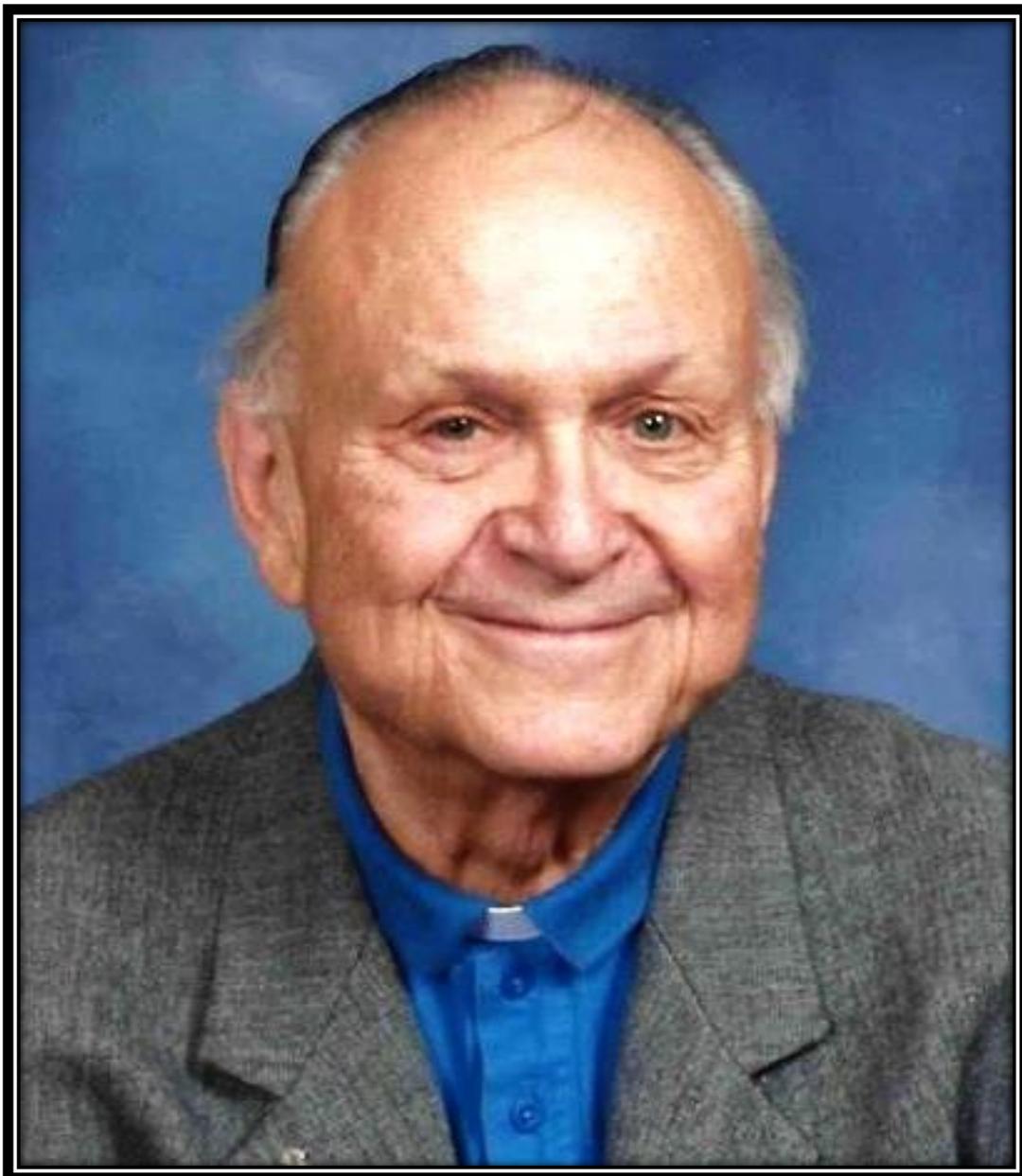
## *Father Michael Jerome Newman, S.D.S.*

**Native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

**Priest of the Society of the Divine Savior**

**Director of the Chico Newman Center**

**December 17, 1938 – March 1, 2018**



**Michael Jerome Newman** was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on December 17, 1938, son of Ambrose Newman and Edna Barkley. He had only one brother, Thomas.

The Newman family were members of Mother of Good Counsel Parish, a ministry of the Salvatorian priests and brothers, and the Salvatorian sisters in the parish school. One could say that Michael was born into the Salvatorian family.

### **BEGINS HIS EDUCATION**

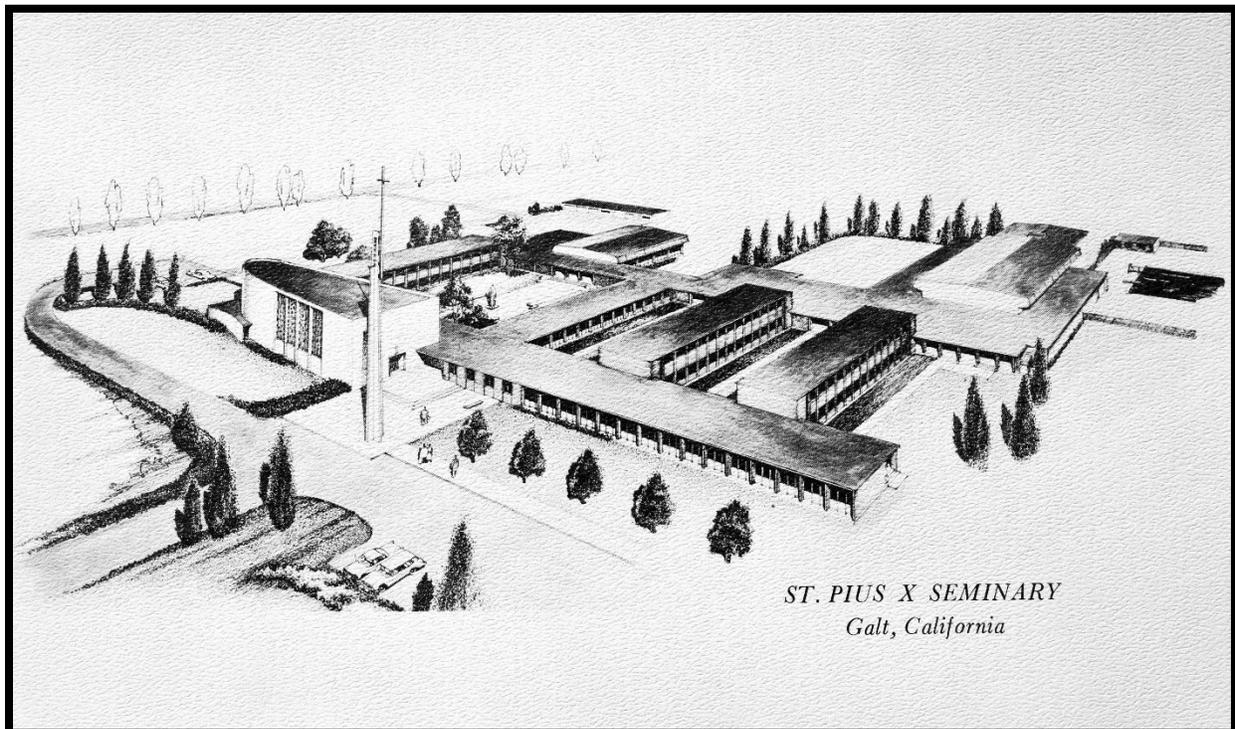
Michael began his education with the Salvatorian Sisters in the parish school and after graduating from grade school, he entered the Salvatorian Seminary in St Nazianz.

### **JOINS THE SALVATORIAN COMMUNITY**

After completing high school, Michael joined the Salvatorian community and spent his Novitiate year in Colfax, Iowa where he professed his vows as a Salvatorian on September 8, 1960. He took the name "Henry" as his religious name. Though he returned to his baptismal name in the late 1960s, it was not unusual to hear Salvatorians call him lovingly by the nickname, "Hank."

### **THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION AND APOSTOLIC YEAR**

After his novitiate year, Michael continued his studies at Divine Savior Seminary in Lanham, Maryland and Catholic University in Washington, DC. During his studies, he had two apostolic years where he taught music at Trinity Prep Seminary in Sioux City, Iowa. He then returned to the seminary where he completed two degrees, one in theology and a Master's Degree in Music.



**Saint Pius X Seminary, Galt, California**

## **ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND FIRST ASSIGNMENT**



**Newly Ordained Father Michael Newman**

Having completed his theological studies, Michael was ordained a priest for the Salvatorian Society on September 9, 1967 at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

Newly ordained Father Mike received his first assignment in California at Saint Pius X Minor Seminary in Galt. Little did Mike know that California and the Diocese of Sacramento would become “home” for him the rest of his life. He taught music at the seminary for four years and for part of that time he also taught music and religion at Saint Mary’s High School in nearby Stockton.

## **A MOVE FROM TEACHING TO PASTORAL MINISTRY**

At this point, Father Mike’s ministry took a turn—from teaching in the seminary and Catholic high school to parish ministry. For the next three years, he served as associate pastor of Saint Anne Parish in Lodi which was close to the seminary in Galt but in the Diocese of Stockton.

Father Mike changed his focus once again to serve as associate director of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of Sacramento for six years. He worked with Father Murrough Wallace, director of Youth Ministry and the youth ministry staff in Sacramento.

## **DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY AT THE SACRAMENTO NEWMAN CENTER**

In his work with youth and young adults, Father Mike found his special calling in campus ministry with university students. He became the director of Campus Ministry for the Newman Center Community at California State University, Sacramento in 1981. This Newman ministry at the Sacramento Newman Center became his “parish” for the next twelve years. At the same time, beginning in 1982, Bishop Quinn appointed Father Mike director of Campus Ministry for the entire Diocese of Sacramento. He worked with the other two Newman Centers at Davis and Chico to coordinate the work of campus ministry in the Diocese of Sacramento.



Photo by John E Boll

### **Newman Catholic Center, Sacramento**

#### **DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY IN CHICO**

After a dozen years as director of Campus Ministry in Sacramento, Father Mike was appointed director of Campus Ministry at the Newman Center in Chico that ministered to the students attending California State University, Chico. He served this student community at the Newman Center for the next thirteen years until he retired in 2006.



Photo by John E Boll

### **Newman Catholic Center, Chico, California**

## **FATHER MIKE'S MANY OTHER MINISTRIES**

Father Mike was a man of great energy and many interests. Throughout the years of his regular ministry, he also served as a member of the Priests' Council of the Diocese of Sacramento, State Chaplain for both the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Daughter of the Americas, Area Coordinator for the Salvatorian priests and brothers in California, and Regional Moderator for all the members of the Salvatorian Family in Northern California.

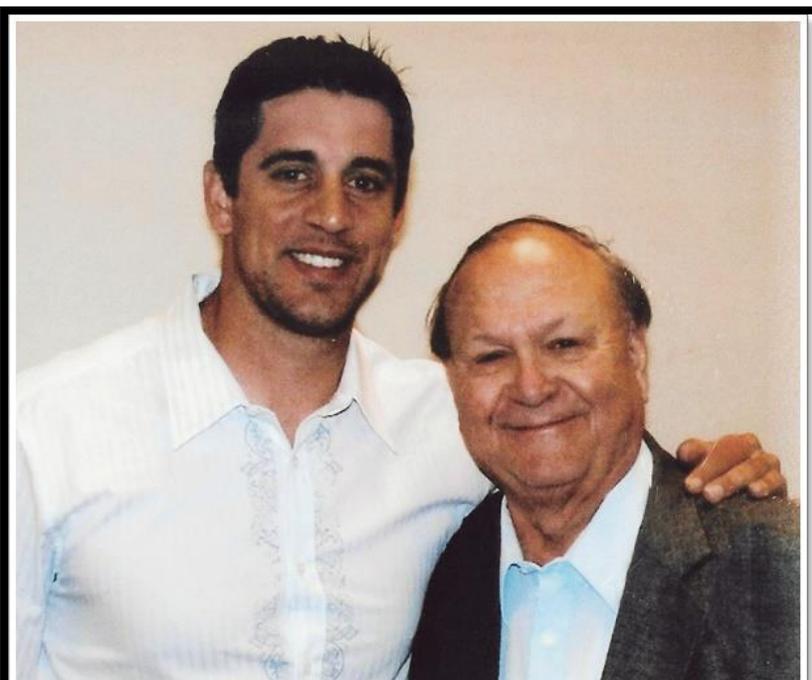
For many years, Father Mike was a regular columnist in the diocesan publication of *The Catholic Herald*, answering questions sent to him by readers of the newspaper. Reviewing Father Mike's many articles, it is clear he had an amazing theological knowledge and was able to make practical applications to the lives of people.

Father Mike also served as vice president and later president of the National Association of Diocesan Directors of Campus Ministry, and he served a member of the Committee on Education of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

## **RETIREMENT**

Although Father Mike retired in 2006 from assigned ministry, he never really retired. He continued being available to fellow priests in the Diocese of Sacramento when they needed help anywhere in the diocese, even in the middle of winter.

He also served a term on the Provincial Council for the Salvatorians from 2006-2009 and spent summers studying and working in England. He also served as chaplain on cruise ships through the Apostleship of the Sea.



**Green Bay Packers' quarterback Aaron Rodgers and Fr. Mike**

While Father Mike may have stopped teaching music years ago, it was his life that became the song, the song of a happy priest who celebrated life and faith with the people in his ministry.

Described as “the priest with a megawatt smile,” Father Mike endeared himself to thousands of people throughout his priestly life. He brought his many Newman Center students to a newfound enthusiasm for their Catholic faith during their college life. He presided at countless weddings, later celebrated the baptisms of their children, and then even later

presided over those children's marriages and their children's baptisms! He was a multi-generational priest to many families.

### **SUDDEN ILLNESS AND DEATH**

Father Mike took ill in Chico with diabetes, kidney failure and retention of water. His doctor in Chico had him transferred to Sutter Hospital in Sacramento where he spent a few weeks. During his time of illness, he kept in touch with people on Facebook and by email. He was quite open about his physical condition and by telling others what he was going through, he hoped this knowledge would be of help to other people.

He returned to Chico to continue his convalescence and hopefully recover his health, but Father Michael Newman died on Thursday, March 1, 2018.

Instead of being buried with his Salvatorian family in Wisconsin, Father Mike wanted to be buried in Chico where he spent so many happy years with his Newman Community. His body was cremated and his Funeral Mass was held at Saint John the Baptist Church in Chico on Saturday, March 10, 2018. The main celebrant at the Mass was Bishop Jaime Soto, bishop of Sacramento, and 18 priests who came from around the diocese. Father Roman Mueller, SDS, pastor of Divine Savior Parish in Orangevale, was the homilist. His homily was hopeful because of the Lord's resurrection, humorous as he spoke of Father Mike, and grateful that we walked life's journey with Father Mike.

The attendance at the Funeral Mass in the Chico church was filled with people who knew and loved Father Mike over the decades. His ashes were laid to rest in a local cemetery in Chico.

Father Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Ambrose and Edna, and his brother Thomas. He is survived by nieces and nephews, and by his brothers and sisters in the Salvatorian family.

A Memorial Mass was also celebrated at Saint Anne's Chapel in Milwaukee for the Salvatorian community in Wisconsin.

### **IN MEMORIAM**

Father Mike was proud to be a priest and a Salvatorian and proud of his many accomplishments in his years of ministry. And – even he would admit this – proud of the adulation and accolades that he received. Because in these recognitions, he knew that he was touching people's lives and making a real difference.

Many priests have a long list of places where they served. Father Mike's list is a relatively short one but the list of people who loved and respected him, who welcomed him into their families with open arms, who counted him as one of the closest friends they ever knew – that list is an unbelievable lengthy one. For many, Father Mike was the prime example of what it means to be a good priest.

Father Mike was intelligent, friendly and outgoing, generous with his time, schooled in music and an accomplished pianist and organist, and dedicated in service to the Diocese of Sacramento. The major part of his priesthood was spent in the Diocese of Sacramento.

In his retirement, Father Mike gave generously of his time and talent by filling in for priests of the Sacramento diocese when they went on vacation. He never hesitated to help in the mountain

parishes in the middle of winter when the need arose. He often spent the summers in England helping in Salvatorian parishes there.

Father Mike kept in touch with his many priest and lay friends around the nation and the world. As is said about Saint Thomas More, Father Mike was ***“A Man for All Seasons.”*** We will miss his smile, his wisdom, his dedication and his joyful spirit. Thanks, Father Mike, for all you have shared with us as we journeyed together toward the Kingdom of God. Rest now from your labors and enjoy the beauty and joy of the music of the Kingdom of God.

## Photos of Father Michael’s Funeral in Chico



Photo by Rob Holt

**Bishop Soto and Concelebrating Priests of the Diocese of Sacramento  
At Father Michael Newman’s Funeral Mass**

Funeral Mass for Father Mike, Saint John Church, Chico, CA



Photo by John E Boll



Photo by Rob Holt



**Father Mike's Family Members bring the Gifts of Bread and Wine to Bishop Soto**



**Bishop Jaime Soto**

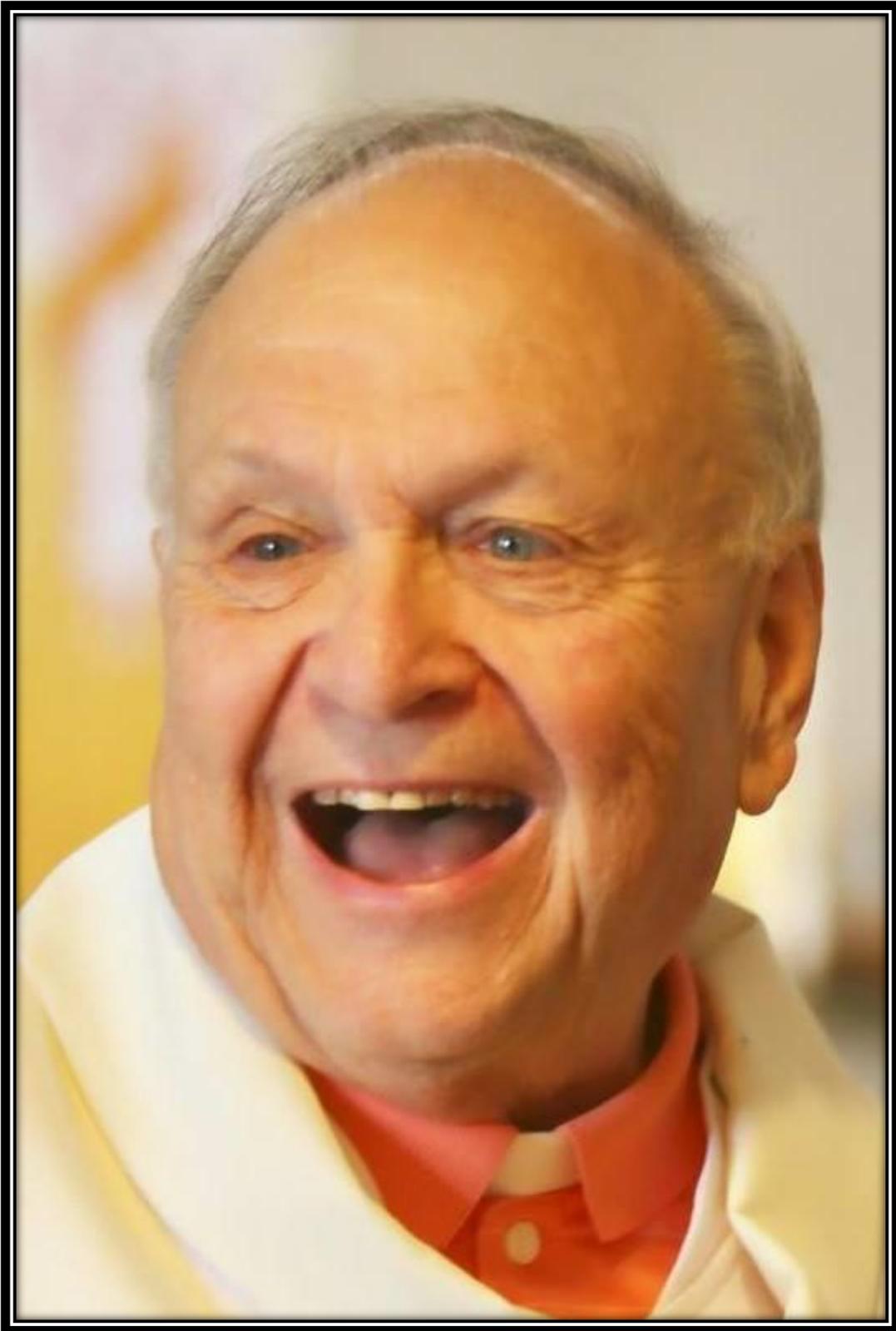
Photos by Rob Holt



**Final Farewell**

Photo by John E Boll





*Rest in Peace, Father Mike!*