

RT. REV. MONSIGNOR ROBERT G. ADAMS

By

Rev. Augustine Koilparampil

Monsignor Adams is the most widely used household name in Livermore. He is a Catholic priest whose merit is acknowledged and whose worth is appreciated by tens of thousands of people. The Holy See honored him by bestowing on him the title Monsignor.

It is an extremely difficult task to try to define Msgr. Adams. He is the pastor of St. Michael's Catholic Church, the membership of which reaches almost four thousand families. He is Father Adams to all of them. Saint and sinner are equally comfortable with him. He never compromises principles but is always willing to accomodate himself to the needs of all of them.

In his effectively faithful ministry to the community, he works hard in different capacities and in varied ministries. Associate pastor, hospital chaplain, family counselor, college professor and pastor are some of his titles.

In the diocese of Oakland he is part of almost all the committees. Personnel Board, Building Committee, Priests Senate and Retirement Board are a few of those that have benefited from his involvement. He was also Dean of the local parishes for quite a long time. He works closely with all other denominations, religions and civic groups.

The saying that "a holy priest is a happy priest" is realized in the person of Msgr. Adams. His tremendous sense of humor is well known. A naive and unassuming person would believe the things that he would say with a straight face. His down-to-earth behavior puts everyone at ease with him. Whether you are an upright person or a scoundrel, you can go to Monsignor Adams when you are in trouble and he definitely will help you.

God sends his "rain upon the field of the just and the wicked" because he loves both of them. Monsignor Adams genuinely loves every person. He is a man of God. In his very busy life he takes ample time for prayer. Everyday many people see him either in the church or in the chapel spending hours in prayer.

He has a child's heart and is quite at home with children. He loves, values, teases, respects, and treasures children. He is an inspiration to thousands of children.

He can speak the languages of the intellectual and the peasant. He keeps abreast of all the scientific, medical and technological progress. He is aware of all the changes in every field, but don't mistake him for an arrogant self-seeking intellectual.

He knows the pain of an ordinary man struggling to make ends meet. When he speaks of the pangs of hunger and destitution of homelessness and unemployment, he is one with the downtrodden. He always seeks out the needy. He started a food bank for the hungry. His love for the poor does not end with words of comfort; he activates the whole population to help the poor and the needy.

He is very sympathetic to sick people. He visits the sick not only in homes in the parish and in the hospitals nearby, but also in distant areas. He is always willing to shoulder the burden of fellow human beings. He can be called "Alter Christus" (Another Christ).

People place great demands on his time and energy. For Mass, Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals and many such needs, people want Msgr. Adams. His day never ends. He does everything without complaints and fanfare. He is accessible to everyone. "What do you want me to do for you" is his unalterable attitude. He is a servant with Christ his Master.

He rightly deserved the honor of "Citizen of the Year" conferred upon him. The City Council set apart a day as Monsignor Adams Day.

Monsignor Adams does alot of laborious work for the church, school, church hall, cemetery and the church and school grounds. He fixes furniture, rooms, toilets and showers. Even though there are helpers, he carries upon himself the brunt of the work. Under his great care, from scratch, St. Michael's became the most covetous institution in Livermore. It is now like the largest of shrubs into which a mustard seed has grown. There are many priests, deacons, sisters, financial administrators, secretaries, officers of various organizations, teachers and other skilled workers and dedicated volunteers who work under him and with him. Everyone is bonded with love and the origin of that love is Monsignor Adams.

He acts here and now with far-reaching consequences that will bring blessings to generations.