

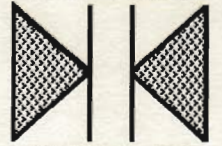
The Parish Window

St. Michael's Church, Livermore, California

May 1995

Volume Four • Number Two

LOOKING IN



LOOKING OUT

St. Michael's Celebrates Monsignor Adams' Golden Jubilee and Retirement



Monsignor Adams' Ordination, 1945

Dear Friends of St. Michael's:

In the very near future I will be able to call you "fellow parishioner." I will be receiving from the Parish mail and, of course, envelopes, as you do. It will be a new experience, being a parishioner and not a pastor.

However, I am not resigning from the Priesthood. I will be available for ministry when and where needed if the times are feasible. I also have a three-year assignment on a Diocesan level, being a member of the Diocesan Retirement Board. I have a small but nice Chapel in back of my house for my daily Mass, when not ministering elsewhere.

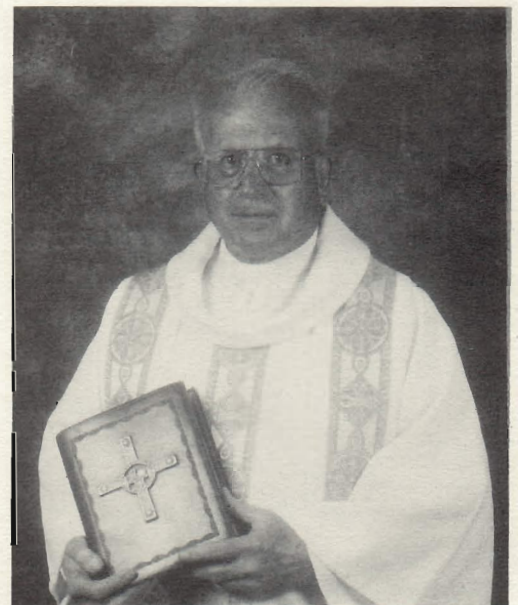
I will be living in Livermore for several reasons. For one thing, my doctors, all four of them, are located in the Valley. And, after 31 years Livermore has become my permanent home.

My second home is being reserved in St. Michael's Cemetery. If you see me

walking the streets of Livermore and wish to say "hello," honk your horn once. If you wish to ignore me, honk twice!

Many thanks to all of you for your support of me in many ways, for your friendship, and for your cooperation. By the way, since this issue of The Parish Window is all about me, don't believe everything you hear or read!

Monsignor Adams
Monsignor Adams



Monsignor Adams' Golden Jubilee, 1995

All Are Welcome -

A special celebration in honor of Monsignor Adams' Golden Jubilee and Retirement is being held on Saturday, May 27th at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Avenue in Pleasanton. Prayer Service begins at 10:30 am. Bring a picnic basket and celebrate, 12:00 - 4:00 pm.



Our pastor, Monsignor Robert G. Adams, was born in San Rafael, California, in 1919 on October 4, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. From his toddler days on he lived in San Anselmo.

Graduating magna cum laude from St. Joseph's in 1940, Monsignor, shown here in the required daily attire of cassock, continued his studies for the priesthood at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park.



Memorable Moments...



Monsignor Adams, shown here in the third grade (top row, eighth from left), attended St. Anselm's parish school until eighth grade graduation in 1934. While at St. Anselm's, Monsignor served as an Altar Boy. Upon graduation, he began his studies for the priesthood at St. Joseph's Preparatory Seminary in Mountain View.

While Monsignor was a seminarian, he played semi-professional baseball during the summers for the San Anselmo Merchants. Monsignor has remained an avid sports fan even though he gave up playing baseball for the priesthood.



During his seminary days, Monsignor Adams' was able to visit often with his family. His father and mother are shown with him in this picture from his days at St. Joseph's. Monsignor had four brothers and one sister.



A Tribute to Monsignor Adams

We thank Fela Gutierrez and Cecilia Larsen for their written tributes about Monsignor Adams, which formed the basis of the following text. The italic phrases are excerpts from a document by Monsignor Adams titled, "The Priesthood: As I See It."

As we join Monsignor Adams in celebrating his fifty years of priesthood, we find it difficult to distill in words the essence of his Christ-like service that has touched so many in the parish and beyond. But knowing of his lifelong devotion to the gentle, caring St. Francis of Assisi, on whose feast day Monsignor was born, does provide us insight. The Prayer of St. Francis, reprinted here, has been Monsignor's model. To read the Prayer is to learn the guiding motivation of our beloved pastor.

Prayer is the radical source of his security and strength and only real safeguard against superficiality.

Monsignor Adams' earlier years as a priest were spent serving various parishes and institutions where he acquired the flexibility and sense of humor that have enabled him to guide and serve so many so well. For the past thirty-one years St. Michael's parishioners have been the grateful beneficiaries of Monsignor's service. He has patiently and thoughtfully guided the parish through many changes, both spiritual and secular.

Shortly after he arrived at St. Michael's in 1964, Monsignor responded to the call of Vatican II for more lay involvement by organizing the first Parish Council in the Oakland diocese, forming a school board, and encouraging lay participation in parish ministries. To accommodate changes in church liturgical celebrations, he directed the renovation of the main church, carefully selecting and placing furnishings to ensure an atmosphere that was conducive to the worship of God. Believing that religious education is a lifelong pursuit, he improved the parish education plant by building a new convent and then remodeling the old convent to function as an education center for parishioners of all ages.

That the parish become a Christ-centered community, a family in which priests and people together are gathered in mutual love and cooperation with Jesus as their head.

Under his stewardship, the parish has grown from 1500 families, many of whom traced their roots to original Livermore Valley settlers, to 3500 families, most of whom are new to Livermore. Recognizing the diversity of his parish, Monsignor Adams has always tried to meet everyone's needs

and has remained moderate and traditional in his administration of the parish. Always emphasizing our oneness in Christ, he shows his concern for all by encouraging and participating in parish activities that promote Christian community, whether a youth ski trip or saying Mass for a Golden Friends luncheon. He has offered parish facilities for ethnic religious celebrations by Filipinos, Italians, Portuguese, and Vietnamese, to name a few, and has recognized the needs of the large Latin community by having a regular Sunday Mass

in Spanish. When an Hispanic priest was not available to offer such a Mass, Monsignor learned Spanish and celebrates the Spanish Mass almost every Sunday. His concern for the less fortunate and the sick reaches far beyond the parish.

If a priest dares to be human like Christ, he will have to be dedicated, unpretentious, open, and compassionate. For a priest, the ideal is to be another Christ.

Some of the affectionate names by which parishioners call Monsignor are Padre, Boss, Numero Uno, and Padrecito, indications both of his accessibility and of the esteem in which he is held. His greatest gift to the

parish is his personal faith and trust in God, and his humble service to his calling. He extends his help to all who have special spiritual, physical, or material needs. His good works are too numerous to ever name; many are known but to the recipient of his kind word or of his good deed. But all who know Monsignor Adams know the fidelity with which he follows the words of Christ, "I came to serve, not to be served."

A man to whom others can turn not because of what he is able to do, but because of what he is—a friend to love them, one who generates an atmosphere of warmth and trust in which they are able to love in return.

It is with the greatest admiration, gratitude, love, and friendship that we honor this fine and humble Priest. We are pleased that upon his retirement he has chosen to live in Livermore. Be assured, Monsignor Adams, that your parishioners will remain your family. We wish you peace, joy, love, good health, relaxation.

Now it is our turn to serve you; please allow us that privilege.

The Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.

Divine Master, grant that I may not
so much seek to be consoled as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love.

It is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born again.

Parishioner-on-the-Street

by Maria Federle

On March 18th, the following parishioners were asked to describe their favorite memory of Monsignor Adams. Here are their responses:



Clara Gibson

"When Father Adams first moved here, I was having a little difficulty. I had just lost a child and I needed a little advice. He gave me an hour-and-a-half complete, without any interruptions at all, which, to me, was great."

Clara Gibson

"The memory that I have most about Father Adams is him coming over to the school and playing with all the kids and kind of beating up on us in a playful way, and having a lot of fun with all the kids."

Kendra Telford

"My special memory is when I was younger and an altar server, how he used to kid with us and used to give us different names, like I used to have a butch haircut and he'd call me curly. He will always have a little kid in him I think."

Paul Kennedy



Paul Kennedy

"My special memory of Father Adams is that through his parish I have learned the love of Jesus instead of the fear of God. And he came over and blessed my house and brought this beautiful peace that will hopefully cherish and grow forever and ever."

Lauri Mosset

"I have enjoyed his sermons. They have been very rewarding to listen to his sermons."

Sally Sorci

"I've always enjoyed the way Father Adams is at the door greeting us as we leave after Mass with a smile and a handshake. It's always been special to me."

Gary Sorci



Sally Sorci

"I'll probably miss seeing him at school. My friends and I always like to visit him where the big hall is. I'm going to miss him very much when he is going to retire. He brought us doughnuts in kindergarten and in first grade, which I am in now."

Courtney Lara

"When he shakes hands with the kids when they walk out of church. He has such a powerful hand that they are in awe of his strength."

Margie Kubiak



Joe Revolinsky

"Well, he comes to our school and he's really rough with us. He jokes around with us."

Megan Revolinsky



Megan Revolinsky

"As I've become more involved in the parish I think Monsignor Adams while remaining aloof is personable with all the young people. They miss it if he doesn't go up and hit them on the arm, especially when he's going through the schoolyard; you see the bond that he has. At the end of church as he shakes your hand, [you feel] his firm grip. I'm sure everybody has felt that. I really think we're going to miss him because he's a wonderful priest and administrator. I think that's the key."

Joe Revolinsky

"We will miss his humor. Everytime he meets you, he tries to wrestle with you, playing. And his understanding of different opinions of people. I think he's going to be very hard to replace; it's not very often you find someone so easy-going, so easy-understanding and with a love of everyone."

Manuel Rosa



Kayla Calton

"My best memory of Father Adams was when he comes into our school and he plays with us and he rough-houses with us."

Kayla Calton

... And Treasured Times



Monsignor Adams was ordained a priest on June 16, 1945 by Archbishop John Mitty at the original St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco. His parents and four brothers attended the joyous ceremony. His mother and four brothers are shown with Monsignor on the day of his ordination.



Monsignor is on a ski trip in 1948 with the teen group of St. Agnes Church, his first assignment after ordination. After coming to St. Michael's, Monsignor Adams participated in annual ski trips for St. Michael's teen groups.



Monsignor's Silver Jubilee Mass was held in the Livermore High School gymnasium to accommodate everyone. Thirty-eight of his family, including three of his four brothers, a great-aunt, aunt, and numerous nieces and nephews joined the parish in celebrating. The Altar Society made the Mass vestments, which are still used today.

On September 28, 1975, Pope Paul VI bestowed the honor of domestic prelate with the title of Monsignor on Father Adams. The parish expressed their joy by giving Monsignor a new car.



Monsignor has always made time to spend with parish youth, whether it be saying Mass for them, greeting them for Faith Formation classes, or just socializing with them on the church or school grounds.



May 1995

APPOINTMENTS OF MONSIGNOR ROBERT G. ADAMS

- 1934 - 1940 St. Joseph's Preparatory Seminary, Mountain View, CA
1940 - 1945 St. Patrick's Major Seminary, Menlo Park
June 16, 1945 Ordination to Priesthood, St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco
July 2, 1945 Assigned as Assistant Priest to St. Agnes Parish, San Francisco
Two or so mos. Substitute for Pastor at St. Anthony's Church, Manteca
July 12, 1955 Appointed as Assistant Pastor at St. Theresa's Church, Oakland
Feb. 26, 1957 Resident Chaplain of Providence Hospital, Oakland
As Chaplain, also taught student Nurses at Providence College
of Nursing, as a member of staff of Holy Names College
April 9, 1962 Assigned as Assistant Pastor to St. Cyril's Parish, Oakland
May 17, 1962 Assigned as Pastor of St. Columba's Church, Oakland
Jan. 10, 1964 Assigned as Pastor of St. Michael's Parish, Livermore
June 15, 1975 Installed as a Monsignor
- Also:*
April 1970 License granted by the State of California as a Marriage,
Family and Child Counselor in the State of California

The Parish Window

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Staff: Howard Alford, Maria Federle,
Polly Grover, Fela Gutierrez, Mary Keller,
Ed Lafranchi, Cecilia Larsen, Joe
McCarthy, Mary Pineda, Michelle Zurwalt
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