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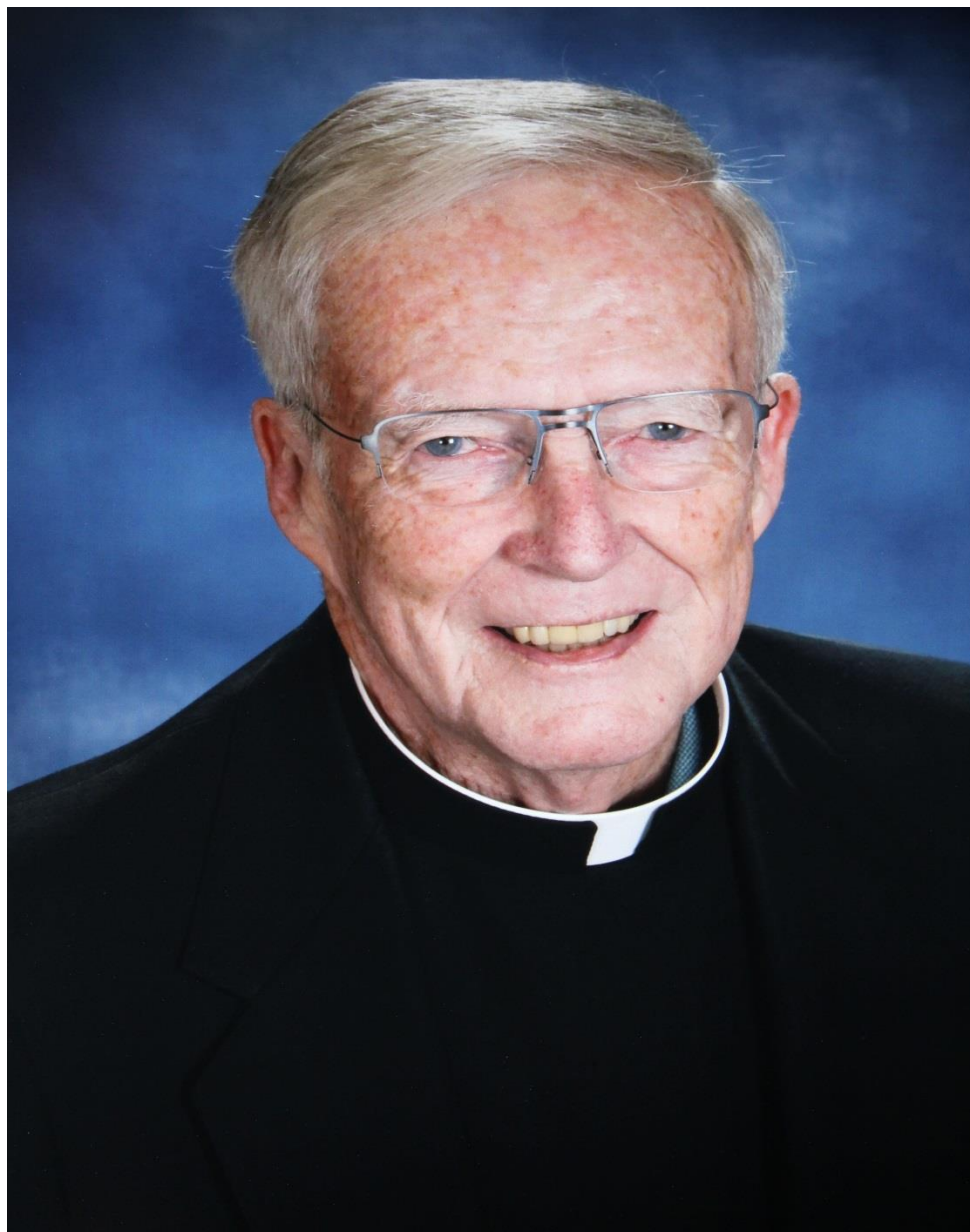
Monsignor Murrrough Christopher Wallace

Native Son of Derry, Ireland

Priest of the Diocese of Sacramento

Pastor Emeritus of Saint Theresa Parish, South Lake Tahoe

June 2016



Murrough Christopher Wallace was born on June 10, 1936 in Derry, Ireland, the youngest of three children born to John Wallace and Aileen Nicell. Murrough's oldest sister is Sister Assumpta (Maire), a Sister of Mercy, and his brother Sean. All three children were born in Derry because Aileen Wallace returned home to her mother to have each of her children in the hospital in Derry.

GROWING UP IN DROGHEDA

After Murrough's birth, his mother returned to the family home in Drogheda, County Louth. His mother Aileen and the mother of Sylvester McDermott attended the same school together in Derry. All three of the Wallace children grew up in Drogheda. Murrough began school at Saint Mary National School which was run by the Mercy Sisters. He attended Saint Joseph Christian Brothers High School in Drogheda.

IN THE AFTERMATH OF WORLD WAR II



Murrough, Maire and Sean

After World War II, an appeal was made to the Irish people to take starving German children into their home because Germany had little or no food. Murrough's father, an active member of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society in Drogheda, decided to take in three children from the same family. These children lived in the Wallace home for three years. At the end of those three years, the children, Manfred, Harold and Ursula ZumKley, were required to return to their family in Germany. Ursula asked to come back to Ireland to live with the Wallace family and her parents gave her permission. Ursula remained in the Wallace household through high school, did training as a secretary and then worked as the secretary to the brew master of a local brewery.

Ursula met a young man named John Monaghan who was a classmate of Murrough. John and Ursula eventually married and John became a dairy farmer. The Monaghans have six children, five of whom are married and have children. John and Ursula live on a dairy farm outside the town of Navan.

When the German children were living with the Wallace family, Murrough's father John would collect food in Drogheda, package it and send it to the ZumKley family, the parent of the children who lived in Dusseldorf, Germany.

HIGH SCHOOL AND SEMINARY

Ever since he was a young boy in Drogheda, Murrough always served Mass at the Augustinian church in Drogheda and priesthood was in his thoughts. When the time came to attend a seminary, he entered All Hallows College, Dublin, following the footsteps of a neighbor named Lawrence O'Shea.

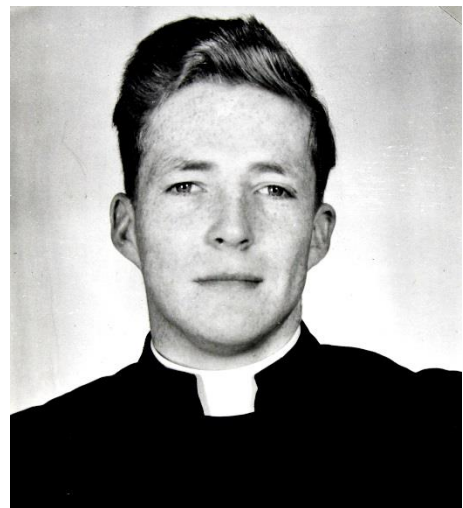
ALL HALLOWS COLLEGE, DUBLIN



All Hallows College, Dublin

Murrough says All Hallows College, Dublin was enjoyable. There were 38 students in his seminary class. He attended two years of philosophy and four years of theology. During these six years, life in the seminary went smoothly for him.

During his first year at All Hallows, the seminary faculty asked the seminarians where in the English speaking world they might like to serve as priests. The rector proposed to a few of the seminarians that they consider Sacramento since Bishop McGucken was a good friend of the seminary and All Hallows wanted to support Sacramento. Murrough decided that he would study for the Diocese of Sacramento.



Murrough as a Seminarian at All Hallows College 1957

ORDAINED A PRIEST FOR SACRAMENTO



Photo courtesy of Monsignor Wallace

Ordination of Father Wallace and his Classmates in All Hallows Chapel

Murrough Wallace was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Sacramento on June 19, 1960 in the All Hallows' College chapel by Bishop John Scanlan, bishop of Honolulu and alumnus of the college. There were 38 men ordained that day for dioceses throughout the English speaking world. After his ordination, Father Wallace was with his family until September.



Father Wallace celebrates his First Mass at Saint Mary Church, his home parish in Drogheda

All Hallow's College, Dublin Young Priests

1960



REV. G. McDERMOTT (SACRAMENTO)

REV. T. McCARTHY (LOS ANGELES)

REV. L. DONNELLY (SACRAMENTO)

REV. D. J. O'LEARY (LEEDS)

REV. J. WALSH (SALFORD)

REV. P. McSONLEY (GALLOWAY)

REV. J. V. HUTTON (LEEDS)

REV. F. O'DOOLE (BROOKLYN)

REV. P. HARAN (SOUTHWAKE)

REV. A. McLAUGHLIN (SALT LAKE)

REV. J. LIVERY (SOUTHWAKE)

REV. J. McWALLACE (SACRAMENTO)

REV. A. J. STANTON (WASHINGTON)

REV. J. McBLINCHY (SACRAMENTO)

REV. S. O'CONNOR (SACRAMENTO)

REV. P. RUANE (BATHURST)



REV. J. COYLE (DUBLIN)

REV. J. McBLINCHY (SACRAMENTO)

REV. J. COCKROVE (LOS ANGELES)

REV. M. KELLY (ST. JOHN'S NEWFOUNDLAND)

REV. J. McLAUGHLIN (SALT LAKE)

REV. E. O'HARA (SACRAMENTO)

REV. J. SULLIVAN (SOUTHWAKE)

REV. J. SULLIVAN (SOUTHWAKE)

REV. J. McDOURKE (SARASOTA)

REV. J. COLLINS (ST. GEORGE'S NEWFOUNDLAND)

REV. J. McLAUGHLIN (SALT LAKE)

REV. E. McCARTHY (ST. AUGUSTINE)

REV. T. MURPHY (BROOKLYN)

REV. J. McLAUGHLIN (SALT LAKE)

REV. J. McMURTAGH (SAN ANTONIO)

REV. J. O'SHEA (TAKAMA)

REV. B. O'SULLIVAN (HOT SPRING)

REV. J. McLAUGHLIN (SALT LAKE)

MOST REV. JOHN J. SCANLAN
AUXILIARY BISHOP OF HONOLULU

REV. S. KERR (TAKAMA)

REV. J. McLAUGHLIN (SALT LAKE)

REV. J. McGALLAGHER (TAKAMA)

REV. W. SIMPSON (TAKAMA)

REV. E. JORDAN (DODGE CITY)

REV. J. OBYRNE (LEICESTER)

REV. J. McDOURKE (SARASOTA)

REV. J. McLAUGHLIN (SALT LAKE)

REV. J. McLAUGHLIN (SALT LAKE)

REV. J. McLAUGHLIN (SALT LAKE)

EUNTES DOCETE OMNES GENTES

December 2, 1960

All Hallows Ordination Class of 1960

SETTING SAIL FOR NEW YORK



Newly Ordained Priests set Sail for America and Sacramento in September 1960

L-R Seminarian, Louis Donnelly (left priesthood), Andy O'Donnell (left), Seamus O'Connor (left), Sylvester McDermott, Murrrough Wallace, Aiden O'Reilly, Ed O'Hara, Jackie McGlinchey (left)

Father Wallace and the other priests ordained for Sacramento left Ireland at the end of September from the port of Cobh near Cork. It took five days to sail cross the Atlantic and after sailing into New York Harbor, Father Wallace spent a few days with cousins in Hackensack, New Jersey. On one of those days, he and his cousins were walking down a street in Hackensack when they met New York Yankee player Roger Maris who was on the winning team of the World Series that year. Father Wallace had no idea who Maris was. Roger Maris said to Father Wallace, "You don't know who I am, do you?" Murrrough said "I have no idea."



NY Yankee Roger Maris

ON TO SAN FRANCISCO

Father Wallace and his fellow Sacramento-bound priests met at John F Kennedy Airport in New York and they flew together to San Francisco. This was Father Wallace's first time to fly on a jet, a 707. Upon arrival in San Francisco, the group of young priests was met by Father Jim McKnight and Monsignor Con Higgins. The group went by car to Sacramento and were dropped off at Saint

Rose Parish on Franklin Boulevard. The pastors came to Saint Rose to pick up the young priests who was assigned to them.

FIRST ASSIGNMENT, SAINT CHARLES PARISH, SACRAMENTO

Father Wallace was assigned to the newly established Saint Charles Parish that existed in name only at that point. Monsignor James Poole dropped off Father Wallace at Immaculate Conception Parish in Sacramento. He remained living there until about Christmas when Monsignor Poole purchased a house in Center Parkway as the rectory. When Father Murrrough arrived at the house, there was no furniture. Monsignor Poole purchased a couple of beds right away so the two priests would each have a bed to sleep on in the rectory.

THE BEGINNING OF SAINT CHARLES PARISH

As Saint Charles Parish began, Mass was celebrated in the project office of Southgate Shopping Center. It was a meeting room that held a maximum of 100 people. Every Saturday, Father Wallace hauled 100 chairs and a table to this facility and set up the room for Sunday Mass. A group of laity was then organized to set up the space weekly. This went on for two years.

The first buildings constructed on the parish site were the parish school and gymnasium with a convent for the sisters who would be the teachers at the school. When the gym was completed, Sunday Mass was celebrated there. The parishioners built a stage in the gym where the altar was set up for Mass.



Father Wallace Celebrates Mass in Saint Charles School Gymnasium

Father Wallace served at Saint Charles Parish from 1960 to 1966. The main focus in the parish was building the facilities. Mercy Sister Monica Burns came to help with the registration of students for the parish school and tuition for a student was \$20/month. Monsignor Poole secured the Sisters of the Sacred Heart to teach at the school. There were 6 or 7 nuns who came from Connecticut.

MONSIGNOR POOLE, TALENTED AND WELL CONNECTED IN SACRAMENTO

Monsignor Poole was a great business man. He knew Bart Cavanagh who was the city manager of Sacramento. Through his connections, Monsignor Poole was able to get the county to install a culvert so the parish could gain access to its property. Monsignor Poole was able to raise the money needed to build the new parish through a parish fund drive and with many donations from city friends.

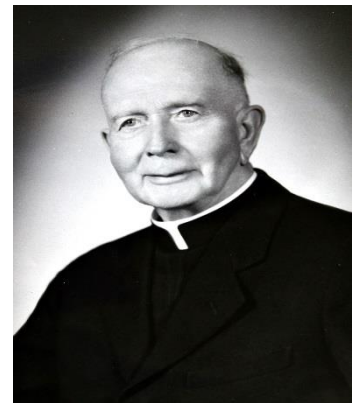
NEW ASSIGNMENT - COLUSA



After six years at Saint Charles Parish, Father Wallace received a letter in the mail from Monsignor Higgins telling him that he was assigned to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Colusa. The pastor, Monsignor John McGarry, was around 75 years of age and had been pastor of Colusa for many years. The rectory was an old house next to the church. Father Wallace says the house had not been painted for 40 years. It had three bedrooms, a dining room, a kitchen and two bathrooms. There was no office space at all in the house. Next to Monsignor McGarry's chair was a stack of unopened mail three feet high.

MONSIGNOR JOHN MCGARRY RETIRES

It took an effort by Bishop Bell for Monsignor McGarry to retire as pastor. Once this was accomplished, Father Anthony Maio was appointed the new pastor of Colusa but Monsignor McGarry continued to live in the rectory. When Father Maio moved into the Colusa rectory, he had to live in the guest room until a new residence could be secured.



PLAN TO BUILD A NEW CHURCH IN COLUSA

Father Maio set into motion an effort to build a new church in Colusa. In the meantime, the sisters who staffed the school suddenly withdrew from the parish, forcing the school to close.

Since the convent was now vacant, the priests made it the new rectory. In the midst of all these changes, Father Maio was suddenly reassigned to Holy Rosary Parish in Woodland as pastor.

Father Maio's reassignment to Woodland took place while Father Wallace was on vacation in Ireland. On the flight back to the United States, Father Bill Walsh was on the same plane and informed Father Wallace that he was no longer an assistant at Colusa. This was the first time Father Wallace heard about this. After he returned to Colusa, Bishop Bell called Father Wallace and asked him to meet in his office in Sacramento. Father Wallace drove to Sacramento and met with Bishop Bell who told him that the diocese was reducing the staff at Colusa to one priest. He asked Father Wallace what he wanted to do next. The bishop offered Murrough two choices – CYO director or assistant at Saint Basil Parish in Vallejo. Father Wallace chose CYO.

He temporarily lived in residence at Saint Robert Parish until there was an opening at the Cathedral rectory. He moved to the Cathedral where he lived in residence for the next 20 years.

YOUTH MINISTRY

CYO and Camp Pendola evolved into youth ministry, then evolved into youth and young adult ministry. Father Wallace was director of this ministry for 20 years. The office was first located in what is now known as the lower level of the cathedral. Then in 1981, the youth office moved to a house owned by the diocese on L Street near Sutter's Fort. The Marriage Tribunal then moved into the vacated space in the lower level of the Cathedral.



During his time as director of youth and young adult ministry and Camp Pendola, Father Wallace built Our Lady of the Sierra Chapel at Camp Pendola. He left youth ministry in 1990 and succeeding him as director was Sister Katherine Doyle, RSM.

NAMED A CHAPLAIN OF HIS HOLINESS

In 1977, at the request of retiring Bishop Alden Bell, Pope Paul VI named seven priests of the Sacramento diocese as Chaplains of His Holiness. Father Murrough Wallace was one of those seven priests and he and the six other priests were installed as monsignors on October 23, 1977 by Bishop Bell in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

THE EVOLUTION OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth ministry kept evolving. It was first focused on sports, then evolved into youth groups and training. Father Wallace hired Cheryl Tholcke to train youth ministers for work in parishes. Camp Pendola took a lot of time and energy to operate. At this point of development, there were a lot of people involved in youth ministry throughout the diocese. Kevin O'Brien and Steve Tholcke began a media ministry. They also provided music for youth dances and produced a half-hour weekly program called *Face the Music* which was broadcast on four or five radio stations throughout the diocese.



Father Wallace Celebrates a Youth Mass in Weed

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR OF BISHOP MANOGUE HIGH SCHOOL

In 1980, Bishop Quinn asked Monsignor Wallace to be financial administrator of Manogue High School. He served half time at Manogue High School and half time as director of youth and young adult ministries. Manogue High School closed in 1990 and Father Wallace was instrumental in dealing with the disbursement of all the equipment of the school. He remembers that the basketball hoops went to Saint Catherine Parish in Vallejo; tables and chairs were given to the new hall at Sacred Heart Parish in Fort Jones; and science lab equipment was given to Jesuit High School.

PLANNING OF THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTER

When the Diocesan Pastoral Center was being planned, Father Wallace suggested that the Manogue chapel be kept by the diocese to become the chapel for the Pastoral Center. The diocesan planning committee decided not to retain the chapel for the Pastoral Center but to include the space in the lease to the State of California.

PASTOR OF RANCHO CORDOVA

In 1990, Bishop Quinn appointed Monsignor Wallace pastor of Saint John Vianney Parish in Rancho Cordova, succeeding Father Michael McKeon. While he was pastor, Monsignor Wallace renovated the parish rectory and enclosed the backyard so the priests would have some privacy.



Photo by John E Boll 2011

Saint John Vianney Church, Rancho Cordova

PASTOR OF ST THERESA PARISH, SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

In 1993, Father John Grace announced his intention to retire as pastor of Saint Theresa Parish in South Lake Tahoe. Monsignor Wallace applied for this pastorate and Bishop Quinn appointed him pastor in May 1993. This was Bishop Quinn's last appointment before he retired as bishop of Sacramento.

South Lake Tahoe would be Monsignor Wallace's final parish assignment. He arrived there in May 1993 and it soon became obvious to him that the parish needed a new church because the present church was old, inadequate, and in need of a lot of costly repair. He also received requests from parishioners to reopen the school. In 1994, Monsignor Wallace did reopen the parish school.

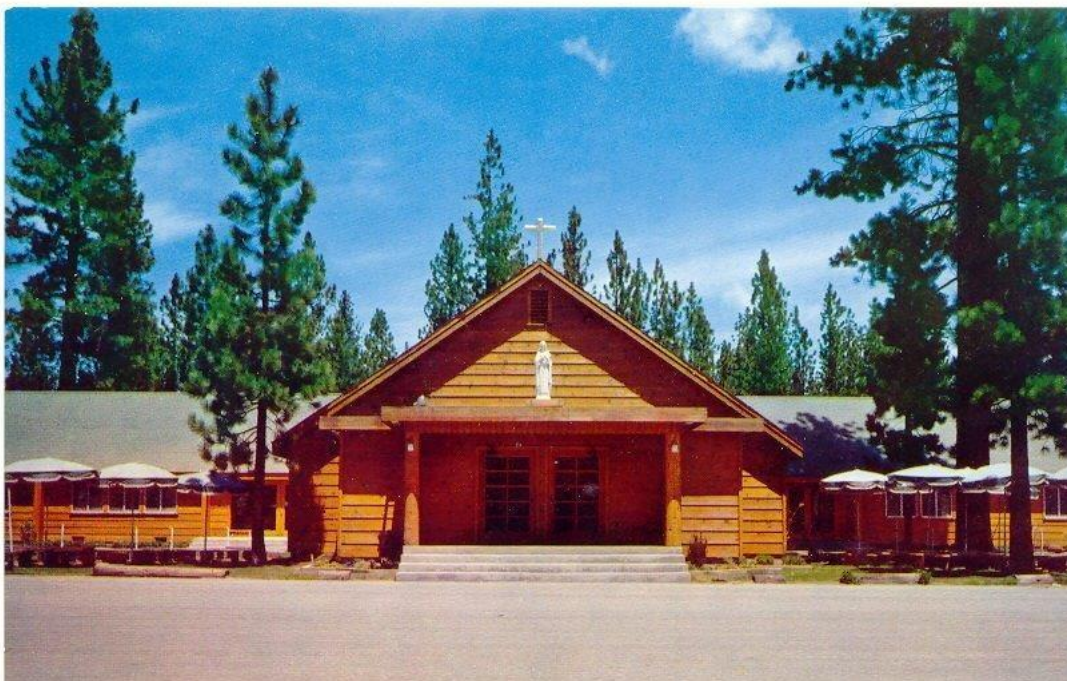


Photo Courtesy of St Theresa Parish

The Original Saint Theresa Church

BUILDING A NEW PARISH CHURCH

In 1998, Monsignor Wallace began talking about building a new church. The parish lost the site of Saint Mary's outdoor chapel near Stateline because the water district needed the land to expand its facilities. Three Masses were celebrated at this small outdoor chapel during the summer months which seated only 80 people.

Monsignor Wallace says he met a lot of resistance to the idea of a new church from elderly parishioners who wanted the old church to remain and be designated as an historical building. To be designated as an historical building, the church had to be at least 50 years old. At that point, the church was 48 years old so there were only two years left before it could be so designated.



Photo by John E Boll 2012

Interior of the new Saint Theresa Church

Monsignor Wallace had to work fast if a new church was going to be built. The parish had \$3.5 million in the bank that had been saved over the years. Because of a major donation, the new church and the hall attached to it was paid for by the time of the dedication.

While the new church was being constructed, Sunday Masses were held in the parish gym in 1999. The new church was dedicated in April 2000 by Bishop William Weigand.

MONSIGNOR WALLACE RETIRES

In 2000, Monsignor Wallace purchased a house in the Tahoe Keys area of South Lake Tahoe and rented it until 2003. In August 2003 he retired from his pastorate and moved into his home where he continues to live today. As his contribution to the parish, he handles most of the weddings of the parish including couples from outside the parish who want to be married in Saint Theresa Church. He has noticed that the number of weddings celebrated in the parish has slowed in recent years. He also helps with one or two Sunday Masses and celebrates a couple of Masses during the week.

PRIEST RETIREMENT FUND

Monsignor Wallace was a member of the original retirement board for the Priests' Retirement Fund and became secretary of that board. He used to be the one who collected the parish

retirement dues until six years ago. At that point, the diocesan finance department took over the collection of the parish retirement dues and it was a welcome relief for Monsignor Wallace. Now, he is the contact person who helps priests preparing to retire to understand the retirement process and what the retiring priest needs to do in preparation for his retirement from ministry. Monsignor Wallace is the unsung hero who has helped many retired priests through this process.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Monsignor Wallace turned 80 on June 10, 2016. When he left the shores of Ireland from the port of Cobh with his brother priests who were leaving Ireland for Sacramento, little did he or they know what to expect when they arrived in Sacramento. Fifty-six years have passed since his arrival in Sacramento. During those years, Monsignor Wallace helped establish Saint Charles Parish, worked in youth ministry for 20 years, served as financial administrator of Bishop Manogue High School, built a chapel at Camp Pendola, renovated Saint John Vianney rectory and built the new Saint Theresa church in South Lake Tahoe.

These past 56 years have gone by quickly and Monsignor Wallace has guided many ministries in the diocese with a steady hand. Even now in retirement he is a great help and mentor to the pastors who have succeeded him in South Lake Tahoe. In many unseen ways, Monsignor Wallace continues to use his talents to help the diocese, the priests and the people of this diocese.

Thank you, Murrough, for your steady and faithful service to the Church of Sacramento over five and a half decades. We wish you good health and many happy and fruitful years in retirement.

Ad Multos Annos!

Photos of Monsignor Wallace's Family on their Journey of Life



John Wallace, Murrough's Father



Aileen Nicell, Murrough's Mother



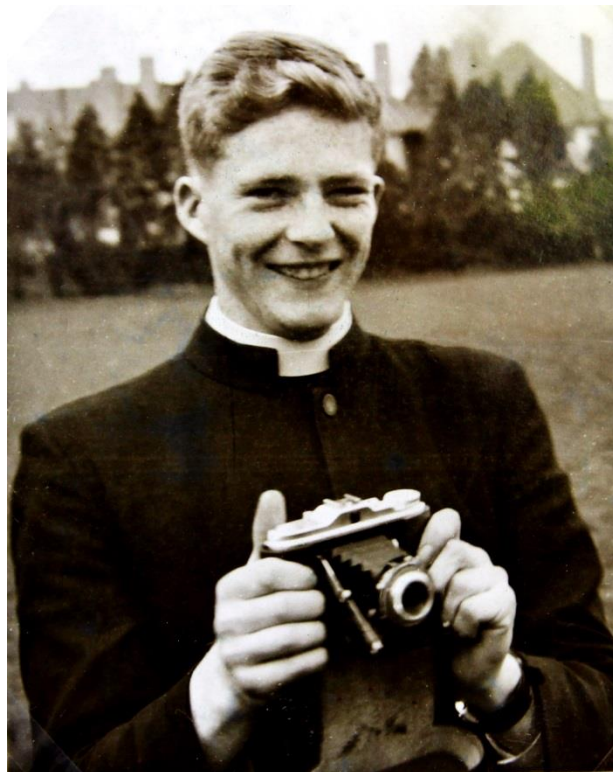
Monsignor Wallace Sister Assumpta (Maire) Sean

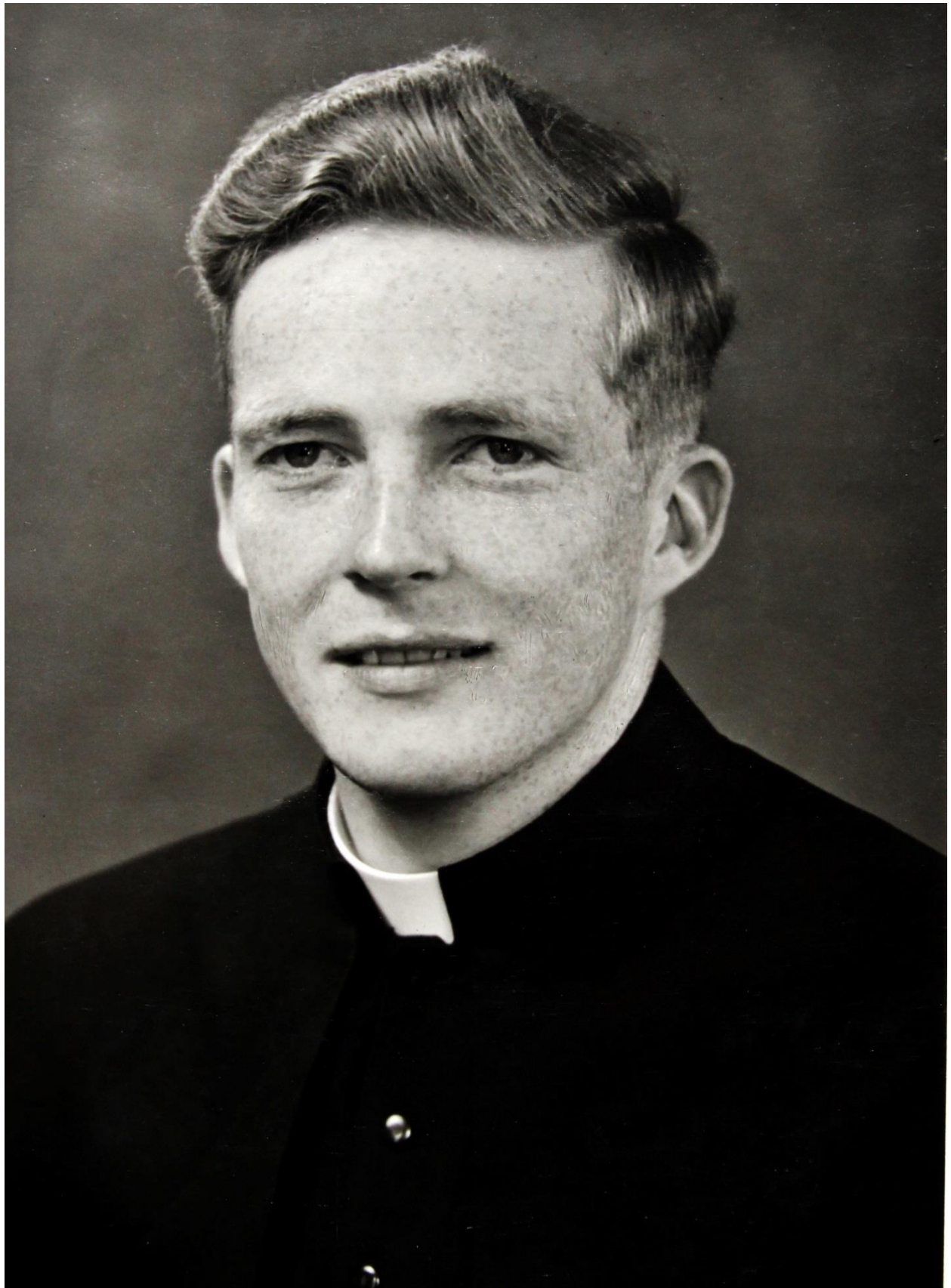


Murrough's Seminary Class, All Hallows College, Dublin, Ireland



Murrough





Father Wallace's 1960 Ordination Portrait



Newly Ordained Father Wallace Blesses his Mother Aileen



The Wallace Family Celebrate Father Murrough's Ordination Day



Sister Assumpta and her Grandmother Ella Nicell



Sean Wallace and Colette Curley's Wedding Day, August 1960



Wedding of John Monaghan and Ursula ZumKley , August 1963



John and Aileen Wallace's Golden Wedding Anniversary, July 31, 1980



Monsignor Murrrough C Wallace



Photo by John E Boll 2009

Beautiful Emerald Bay, Lake Tahoe

Special thanks to Monsignor Murrough Wallace for sharing his great selection of personal and family photographs which he took over the years and allowed to be included in his biography.

Published with the permission of Monsignor Murrough Wallace.