

He is now Rt. Rev. Msgr. Gallagher

Holy Trinity pastor given new title



In the presence of approximately 150 priests of the archdiocese of Los Angeles, sisters from various religious orders and a large congregation of parishioners and friends, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. George Michael Gallagher, pastor of Holy Trinity Church, was invested Tuesday in the robes of a domestic prelate by His Excellency Bishop Patrick Lennon, bishop of the diocese of Kildare and Leighlin in Ireland and an old friend of Monsignor Gallagher.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Benjamin G. Hawkes, chancellor of the archdiocese preached the sermon. The music was furnished by the Holy Trinity Senior Choir under the direction of Emerson Trent, with Leo Rosbottom, organist.

Monsignor Gallagher was ordained to the priesthood on June 10, 1928, to serve in the archdiocese of Los Angeles. He arrived in Los Angeles in September, 1928. Having served in several parishes in the Los Angeles area as an assistant pastor, Msgr. Gallagher received his first pastorate in January, 1941, being appointed pastor of St. Rose of Lima parish, Simi Valley.

In July, 1942, he was appointed pastor of St. Gertrude's parish, Bell Gardens. Then, in November, 1946, he came to San Pedro as pastor of Holy Trinity Church, then located at Grand Avenue and O'Farrell Street, and now known as St. Peter's Church.

In 1949, Msgr. Gallagher purchased property at Santa Cruz and Walker Streets, and shortly afterwards built a 17-classroom school and convent. Subsequently, plans were formulated for a new Holy Trinity Church which was completed in 1961.

The church adorns the hillside in the Eastview area of San Pedro and its stately tower can be seen for many miles.

The Holy Father Pope Paul VI honored Father Gallagher in December by making him a domestic prelate with the title of "Right Reverend Monsignor."

The parish plans a reception for Msgr. Gallagher on Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. in the school auditorium. All are invited to come and personally congratulate him. There also is a plan to have a testimonial dinner for the monsignor on March 8.