

Father Jerald F. Thomas

Born: February 24, 1926
St. Joseph's Class: Rhetoric 1950
Ordained: June 16, 1956
Deceased: February 8, 2013

Father Jerald Thomas, a priest of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, died peacefully on Thursday, February 8, 2013, at Nazareth House, San Rafael, California.

Father Thomas was born on February 24, 1926 in Oakland, California. He received his early education at St. Jarlath's, Oakland, the Ursuline Academy, St. Helena and St. Mary's, San Leandro elementary schools. He attended Vallejo High School and San Rafael Military Academy graduating in 1943.



In 1948 he entered St. Joseph's Seminary College, Mountain View, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in 1952. From there he went on to study for the Priesthood at St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park for service in the Archdiocese of San Francisco. He was ordained to the Priesthood on June 16, 1956 by the Most Reverend Merlin Guilfoyle, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

After his ordination to the priesthood he ministered as an associate pastor at Most Holy Redeemer, San Francisco, Holy Spirit, Fairfield, St. Apollinaris, Napa. The Diocese of Santa Rosa was established on February 21, 1962 and he found himself as part of the new Diocese which encompasses six counties from the Sonoma County line to the Oregon border and he served as an associate pastor at St. Eugene's Cathedral, St. Peter's Cloverdale, St. Elizabeth's Guerneville and St. Francis, Sonoma. Then on October 27, 1966 he was appointed pastor of St. Philip's, Occidental, and went on to serve as Pastor of St. Peter's, Cloverdale and St. Joan of Arc, Yountville.

In 1987 he became a part-time Associate at St. Eugene's Cathedral and served in that office until he retired from active priestly ministry in 1998, although he continued to assist at St. Eugene's Cathedral until 2006 at which time he retired to Nazareth House in San Rafael.

Father Thomas is preceded in death by his siblings, Francis D. Thomas and Robert J. Thomas and his nephew, Ronald J. Thomas. He is lovingly survived by his sister in law, Sarah Thomas; three nieces, Carol F. Thomas, Theresa L. Thomas and Elizabeth A. Whitten; two grand nieces, two grand nephews, one great grand-niece and one great-grand nephew.

A Vigil Service will be held on Thursday, February 14th at 7:00 p.m., and the Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, February 15, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Eugene's Cathedral, 2323 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa, followed by a reception at the Brinker Room of the Becker Center. Burial is at Holy Cross Cemetery, St. Helena