

## **Reverend William J. Ahlbach**

Born	February 17, 1937
St. Joseph's Seminary-College	Rhetoric year 1956
St. Patrick's – Ordained	June 9, 1962
Deceased	June 14, 2013

Father Ahlbach died suddenly on Friday, June 14, 2013, in San Mateo, California.

Beloved son of the late William J. Ahlbach and Margaret O'Connor Ahlbach. Brother of Donald, Gerald, Margaret, Mary and John; Brother-in-law of Marlene, Susan and Peggy; Uncle of Justin, Adam, Matthew, Martin, Suzanne, Beth, Gregory, Connor, Christopher and Mairead and Cousin to many in the O'Connor, Arata and Carson Families.

Father Bill graduated from St. Cecilia's Grammar School in 1950, St. Joseph's Seminary/College in 1956 and St. Patrick's Seminary in 1962. He was the last priest to be ordained in St. Mary's Cathedral on Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco, on June 9, 1962.

Although not one to suffer hypocrisy and bureaucracy lightly, Father Bill faithfully served the San Francisco Archdiocese for fifty-one years. He was a Parochial Vicar at St. Athanasius Church in Mountain View, Holy Name of Jesus Church in San Francisco, Church of the Resurrection in Sunnyvale, St. Dunston Church in Millbrae, St. Charles Church in San Carlos and for the last thirty-one years at St. Matthews Church in San Mateo. He passed away only thirty minutes after celebrating the Adoration Service at St. Matthew's last Friday evening.

Father Bill's ministry to the elderly, home-bound, infirmed and poor consumed his entire life. The Food Pantry at St. Matthew's was just one example of his dedication to God and God's people.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Reverend Anthony McGuire, Reverend Dominic Lee, Reverend Armando Gutierrez and Monsignor Warren Holleran for their friendship and support to Bill during the last few years of his declining health.

The visitation will be on Wednesday, June 19th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Sneider & Sullivan & O'Connell Mortuary at 977 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, and after 6:00 p.m. at St. Matthew's Church, One Notre Dame Avenue, San Mateo, with the Vigil Service at 7:30 p.m. The Mass of Christian Burial will be at St. Matthews Church on Thursday, June 20th, at 10:00 a.m. There will be a Reception in the School Auditorium after the Mass. Private burial will be later at Holy Cross Cemetery.

If so inclined, donations may be sent to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, c/o St. Matthews Church, One Notre Dame Avenue, San Mateo, California 94402

From the San Francisco Chronicle, 6/18/2013

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June 15, 2013 (Saturday PM)

Posted on the SemNet

I was very sad to learn today of Bill Ahlback's passing away at St. Matthews in San Mateo. Although Bill was ordained 5 years ahead of me, we had a close relationship because we served at the same 3 parishes. I replaced him at St. Athanasius, Mountain View, in 1967. Then I went to Holy Name in SF and lived with him and Msgr. Bill Flanagan for a number of years Later I went to St. Dunstan, Millbrae, and served with him and Norbie Feeley.

Bill was a great guy, a hard worker, an exceptional homilist, a joy to live with.

He was extremely loyal to both Msgr. Flanagan and Father Feeley. Bill marched to his own drummer never wanted to climb the clerical ladder; he had a great love for the poor as evidenced by his Food Pantry at St Matthews. As Bill used to brag, "I was the last priest ordained at the old St. Mary's Cathedral before it burned down."

My prayers for Bill. He will be missed. RIP.

**Len Duggan,**

St. Patrick's Seminary, Class of 1967.

The delightful photograph

Was distributed on SemNet by

**Louis Facchino**

June 18, 2013



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June 18, 2013

Posted on the SemNet

Let me tell you a bit about William Ahlback. I had the privilege of spending four years with Bill at Holy Name Parish from 1966-1970. Although he was only three years ahead of me in the seminary, I don't remember ever talking with him during all those years. When he came to Holy Name, I hung out with him every night after work. He had the TV and the record player, (Glen Campbell, "I am a Lineman for the County").

Mostly we talked about parish stuff, solved the problems of the world and laughed out loud a lot. I loved to make him laugh. His laugh was unique and as big as the man himself.

One Halloween our pastor, Big Bill Flanagan, was recuperating from surgery at the home of his two sisters in Saint Stephen's parish. Bill Ahlback declared that Halloween would be the night to breach the cloister. Bill purchased tons of candy, and set up in the Monsignor's sitting room. When the door bell started ringing, I took groups of awe struck trick-or-treaters upstairs for candy from the Laughing Out Loud Priest. Word got out in the neighborhood about the miracle at Holy Name rectory, and it seemed like every kid in the Sunset met Bill that night.

One Sunday Bill skillfully worked the lyrics from a Beatles tune into his homily. An enraged parishioner got up during the sermon and stomped out of Church. She was so angry that she jumped in her car and sped backwards into a car rolling down 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue. No one was hurt, and we had laughs for weeks over the crash. When I left Holy Name I lost contact with Bill. Earlier this year, I got my classmate, Tony McGuire, to invite me to dinner at Saint Matthew's. Bill and I laughed out loud again telling over and over tales of the great times at Holy Name parish.

LOL big Bill.

Love,

**Michael Sullivan, R'1959**

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