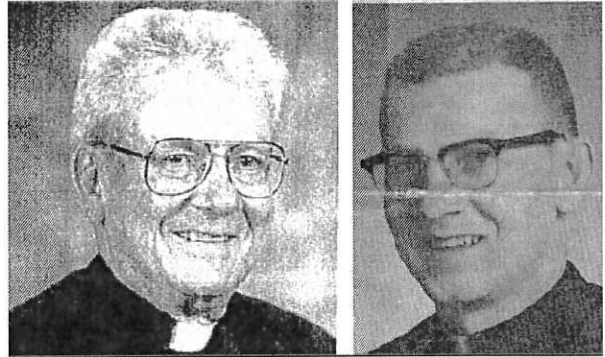


# Parish People: Priests of St. Joseph the Worker

*This is part 6 of a 12 part series about our parish history which we are running in the bulletin to celebrate our 50th anniversary year. This article covers parish priests. It was originally printed in The Messenger in 2008 and was based in most cases on direct contact with the priests through face-to-face interviews done by Anne Kurek & Jody Bramble, e-mail or phone calls.*

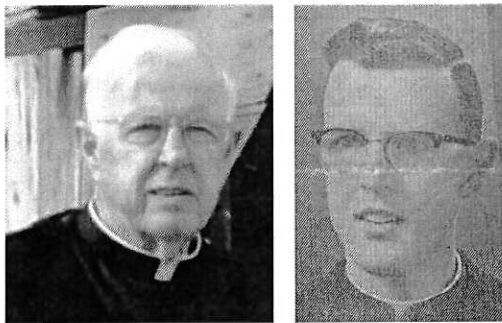
## **Monsignor John Joseph Sullivan**

Monsignor John Sullivan was the driving force behind the establishment of our church. In the early 1960's, he was the priest at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Copperton. He had previously been the priest at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Bingham and had witnessed the slow destruction of the mining towns and the displacement of the miners and their families. Msgr. Sullivan was known as a builder. He was an ardent supporter of worker's rights to unionize. The construction of St. Joseph the Worker, named after the patron saint of the working man, was a point of great pride for him. Msgr. Sullivan was also a builder of pride and esteem for minority groups, especially Hispanics. He was a great inspiration for the original founders of our parish. He died March 17, 2005.



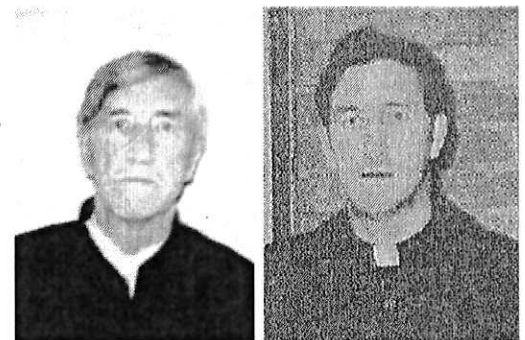
## **Rev. Matthew Oliver Wixted**

Father Wixted was the assistant to Father Sullivan in the early days of the parish. He was young and new to the priesthood in those days and has many happy memories of his short term at St. Joseph's. His most vivid memories are of the very hard working volunteers who built the church. Fr. Wixted came from Ireland in the same area as Father Carley— Thurles, County Tipperary. He has recently retired and was named a Monsignor. When he was interviewed for this story he was quick to tell a joke and had an infectious laugh. He expressed his love and fond regard of everyone at St. Joseph the Worker. He now lives in St. Joseph's Villa.



## **Rev. James Fogarty 1969-1972**

Father Fogarty was the first official pastor of St. Joseph the Worker and the first to live on the parish site. He, too, comes from Ireland. We emailed him a few years ago when he was in Mexico. He wrote us: *Paddy Carley is a neighbor from Tipperary and James Semple is a distant kinsman. I was pleasantly surprised to read about the changes and developments at St. Joseph the Worker and your plans to build a new church. During my tenure as pastor we had about 100 active families, but what we lacked in numbers was compensated by a great spirit of enthusiasm and generosity. I was the first Pastor-in-Residence— without a residence! The apartment in the hall was small but adequate if a little noisy at times. The parish had a distinctly Hispanic flavor in those days, and I learned enough Spanish to be able to celebrate Mass and hear confessions in that language. The Cursillo Movement was very helpful in bringing people together. I remember working with the VISTA volunteers who were helping the migrant workers in the area. Local people were always generous in their response to appeals for help. I wish you every success in your efforts to promote a spirit of community and fraternity at St. Joseph the Worker, and good luck with your building campaign.* Fr. Fogarty died September 6, 2013.



### **David C. Goddard 1972-1974**

We spoke with David Goddard by telephone on Dec. 19, 2008. He told us that he left the active ministry and the Diocese of Salt Lake in 1976. When we spoke he was residing in Oregon and was working for the Archdiocese of Portland. He had been married to his wife, Elke, for over 25 years. "We both wanted children, but that wasn't in God's plans for us," he said. Beginning in 1977, David went to work for TRW Communications Systems. He was promoted through supervisory and management levels and finally became the Director of Executive Programs for the Defense and Space System Group. His most rewarding position was as Director of Human Resources.



Above: Recent photo of David & Elke Goddard

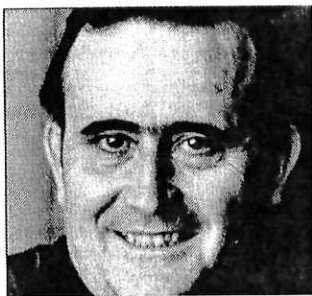
David remembers excellent Mass attendance among parishioners at St. Joseph the Worker. "The church was the center of their lives," he recalls.

One of the church's most popular fundraisers in his time was a big dinner held in the hall. Women would prepare their native dishes. Purchasing one ticket would allow you to sample any dish from any country. In those days many of the men of the parish were single. They came to the U.S. to work in the mines. These dinners were like heaven to them. There was so much to eat.

When Goddard was the priest, he lived first in the small apartment in the hall. He later lived in a small trailer just north of the hall. He remembered lots of mice there. He remembered the arrival of the Boise Cascade building that was to become his home. The rectory was a joy to move into after the small hall apartment and the trailer. But, one day he heard a strange noise and discovered the basement was totally flooded. Many of his treasured possessions, including old photographs, were destroyed.

Goddard also remembered 2 great church mysteries. One happened in the summer. The church would be infested with flies. The back pews and the windows would be covered with piles of them. After a great deal of investigative work, they discovered that there was an opening on the east side of the arch of the roof. They eventually screened this in and this solved the problem. (Note: we continued to have a fly problem throughout the life of the old church, but not as bad as what David describes.) Another problem with the church was interference from Redwood Road. In those days they sometimes got interference in their internal audio system from the CB radios of the truckers driving by. Father Goddard once gave a homily and strategically paused for effect. Just at that moment a truck drove by and its song got picked up by the church audio. "Put your head on my pillow, let your hair hang low," came in loud and clear over the sound system. The church was so quiet, you could hear a pin drop. Then the parishioners burst into laughter.

### **Rev. Patrick J. Curran- 1975**



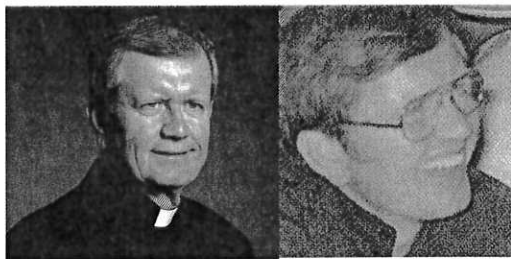
Father Curran was the pastor for a very short time. He died May 17, 2008 in a Hartford, Connecticut hospital. Father Curran was born March 7, 1931 in Kilocrochane, County Cork. He was ordained on June 12, 1955 in the Thurles Cathedral. He served at several parishes in the Salt Lake area and from 1982 to 1988, he was the director of Our Lady of the Mountains Retreat in Ogden. He then asked to serve in the Archdiocese of Hartford and served as a parochial vicar at St. Thomas the Apostle in West Hartford since 1988.

### **Rev. Emery Prenovost, C.S.P.-1975**

Father Prenovost was a member of the Congregation of St. Paul (C.S.P.). He died May 22, 1975.

### **Rev. Terence M. Moore– 1976-1977**

Fr. Moore was the pastor of St. Joseph the Worker for only a short time but he remembers it fondly. Like so many other Salt Lake area priests, he is Irish and comes from County Laois. He went to St. Patrick’s Seminary in Thurles and was ordained in 1967.

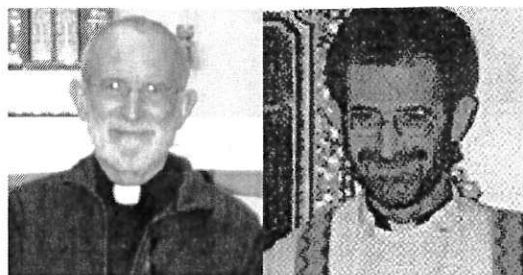


Fr. Moore holds the people of St. Joseph the Worker in high regard. There were approximately 400 families while he was here. They were “hard working, very industrious and dedicated to the parish,” he said. They were also very compassionate and supportive of his efforts.

One of Fr. Moore’s goals for the parish was to increase lay leadership and promote greater participation among parishioners. He felt he was successful in this regard. The Parish Council, Youth Group and Religious Education Groups were very active during his tenure at St. Joseph the Worker. Another key role held by Fr. Moore while he was here was Director of Refugee Resettlement at the Diocese level. At this time there were many Vietnamese refugees coming into the U.S. Father Moore helped to find sponsors for them, many from St. Joseph the Worker. Here was his message to us from 2008 when this article was first written: *Thank you for your caring, compassion and strong sense of social justice. Thank you for your openness in taking leadership positions. Best of luck to you all in building a new church!*

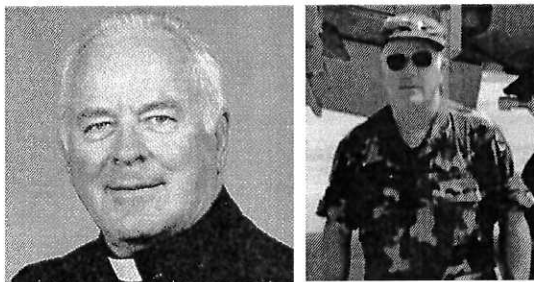
### **Monsignor Rudolph Daz– 1978-1987**

Monsignor Daz was born and raised in Ogden, Utah. His main concern while he was the priest at St. Joseph the Worker was to minister to the spiritual needs of the parish, visiting the sick, and so forth. At the time he was here, there were three Sisters of the Atonement. “They did a good job,” he said, “and were very good people.” He introduced tithing to the parish which he feels gives many blessings. While he priest here the convent was built and the parish hall was expanded. Fr. Daz said that the people of St. Joseph’s were very good, sterling people. His message to St. Joseph’s parishioners, “Keep up the good work!”



### **Rev. John B. Hart – 1987-1999**

Father Hart, another Irishman, was born in Clonakilty in County Cork. He attended St. Patrick’s Seminary in Thurles, and was ordained in 1960. He served for many years as a chaplain in the military. He was stationed in Ft. Lewis and in Germany to the 3rd Infantry, a very high profile infantry division. He really loved it. While he was pastor at St. Joseph’s, he was called to serve in the 1st Gulf War. From November, 1990 to May, 1991 he lived in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He really enjoyed the diversified parish of St. Joseph the Worker and described his years here as “lovely”.



### **Rev. Lawrence Beck– 1999-2000**

Father Larry, as he liked to be called, did not stay at the parish very long. He is best known for setting up Renew 2000 groups where parishioners met in each other's homes. Some of these meetings ignited great friendships that still exist today. Father Larry also is remembered for giving very interesting homilies. We attempted to contact Fr. Larry but did not receive a response. We have been unable to locate any photos of Father Beck.

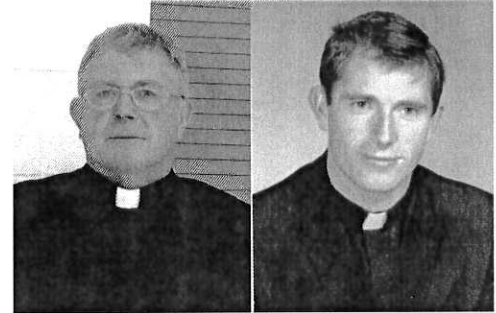
### **Rev. Patrick F. Carley– 2000—present**

Father Carley, another Irish priest from Thurles, County Tipperary Ireland, was ordained in 1969 at St. Patrick's Seminary and came to Salt Lake City shortly thereafter. He served at St. Vincent, St. Ambrose, and St. Mary parishes. While a priest, he furthered his education and got a masters degree in Social Work as well as a Law degree.

He came to St. Joseph the Worker in the year 2000. One of his first major accomplishments was to develop a sports field. New parishioners may not be aware that there was a time when our field was a danger zone. Trying to play catch in the field meant getting stung by briars and twisting your ankle in the uneven sod. It was rumored that there were snakes and rats in the middle and few people dared to go out there. The 6 1/2 acre property, originally earmarked for a Catholic school\*, was ignored for decades until Fr. Carley came. He decided that this piece of land was just too valuable to waste. "I grew up playing ball endlessly-soccer, Gaelic hurling, etc. and loving every minute of it," he said. He came up with a plan to develop the land into a sports field. With the help of many volunteers he leveled the land, planted grass, laid out sprinklers and turned the field into what it is today, a true gem of the parish.

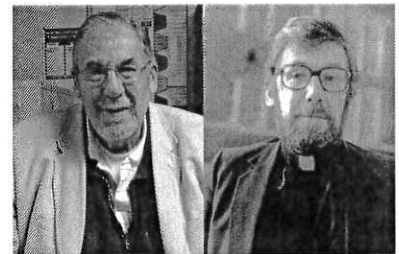
Having this success under his belt, he undertook an even bigger project– building a much-needed new church. This was an even greater achievement for him and the parish! Our new church is a beautiful, functional, award winning church that to this day is visited regularly by admiring architects and others taken by its unique design. And, in spite of a great recession, the mortgage is already 3/5's paid off.

As great as the field and new church are, many consider Father Carley's greatest contribution to St. Joseph's to be helping the parish become more welcoming and engaged. As Fr. Carley says often, "It is always about building community" and no one can deny his great success in this regard.



### **Father James Semple**

Father Semple was never officially assigned to St. Joseph the Worker Parish, but most current parishioners consider him one of the priests of the parish. For many years he assisted Father Carley and handled one Mass per weekend and was always a great help when Father Carley was gone to Ireland in the summertime. He, too, comes from Thurles in County Tipperary Ireland. The parish threw him a great party at the Founders Day Picnic when they celebrated his 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood. Father Semple took ill in the summer of 2013 and now resides in St. Joseph Villa.



**The best way to show your concern for Father Semple is to send him cards and letters! His address :  
Rev. James Semple, Christus, St. Joseph Villa, 451 Bishop Federal Lane, Salt Lake City UT 84115**

\*We recently discovered an old architectural plan that shows the "future school". This is the first time that the parish office has seen ever seen this! It will be displayed this weekend in the Gathering Space!

***Read all about the early organizations of the parish in next week's bulletin!***