

Priest Given High Honors

Former Watsonville Pastor Feted

The rank of domestic prelate has been conferred by Pope Pius XI upon Rev. Patrick J. McGrath, former pastor of St. Patrick's church in Watsonville and now at St. John's cathedral in Fresno.

Father McGrath now takes the title of Right Reverend Monsignor McGrath. The appointment, which was announced by Bishop Phillip G. Scher of the Monterey-Fresno Diocese, is given in recognition of outstanding service in the church, and is honorary.

Monsignor McGrath preceded Father J. L. Daumas as pastor of St. Patrick's parish, and had been here about three years previous to his transfer. A man of fine personality, he was well liked during his stay here, and had a host of friends among non-catholics as well as among his parishioners.

He was particularly noted as an organizer of great ability. During his administration the priest's home on the site of the old home next to the church was built at a cost of \$30,000, and the organ was installed in the church at a cost of \$11,000. The largest part of these debts had been retired at the time of his transfer in December of 1927 to Santa Cruz where he stayed until last year when he was transferred to Fresno.

Monsignor McGrath came here from Fresno originally, having superintended the building of a \$5,000 bishop's home at the Cathedral there.

Born in Ballyragget, County Kilkenny, Ireland, Monsignor McGrath obtained his early education there and came to the United States when he was 15 years of age. After studying in Montreal, Canada, for the priesthood, he came to California, 28 years ago to start his priesthood in the Salinas church.