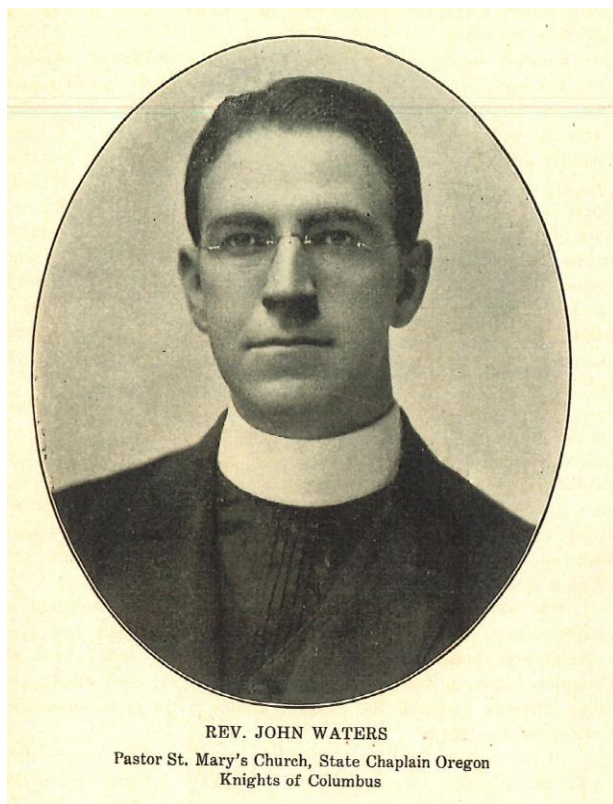


Rev. John Francis Andrew Waters

1st State Chaplain of Oregon 1902-1912



REV. JOHN WATERS
Pastor St. Mary's Church, State Chaplain Oregon
Knights of Columbus

John Francis Andrew Waters was born January 10, 1878 in St. Louis, MO. He came to Portland as a boy with his parents, John and Margaret Lemery Waters. After receiving his early education, he entered St. Mary's seminary in Baltimore MD. John Waters was one of the youngest priests to be ordained when he entered into the priesthood in 1900. After his ordination, he came directly to Astoria, serving as priest for 30 years. In 1933, Rev. Waters went to St. Mary's in Albany. He returned to Astoria a few years later.

Rev. Waters was widely known and active member of the Astoria community for many years during his service for the local parish. When he began his services, Astoria was a wide-open town of brothels and saloons and was notorious all along the Pacific coast. Rev. Waters led the repression of the brothels and reduction in the number of saloons.

Rev. Waters helped to establish Columbus Day as an

Oregon State Holiday.

Rev. Waters celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a priest in December 1950. An extensive celebration was held in Astoria for the 50th anniversary of his ordination. Bishop Francis Leipsiz of the Baker diocese conducted the mass.

Later in life, Rev. Waters was ill for several years and died March 4, 1954. He was survived by his two brother, William B. Waters, Portland, and Dr. Joseph T. Waters, Los Angeles. He is buried at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Portland, OR.



"As the Knights will probably observe the day formally, I wish to suggest that a religious function, in addition to the civil ceremonies, mark the occasion each year." Rev. Waters May 9, 1911 Astoria, OR