

# Rev. Edmund John Murnane

14<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> State Chaplain of Oregon 1937-39, 54-56



Edmund John Murnane was born June 21, 1896 in Portland, OR to Michael and Katherine Stack Murnane. He attended Jefferson High School.

Edmund attended Columbia University and St. Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park, CA. and was ordained as a priest in 1921 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Portland, OR. He was the last priest to be ordained by Archbishop Christie.

He served at parishes in Portland, Junction City, Harrisburg, North Bend, Reedsport, Corvallis and Astoria.

Rev. Murnane was Pastor of St. Mary's in Eugene for 20 years 1950 to 1969. He established five Catholic churches, a Carmelite convent, and the Catholic Charities and St. Vincent de Paul social service agencies. He was also one of the organizers of an alcoholism and drug treatment center, Serenity Lane.

When he left St. Mary's, he moved to St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Veneta, OR. He served there until his retirement on Easter Sunday 1980.

In the early 1950's, Monsignor Murnane saw the need for the continued growth of Catholic secondary education in Lane County. He called on the Marist Brothers to oversee the construction of the new Marist High School.

On May 23, 1967, ground breaking ceremonies launched the construction of Marist High School. By September of 1968, on what just a few years previously had been 30 acres of lush Oregon farmland along the banks of the Willamette River, stood a spacious modern facility dedicated to the continuing Christian education of youth.

Monsignor Murnane served as State Chaplain of Catholic Daughters and State Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus 1937-39 and again 1954-56.

He was gifted with a booming voice, he was in great demand as an occasional speaker in the days when electronic amplification was not common.

Monsignor Murnane was an avid book collector and had a 6,000 volume book library. He donated over 1,000 books to the "Monsignor Murnane Library" at Marist High School. He also loved to dance.



Monsignor Edmund John Murnane died May 29, 1987 in Maryville Catholic nursing home in Beaverton, OR. He is buried at the Mount Calvary Cemetery in Portland, OR.



*"I was a waltzer and something of a ham", Monsignor Edmund J. Murnane, December, 16, 1983, Eugene, OR*

