

Rev. James Leo Maxwell

21st State Chaplain of Oregon 1948-50



James Leo Maxwell was born Jan. 17, 1905 in Fairfax, MN to Thomas and Mary Murnan Maxwell. He graduated from St. Mary High School in Eugene, OR in 1923. He attended the University of Oregon for one term before transferring to Gonzaga University.

In 1924 he entered St. Joseph's College, Mt. View, CA and then in 1925 he entered St. Patrick Seminary, Menlo Park, CA. He was ordained May 30, 1931, by Archbishop Howard.

Following his ordination, Rev. Maxwell was associate pastor at St. Francis Parish, Portland, from May, 1931, to August, 1935, when he was appointed pastor of St. Peter Parish, Newberg.

From 1937-42 he was superintendent of St. Mary's Home for Boys in Beaverton, OR and

pastor of St. Edward Parish, North Plains. While as director of St. Mary's Home for Boys he discovered a new way to get the boys to behave. Rev. Maxwell was so obviously hurt by bad behavior that the boys refrained from it out of sheer affection for him.

From January, 1942, to January, 1944, Rev. Maxwell was pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Cottage Grove, and St. Michael Mission, Oakridge. In July, 1944, he was appointed pastor of St. Paul Parish, St. Paul, where he remained until July 1, 1972, when he was named pastor of St. Mary Parish, Florence, where he remained until retirement in February, 1978.



Rev. Maxwell was the Oregon Knights of Columbus State Chaplin 1948–50.

Rev. James Leo Maxwell died November 28, 1979 in Portland, OR of a heart attack. He is buried at the Saint Paul Catholic Cemetery, St. Paul, OR.



The Reverend James Leo Maxwell
requests the honor of your presence
at his
Ordination to the Holy Priesthood
by His Excellency
The Most Reverend Edward D. Howard, D. D.
Saturday, the thirtieth of May
nineteen hundred and thirty-one
Saint Mary's Cathedral
Portland, Oregon
and at his
First Solemn Mass
Sunday, the thirty-first of May
at ten-thirty o'clock
Saint Mary's Church
Eugene, Oregon

REV. JAMES L. MAXWELL
JAN. 17. 1905 — NOV. 28. 1979
PASTOR AT ST. PAULS.
1944 — 1972