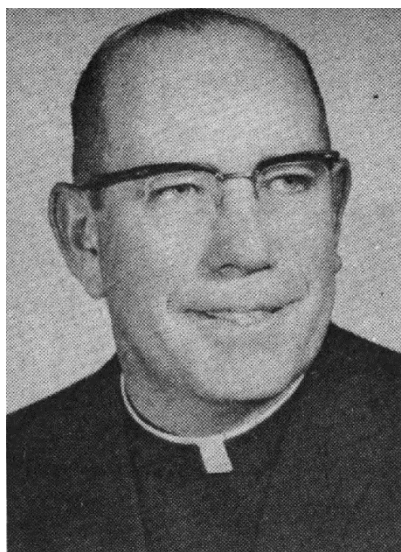


Rev. John Francis Phelan

34th State Chaplain of Oregon 1973-75



John Francis Phelan was born on October 3, 1917 in Kilkenny, Ireland to Edward Phelan.

Francis attended St. Kiernan's Seminary as a teen and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Baker on June 8, 1941. With WWII raging in Europe and the North Atlantic, Rev. Phelan was unable to make the trek to the United States immediately. He served as a chaplain in the Irish army for a year and for another year in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle in England.

Rev. Phelan arrived in Oregon in 1943 and began long decades of service as a pastor and leader of priests. He served parishes in La Grande from 1943-44, Klamath Falls 1944-48, Chiloquin 1948-51, Merrill 1951-59, Milton-Freewater 1961-72, Lake view and Prineville 1972, Klamath Falls 1972-77, Prineville 1977-82.

Rev. Phelan was the Oregon Knights of Columbus State Chaplain 1973-75.

Rev. Phelan was named honorary prelate to the pope with the title of Reverend Monsignor in 1980. He was one of the original members of the steering committee for a Senate of Priests and was actively involved in diocesan pro-life activities.

After retirement from parish work, he began a new apostolate as chaplain at St. Charles Hospital in Bend. He worked on the diocesan Priests' Council, the Diocesan Consultors, the Priests' Health and Retirement Committee, the Personnel Committee and the Vocation Committee. He served as a regional dean of priests and was Vicar for Religious. He was also influential in the formation of the diocese's Parish Council Committee, the Diocesan Development Program and coordinated religious education efforts.



John Phelan 1943

Rev. Phelan enjoyed a well-contested game of golf. His name was repeatedly on the winner's plaque of the diocesan golf tourney.

Rev. Phelan retired to Ireland in 1990.

Rev. John Francis Phelan died on November 22, 1999 in Kilkenny, Ireland.

He is buried in a churchyard in Conaghty, Ireland.

“Let us organize in every parish and present a united front. How much longer must we play or fiddle or sleep while our country is being destroyed through the deliberate destruction of its greatest asset, its youth?” Rev. John Phelan, January, 21, 1977

