

# **Sacramento Daily Union, Volume 61, Number 103, 24 June 1889**

A BEAUTIFUL TEMPLE.

THE GRAND CATHEDRAL OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT.

Sacramento's New and Imposing Structure-The Finest Church on the Pacific Coast.

The announcement was made yesterday in St. Rose's Church that on Sunday next would occur the dedication of the new Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, located on the northeast corner of Eleventh and X streets. There will be nine masses in the old church on that day, commencing at 5 o'clock in the morning and ending at half-past 9, in order that all Catholics may have ample opportunity to attend to their Sabbath duty without overcrowding the Cathedral during the dedication. The dedication of this grand and imposing temple of worship will mark an epoch in the history of the Catholic Church on the Pacific coast and will be an event fraught with interest to all classes of our citizens. The work of rearing the grand edifice has progressed steadily during the past two years and is now so nearly completed that it may be utilized for all of the practical purposes for which it is intended.

## EARLY HISTORY

The corner-stone was laid with imposing ceremonies on June 12, 1887. The exercises were witnessed by thousands of people and the participants embraced a large number of church dignitaries and prelates from abroad. In the Record-Union of June 13th, of the year named, appeared an elaborate account of the ceremonies, with an illustration of the ground plan of the edifice. The ceremony of laying the corner-stone was very solemn and impressive. The precious deposit intended to be preserved through the ages was hermetically sealed in a copper box, including a document, written in Latin, giving a description of the contents, to which the following is a translation: This chief or corner-stone of the Cathedral in this City of Sacramento, dedicated to the Most Holy Sacrament for the greater glory of God, is consecrated and laid on the 12th day of June, in the year of our Lord 1887, by Right Rev. Patrick Manogue, Bishop of the Diocese of Sacramento, Leo XIII. being reigning Pope and ruler of the church of God; Grover Cleveland. President of the United States; Washington Bartlett, Governor of the State of California, Eugene Julius Gregory, Mayor of the city of Sacramento; Rev. J. M. C. Burchard. of the Society of Jesus, who preached on the occasion, Bryan Clinch, architect; J. Glynn J. McGuire, A. McElroy, Messrs. Chatain and Gillette, builders of the sacred edifice; the Great Seal of the State of California, with names of all the State Officers; the Monitor, Sacramento RECORD-UNION, Daily Bee, Sunday Leader, and Evening Star; the San Francisco daily papers: the New York Freeman's Journal, and six rare coins presented by cashier Miller, of D. O. Mills' National Bank, are deposited in the corner-stone.

The dignitaries who participated in the ceremonies were as follows: Bishop Manogue, of the Sacramento diocese: Father Burchard, of the Society of Jesuits, San Francisco Very Reverend C. Lynch, of Virginia City; Father Dalton, of Grass Valley; Father Hines of Chico; Father Tannan, of Nevada City; Father McCabe, of Marysville; Father McGrath, of Yreka; Father Coleman, of Woodland: Father Gualco, of Gait; Father Henneberry, of Eureka, and Fathers Grace and Haupts, of Sacramento.

## THE PRIME MOVER

Bishop Manogue, to whose indefatigable efforts is due the credit of this grand undertaking, has been eminently successful as a church-builder throughout his ecclesiastical career. While yet a priest he erected church buildings which cost over \$300,000, among the rest a church, a hospital and a convent at Virginia City, Nevada. He is the first Bishop of this new diocese and was ordained a priest in Paris by Cardinal Marlot on the Christmas Ember days, 1851. His first mission was Nevada Territory, which soon after his arrival became a State of the Union. Virginia City was his center of action, but his calls were far and near. Besides attending the white population, he did not neglect the Washoes and Piutes. The first of the Piutes he baptized were Adam and Eve, and these afterwards brought along their children and children's children to the fourth generation. About 400 of these Indians were baptized by him, and many of them, including Adam and Eve and Captain Bob, were prepared for death by him and buried by the Catholic Church in the Catholic Cemetery in Virginia City.

Vicar General of the diocese of Grass Valley for sixteen years, during which time it comprised all the northern counties of California and the greater portion of Nevada, he had ample chance to become acquainted with that vast region in his frequent visits to its various localities. Bishop O'Connell becoming old and feeble for such an extensive and laborious diocese, the Holy Father appointed Rev. P. Manogue, pastor of Virginia City, Coadjutor Bishop, with right to succession. This was in the summer of 1880, and on the 16th of January, 1881, he was consecrated in St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco, by Archbishop Alemany, Bishop O'Connell of the diocese of Grass Valley, and Bishop Mora, of the diocese of Monterey and Los Angeles, being the assistant prelates. Bishop O'Connell, on account of feeble health, resigned in March, 1884, and the care of the diocese at once devolved upon Bishop Manogue. Thoroughly acquainted with the wants of the diocese, he immediately commenced a correspondence with the authorities in Rome about the necessity of a central and suitable See. This correspondence kept on for two years without interruption. The Bishop, aware of the decadence of the mining towns, gave a full representation of places, people and population. After two years his maps and letters induced the authorities in Rome to grant his petition, to cut off Sacramento from the Archdiocese and make it the center and See of the new diocese of Sacramento. This has been his own individual work. The petition was not only granted with regard to the city of Sacramento, but the whole county, with Yolo, Calaveras, Amador, Mariposa, Tuolumne, Mono, Placer and El Dorado counties, were added to the new diocese.

On the reception of the decree from Home, the Bishop secured the site of the Cathedral for \$40,811, and at once commenced to set in motion the work of building the Cathedral. What has been done since the summer of 1886 can be seen by visiting the premises. The Sovereign Pontiff has not only granted the Bishop the privilege of having this great territory named the Diocese of Sacramento, but also to have the new and imposing edifice dedicated to the most Blessed Sacrament, on Sunday next.

## ARCHITECTURAL.

The cathedral is built in the Italian style of architecture, and is in the form of a cross, with three towers on the front or western end, the central one rising to the height of 210 feet. A large octagonal dome rises over the intersection of the arms of the cross and is crowned by a lantern of sixteen sides glazed on the top with heavy glass and surmounted by a gilt cross at a height of 160 feet. The total length of the building from front to rear is 208 feet and its width across the transepts 114 feet.

Internally, the height of the church ceiling is 60 feet and of the dome considerably over 100 feet from the floor.

A comparison of these dimensions with those of other church buildings in California will show the justice of the claim of Sacramento to the largest church on the Pacific coast.

Although much yet remains to be done to complete the building, the interior of the church itself is now all but finished. The altars will at some future time be replaced by marble, and several of the windows now glazed with ordinary glass will be filled with stained glass, to correspond with the rich windows of the transepts and sanctuary, but otherwise the interior will be quite finished on the day of dedication. The materials used in the building are stone, brick and concrete, and the workmanship has been done in a substantial and masterly manner throughout. On the exterior, the steps to the side porches and to the rear passages and the balustrades around the roof yet remain to be finished, as well as the cement work on the north side which has been deferred to a cooler season of the year. The niches on the front and the pedestals on the upper portion of the tower are also to be occupied by statues, which will add materially to the appearance of the building when in place. The basement has been left unfinished for the present, but will be completed at no distant date, internally, as it is now on the outside. Bryan J. Clinch, of San Francisco, is the architect, and he may well feel proud to be known as the designer of this, the finest structure of its kind on the Pacific coast. Indeed, it is generally conceded by those informed upon the subject that the Sacramento Cathedral, taken all in all, has only one superior among church edifices in America— St. Patrick's Cathedral, in New York city.

#### INTERIOR ARRANGEMENT

Three enormous doors, of equal proportions, lead from the Eleventh-street front into a spacious vestibule, which is connected by winding stairs with two galleries, one of which is intended for the children, and the other for the organ choir. In one corner are stationed the mechanical contrivances for the regulation of the gas, which will be lighted by electricity. On either side of the center door is placed a fount for holy water. All of the windows of the building are of cathedral glass of beautiful workmanship and rich material, and the outside doors, likewise, are all surmounted with this beautiful ornamentation. There are several special windows donated by different parties which will be mentioned below.

#### THE AUDITORIUM

Three large doors in the vestibule communicate with the auditorium. On entering this grand room, the eye is astonished at the scene of interior immensity. The large area, the magnificent windows, the enormous dome, the beautiful altars and the elaborate furnishings, inspire a feeling of mingled awe and admiration. The pews are beautiful, and are made of selected California redwood, trimmed with Oregon pine, with natural finish in hard oil. The pews have a seating capacity of 1,800.

#### CONFESSIONALS AND ALTARS

There are four confessionals located within the auditorium — one in each corner of the room. The cathedral contains five altars. The main altar, located in the sanctuary and dedicated to the Most Blessed Sacrament, is, of course, the largest. It is a beautiful structure in pure white and gold, placed in the center of the rear of the altar and presents a most

imposing appearance. In the center of this altar is a massive fire and burglar-proof safe for the preservation of the Blessed Sacrament. On the extreme right of the sanctuary is the altar of the Blessed Virgin. This is of exquisite construction and is finished in white and gold. The altar is surmounted by a large and beautiful statue of the Virgin Mary. On the same side of the cathedral is the altar of the Sacred Heart. This is also a fine piece of workmanship in white and gold, relieved by a delicate tinge of blue. On the opposite side are the altars of St. Patrick and St. Joseph, also in white and gold. The altars are all different styles of architecture and are all furnished with appropriate statues.

#### THE SANCTUARY

An immense space is devoted to the sanctuary, its area being about 35 by 65 feet. There is a sacristy on each side of the main altar, where the priests don their vestments for the services. On the right-hand, or gospel side of the sanctuary is located the Bishop's throne, where that high functionary sits during the celebration of any mass, and where he remains most of the time during Pontifical ceremonies. Upon a low dais is placed a magnificent chair, on either side of which is another chair to be occupied by the deacon and sub-deacon. On the left-hand side of the sanctuary is located the pulpit. It is built of woods, in conformity with the general plan of the interior furnishing— California redwood and Oregon pine— and is finished in the same manner as the pews. It is covered by a handsome canopy of wood, surmounted by a gilt cross.

#### THE GORGEOUS WINDOWS

There is no feature in the interior effect of the great building which is calculated to excite so much admiration, as the magnificent windows, which form so great an attraction to the eye. The plainest and most unpretentious of them are beautiful, and some of them are simply superb. All are of colored glass, and of the finest workmanship known in the art. The main window, located in the center of the rear wall, just over the altar, represents, in conformity with the name of the cathedral, " The Last Supper." It is one of the finest works of the kind ever seen in America. It was made at Innsbruck, Austria, to the order of A. Coolot, at a cost of \$1,200. To the right of this window is a smaller one, representing " The Nativity," from the same factory. It is the gift of Mrs. Thomas Dwyer, and cost \$500. On the left of the main window is one corresponding in size to the last mentioned which portrays "The Ascension," given by Dan McCarthy, of Brighton, and the cost of which was also about \$500. On the right-hand side of the altar of the Blessed Virgin is a window presented by Mrs. Michael Rigney. The subject is " The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary." This window cost \$300. To the left of St. Joseph's altar is a window picturing "The Flight into Egypt." It is presented by Mrs. James Kaseberg and cost \$300.

There are six windows in the auditorium. On the right-hand side, commencing at the sanctuary, the first is the gift of Miss Birdie Fair. Its subject is "St. Augustine and His Mother."

The second is the offering of Mrs. E. B. Crocker of this city and is a portrayal of "The Prodigal Son." It is an exquisite piece of work and is highly artistic in all its details.

The third window upon this side was presented by the Catholic Knights of Sacramento. The subject is " Christ Delivering the Keys to St. Peter." On the opposite side of the auditorium are three more beautiful windows. The nearest to the altar is the gift of Miss Tessie Fair and the picture " The Last Communion of St. Jerome. "

Next to this is a representation of " St. Patrick Converting the Irish," donated by St. Mary's Parish, Virginia City, Nev. The last on this side is a superb piece of art-work illustrating the theme: "St. Paul Preaching to the Athenians." It is given by Mrs. Agnes Bemerly of Woodland. These six windows upon the sides of the auditorium cost about \$300 each. Over the sanctuary— two on either side will be four large art-glass windows donated by private parties. They are expected to be in place in the near future.

#### THE DOME

The dome in the center of the building is very large and is surmounted at the apex with a splendid stained-glass window, the center-piece of which represents the Holy Ghost. On the sides of the dome are various representations in the frescoer's art, symbolic of important principles of the Catholic faith. There are sixteen of these emblems and all are finished in splendid style, the work being altogether in light and shade.

#### THE FRESCOING

It was at first thought that it would be necessary to send to New York or Italy for artists to superintend the important matter of the fresco work in the cathedral. The contract, however, was finally given to O Neil Bros, of Sacramento, and the work done is certainly a great credit to this enterprising firm. The prevailing color of the ceilings is a celestial blue. The walls in the upper portion are of a light stone color, merging in a very delicate greenish tone at the bottom. The monotony of the prevailing colors is relieved by ornaments in gold, maroon and " light and shade" effects. The columns supporting the walls are tinted in grays, tipped in gold.

#### THE DEDICATION.

Arrangements are completed for the dedication exercises on Sunday next. The ceremonies will doubtless be witnessed and participated in by a mighty throng of people, who will take no little\* pride in seeing dedicated to God a house of worship which is a glory to the Church, an honor to the Slate, and a lasting monument to the piety and enterprise of its builders.

(Source: California Digital +Newspaper Collection)