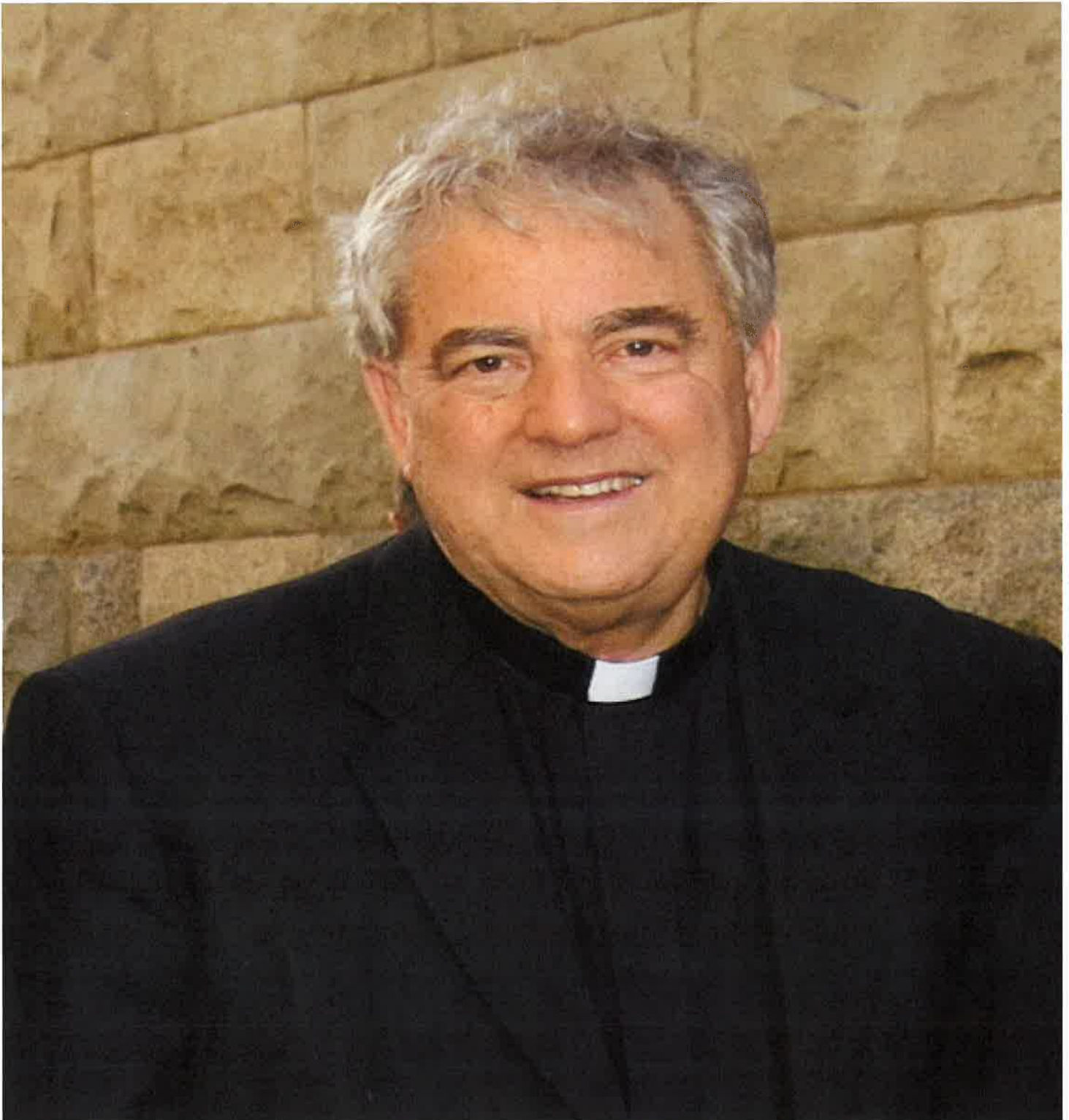


St. Paul Parish est. M 1876 + St. James Parish est. 1888 + St. Philip Parish est. 1910

**The Noe Valley Parishes
Rev. Mario P. Farana, Pastor
1944 – 2025
Special Edition #2**



Words of Remembrance

Dear St. Paul's School Community,

It is with heavy hearts and deep faith in God's promise of eternal life that we share the news of the passing of our beloved pastor, Rev. Mario P. Farana. His presence among us was a gift—a shepherd who guided with wisdom, served with humility, and loved with the heart of Christ. His life was a true testament of God's love through his faithful service, compassion, and unwavering devotion to our parish family for 32 years.

We lift up our prayers: *Loving God, receive your servant Father Mario into the joy of your kingdom. May the light of Christ shine upon him, and may his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

St. Paul's School

Dear Parents,

It is with profound sadness that I share the news of Father Mario Farana's passing this morning.

Father Mario was a steadfast advocate for our preschool. In the meantime, please keep Father Mario and the communities of St. Paul, St. Philip, and St. James in your prayers.

Eternal rest grant unto Father Mario, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

St. Paul's Preschool

Some Facebook thoughts and prayers

- Incredible turnout for the Thanksgiving mass for all that I don't think they're doing it Fr Mario gave us his. ☺ stay tuned for the services and get there early.
- He gave us a lot to be thankful for
- Faithful to the end Thank you Fr. Mario
- 50 yrs. ago you married Jack and I and also baptized our daughter, Meghan, at St. John's. Thank you for all you've done at St. Paul's.
- So wonderful.. shows the love and respect that man earned throughout his life..!!!
- People respond to goodness..
- God bless Father Mario.

- Fr Mario, Thank you for bringing your love & caring to all the St Paul's community for the last 30 years. May you rest in peace...
- Such a great man! A family friend! He will be missed! Rest In Peace Mario!
- Rest in Gods hands Father Mario 🙏 Thank you for all the support, care, compassion, and prayers you gave me and my family over the past decades. You will always be remembered
- I'm just reading this. I'm so sad to hear this news. He was a wonderful person and priest. He was a gift to St Paul's. He will be greatly missed.
- He will be remembered forever 🙏. One of the best
- This is such sad news 🥺 Fr. Mario did so much for our parish, and our families. May he rest in peace 🙏
- Oh no Rest in Peace Father Mario you will be greatly missed!
- Rest in Peace Father. Thanks for all your dedicated years. Really felt close to you going to the 9:15 Sunday mass
- What A Great Priest.... Loved By All Of Us From Day One When He Came When We We're Kids
- RIP Father Mario - I also was his Altar boy in the late 70's- A great man. Our generation of St Pauls priest are all now in Heaven breaking bread together RIP Father Mario
- Rest in peace Father Mario 🙏 We have lost a great Man, a great Friend & a great Pastor.
- As we bid you farewell, Father Mario, we take heart in knowing that your extraordinary legacy will endure, a lasting testament to the countless lives you've touched. Your visionary leadership, boundless compassion, and guiding wisdom inspired hope and resilience in my mother, Mima Bonilla, and she was forever grateful for the gift of your enduring friendship. Rest in peace, Father Mario, thank you for your unwavering guidance and support.
- So very sorry to hear! He really was such an amazing person and priest. St. Paul's was blessed to have him
- He helped save Saint Paul's church from being torn down in the early 90s due to earthquake retrofits and basically dedicated the last part of his life to St. Paul's, RIP Father Mario

such sad news! I can only imagine the pain you are feeling after losing Father Farana. My remembrances of him are distant but clear. He was an outstanding pastor at my parish, St. Stephen. I was on a parish committee when he was pastor. He was always a pleasant and effective leader and hospitable after our meetings. A really good man!

Please know of my thoughts and prayers for Father Farana, the faithful of Noe Valley

Mario Farana Obituary

Rev. Mario P. Farana

Reverend Mario Paul Farana passed away suddenly on August 5, 2025, at the age of 80. Born in San Francisco on September 6, 1944, Fr. Mario died "with his boots on" still serving as pastor of St. Paul's Catholic Church where he spent 32 of his 54-year vocation as a Catholic priest for the San Francisco Diocese.

Mario attended Epiphany Grammar School in San Francisco. In 1956, the family moved to Los Altos where Fr. Mario attended St. Williams Grammar School. He then entered St. Joseph's Seminary for a brief time to discern his vocation to the priesthood but eventually postponed that decision. He finished out high school at St. Francis in Mountain View. Mario attended the University of Santa Clara where he graduated with a B.A. in History and completed ROTC training. For the duration of his commitment to the US Army Reserves, he served as an Army chaplain.

Mario entered St. Patrick's Seminary in the late 1960's, was ordained as a deacon, and given a one-year assignment to St. Kevin's Parish in 1970. On May 29, 1971, he was ordained by San Francisco Archbishop Joseph T. McGucken at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Over the next eight years, Mario served as Associate Pastor at three parishes – St. John's, St. Catherine's, and St. Paul's. In 1978, he was appointed Chairman of the Mission Deanery Council – an experience in community advocacy that would prove instrumental to Mario's fight to preserve the existence of St. Paul's Parish when it was under fire in the early 1990s. Mario was then assigned chaplain at Sacred Heart High School for a year and in 1980 moved to St. Michael's Parish as pastor. After eight years in that position, the San Francisco Diocese appointed him Vocations Director. Eventually he returned to pastoral care with an appointment to St. Stephen's Parish in 1992. After a year in that position, he received the assignment that would become his legacy.

When Mario was sent to St. Paul's Parish at Church and Valley Streets in 1993, the church was one of many that were on a list for closure. Through his passion, determination and fortitude he succeeded in making St. Paul's the only parish that did not close.

Over the next 32 years as the Pastor of St. Paul's, Fr. Mario proved himself to be a consummate organizer, negotiator, and advocate. His accomplishments included the retrofit of the historic St. Paul's Church that incurred damage costing millions following the Loma Prieta Earthquake, the restoration of the slate roof, the refurbishment of the steeple crosses with gold-leaf, the building of a new school and the accomplishment of the Stained Glass Windows Project which removed and restored all of the antique stained glass windows that were created by German artisans who fashioned those masterpieces in the late 1800s.

In an age of self-promotion, Mario was not one to call attention to himself – he disdained

the limelight. He was a quiet man and a humble priest. He preferred to stay on the sidelines but when called to act, he did not hesitate; and when called to speak, he regaled young and old alike with his homespun parables of simplicity, wisdom, and profound insight.

Fr. Mario gave his all to his God, to his church, and to his people. In 2020 the Pastorship of St. Philip the Apostle and St. James Church were added to his responsibilities. He never wanted anything for himself. "Where his treasure was, was where his heart was." His treasure and his heart were with the people of St. Paul's while he lived and he left both to them for posterity at his death.

Family who preceded Mario in death were his parents, Salvatore A. Farana and Dorothy D. Farana, his brother, Richard J. Farana and his uncle, Reverend Nicholas E. Farana, who also served the San Francisco Diocese for decades prior to his death in 1998. He is survived by his brother, Nicholas S. Farana, his sister-in law, Lawnie Farana, his sister, Ann M. Farana, his nephew Anthony A. Farana, his niece, Nicole Nardone and his grandnieces and grandnephews, Sienna, Sal, Zada, Luca, Lea, and Stella.

Friends may call from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Thursday, August 14th at DUGGAN'S FUNERAL SERVICE - THE DUGGAN WELCH FAMILY, 3434 17th Street in San Francisco, and on Friday, August 15th at St. Paul's Church after 4:30 pm where the Vigil Service will be held at 7:00 pm. Funeral Mass, Saturday, August 16th, 10:00 am at St. Paul's Church. Committal services, Monday, August 18th, 1:00 pm, Gates of Heaven Cemetery, Los Altos. Charitable donations in his memory may be sent to the St Paul's Parish Preservation Fund, and are preferred, 221 Valley St., SF CA 94131.

- To the Farana Family & the all the Catholic Churches Father Mario served,
We all lost a wonderful priest and friend.
RIP Rev.,
your school mate from Epiphany,
Ed Cooper
- My condolences to Fr. Mario's family as i was one of his friends at Epiphany until he moved away. Also condolences to his brother's family, Pee Wee as he was also called in those days at Epiphany. It was a privilege knowing Fr. Mario, his brother & his mom & dad.
John Palmisano, Epiphany, 1958

- How lucky I was to be part of a parish that had the most dedicated Priest and Pastor! From the Summer Of Love program he and Dorothy ran for many year ´s in the 70s ´ to saving and rebuilding the most beautiful church in the city as well as building a new grammar school all of which would be outside of the job description of a parish priest!

Rest FR. Mario, Rest!

- I will always have a picture in my head of Father Mario playing basketball at the St. Paul's School Yard .. He had a great game, and was a even better Priest for our Parish RIP FATHER.
- Fr. Mario was not just a true and genuine Priest but a friend to many who had ever crossed his path in life. He wore his heart on his sleeve for others. His compassion was unwavering as reflected in his dedication and commitment for St. Paul's community and the other Parishes & Schools he had served for so many years. Fr. Mario's passing is a loss to all of us who loved him dearly and has left a tremendous voids in the hearts of many. He was a quiet and modest man, who never wanted attention directed at him. The "gifts" he gave others came from his heart & soul. When I count the blessings in my life, he will always be one of them. Thank you, Fr. Mario, and rest peacefully, dear friend. Your physical presence and spiritual guidance will be missed but you'll always be remembered with love and gratitude. Your friends at RPSC: Steve, Debbie, John and Bhanu

