

Very Rev. Cajetanus Sorrentini was born in Rome, Italy, August 7, 1815. From his youth up he felt called to the ecclesiastical state, and hence devoted himself assiduously to study and preparation for the work before him. His early education was received in Naples, which he completed at the Jesuit College in Rome, where he graduated and was ordained priest on September 19, 1839. Shortly after his ordination he was appointed a professor of theology in the Seminary of Amolfi, Italy, which position he retained till He received instructions from the Propaganda to journey to Jerusalem in the capacity of a missionary. After three years of severe labor in this field, his impaired health compelled him to return to his native Rome, but not till he had left behind him a substantial memorial of his zeal and humanity in the construction of St. John's Hospital, which he founded and pushed to completion.

After recruiting himself in "The Eternal City," he came to the United States, and was for a time assigned to important pastorates in the dioceses of Philadelphia and of New Orleans. He also, in a religious capacity, visited Peru and Chili and other countries on the west coast of South America, where his eloquence as a pulpit orator attracted much attention.

In 1877 Father Sorrentini came to Salinas, Monterey county, California, where he has since continued to reside. On his arrival here the outlook was not promising. There was no pastoral residence, only a small wooden church, and the flock had grown negligent. He set himself

to work to restore matters, to renew and reform, and now the fruit of his labor is seen in a handsome brick church, with frescoed walls, containing a costly marble altar; a parochial school, with accommodations for one hundred and fifty pupils; a comfortable residence for the pastor; and a spirit of unity and zeal in the congregation that is indeed refreshing.

His golden jubilee, the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination, was celebrated in Salinas, September 19, 1889; on which occasion a vast concourse of the clergy and high dignitaries of the church assembled to felicitate the venerable priest.

Digitized by



*If you found this page useful, then
please consider making a small
donation to
<http://www.3rocks.org>.*

It is because of your generous financial support that we can make this kind of information available on the web.
