# Former New York Policeman Preaches His First Mission in St. Ann's, Hornell

## Fr. Gleason Greeted By Capacity Crowds, Honored By City

HORNELL—The City of Hornell is especially favored in having Rev. Daniel M. Gleason, C.S.C., as one of the missionaries at the Church of St. Ann. He arrived in this city after preaching to a large New York contingent of police attending the Legion Convention in [illegible].

Upon his arrival in Hornell he [illegible] his initiation in mission work by joining Rev. Thomas C. Duffy, C.S.C., and Rev. George B. Fischer, C.S.C., in conducting the [illegible] mission at St. Ann's. This mission was started on September [illegible] with the solemn opening at the [illegible] Mass. The church was filled to capacity at that time. During [illegible] were [illegible] only by using every space [illegible] church. Each evening over [illegible] the services [illegible] equally well attended. Over [illegible] people availed [illegible] of the opportunity of going to confession and close to [illegible] Holy Communions were distributed.

The climax of the mission came [illegible] Sunday afternoon when a capacity crowd filled the large edifice. [illegible] Andrew T. Dinnett, pastor of [illegible] in a heart-touching discourse [illegible] the vast congregation [illegible] the mission was the inspiration [illegible] priestly life.

[illegible] have I been so deeply impressed by anything as I have been [illegible] the only Catholic spirit manifested in this parish during the [illegible]," said Father Dinnett. [illegible] to the Grace of God [illegible] the appeal of the missionaries [illegible] will remain in my memory [illegible] my dying day. To me it was [illegible] answer to those of the [illegible] world, who claim that God [illegible] place in society, that the [illegible]. A glimpse at [illegible] Catholic Faith manifested [illegible] St. Ann's during the past [illegible] would convince anyone [illegible] of the truth of [illegible].

[illegible] was [illegible] with [illegible] of the Mission [illegible].

[illegible]

[illegible] a reception [illegible] of Mayor [illegible] with the [illegible] and Fire Department [illegible] the young priest [illegible] Church for the opening of [illegible] mission. The escort [illegible] Father Gleason to the altar [illegible] where he was met by [illegible] Daniel, Father O'Malley, [illegible] St. Ann's and by the [illegible] missionaries. There the [illegible] policeman was invested [illegible] the stole, symbolizing the authority given him to preach the [illegible].

[illegible] few words Father Dinnett [illegible] him to the parish. Father Gleason replied to the welcome at the same time expressing [illegible] gratitude to Mayor Stewart and the members of both city [illegible] for the honor accorded [illegible]. Following the reception of [illegible] the services [illegible] with the making of the [illegible] announcements for the [illegible] by Father Fischer and the [illegible] of the sermon by Father [illegible].

[illegible] than a thousand men attended [illegible] this devotion. A feature of [illegible] was community singing [illegible]. Each member of the congregation was furnished with a [illegible] card, supplied by the missionaries and five hymns were [illegible] during the evening's service. Father Gleason gave Benediction at [illegible] close of the exercises. The [illegible] church, together with [illegible] impressive opening and the [illegible] singing augured well for [illegible] successful mission during [illegible] men's week.

[illegible] Career

[illegible] his post on the New York City police department eight [illegible] ago, Father Gleason started [illegible] studies for the priesthood. On June [illegible] of this year, he was ordained at the University Chapel on [illegible] campus of Notre Dame. On [illegible] following Sunday he went to St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York for the celebration of his [illegible] Solemn Mass. Headed by [illegible] Valentine, some [illegible] policemen assisted at this Mass. [illegible] of the police department [illegible] as altar-boys, acolytes and [illegible] dressed in their full [illegible] uniforms. The choir was [illegible] up of [illegible] members of the [illegible]. A new Mass, written especially for the occasion by Sergeant [illegible] F. Donnelly, was sung for [illegible] first time. At the luncheon [illegible] afterward, a leather-bound [illegible] of the Mass was presented [illegible] the newly-ordained priest.

[illegible] Father Gleason entered the [illegible] hall of the Hotel [illegible] he was greeted by Commissioner Valentine, together with a [illegible] of six deputy commissioners, a group of inspectors and [illegible] of detectives. A mighty [illegible] of welcome from his comrades [illegible] the young priest. This was [illegible] by a deafening blast of [illegible] of whistles, blown by [illegible] traffic force of which Father Gleason was a member for [illegible].

[illegible] the luncheon, which was attended by [illegible] John F. O'Hara, [illegible] of the University of Notre Dame, and now [illegible] of the Army and Navy [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Father Gleason [illegible] long enough to receive his grammar school education. At the age of twelve he was left alone, with the death of his mother. Having no immediate relatives in Ireland, he was brought back to New York where he was adopted by his uncle.

Intensive Study

A few more years of study in this country completed his grammar school training. He then became a plumber's apprentice and worked at this trade for three years. A relative on the police force suggested that he take the Civil Service examination for the position of policeman. This he did and was successful. While working as a policeman, he did not give up his studies. Each evening, when his work was over, he would repair to the Columbia Evening High School. The hours in school each evening, together with the time spent in preparation for his school work occupied some six hours of his time each night. It was seldom the young student closed his books before the early morning hours.

After a very short time on the force the young policeman became a favorite to a host of friends in Precinct H, near the entrance of Fordham University. To every one he was the smiling, helpful policeman, rather than the severe and heartless type so often depicted. Those who were accustomed to pass by his post each morning and evening on their way to and from work would blow their horns, to receive a kindly smile and a friendly wave of the hand from "Dan," their favorite of the New York police force.

But the work of a policeman was not the ultimate goal of the young officer. He had always nurtured in his heart the desire of serving God in the priesthood. Up to this time circumstances had prevented the realization of his dream. But after four years of diligent study in Night High School, together with a year of evening courses at Fordham University, he made application to the Congregation of Holy Cross, at Notre Dame, Indiana, and was accepted. He straightway resigned his position with the police department and began a year of Novitiate at the mid-western university.

Prophecy Fulfilled

In a recent interview with the newly-ordained, he was asked what his many friends thought of the change he made at the time. The young priest, with a full smile and a slight touch of the Irish brogue, answered: "O, the majority of my friends thought me very foolish. They told me I was leaving a very lucrative position, with great chance for advancement, for something that would yield me nothing in the way of worldly wealth." When asked if any of his fellow-officers ever suspected the dream that was his, he said: "Yes, when I was a rookie in the Police Academy, Commissioner Kear said to me one day: 'Gleason, you ought to be a priest instead of a policeman!' Little did he think at that time that this was the one thought that I had ever cherished. It was not without considerable pride that Commissioner Kear boasted of his prophetic vision when speaking to me of this event on the day of my First Solemn Mass."

When asked what kind of work he would prefer in the priesthood, Fr. Gleason replied: "It matters not where I serve my God; all I ask is that I may have the grace to serve him well. My years as a policeman have taught me ever to be obedient to my superiors and to go wherever duty calls. God is my Master and I am only too happy to be in His employ, whatever work He may call upon me to do."

Father Gleason was lately appointed to the Eastern Branch of the Holy Cross Mission Band, at North Easton, Mass. It was from this foundation that Father Gleason came last week to St. Ann's, Hornell, to conduct his first mission.

[illegible] on Soviets

New York—A set of reference material on Stalin and Russia will be provided high school members of the Pro Parvulis Book Club and will be distributed in the course of National Catholic Book Club Week. Compiled by the Rev. Francis X. Downey, S.J., Chairman of the Pro Parvulis Editorial Board, [illegible] received the [illegible] of high school students [illegible].

## Priest Who Was 'Officer 1925' Opens Mission

*Photo Courtesy Evening Tribune, Hornell*

The Rev. Daniel M. Gleason, C.S.C. (third from left) whose badge number was "1925" when he was a member of the New York City Police Department is shown in the sanctuary of St. Ann's Church, Hornell, where the men's mission opened Sunday night. He is shown wearing the stole which was bestowed on him by the Rev. Andrew T. Dinnett (second from right), administrator of St. Ann's. Father Gleason is assisting the Rev. Thomas Duffy, C.S.C. (right) and the Rev. George B. Fischer, C.S.C. (second from left) whose home is in Rochester, in conducting the men's mission. The Rev. John F. O'Malley, assistant pastor of St. Ann's is shown at left. Father Gleason was escorted to the Church by Mayor Ernest G. Stewart of Hornell and a delegation including both Catholic and non-Catholic members of the fire and police departments.

### IN MISSION BAND

*Courtesy Evening Tribune, Hornell*
Rev. George B. Fischer, C.S.C.

*Courtesy Evening Tribune, Hornell*
Rev. Thomas Duffy, C.S.C.

### With St. Andrew Seminarians

By RAYMOND KENNY

**Debate on Conscription**

Last Thursday's vocal expression class at St. Andrew's witnessed a torrid debate between teams representing each of the two college years. The topic was, Resolved: Conscription of men in peacetime is necessary for the United States. After forty-five minutes of argumentative hostilities, Father Brennan awarded the verdict to the affirmative side. For the school, the event held a special significance in that the vanquished were three members of the exalted senior class, namely Joe Natale, Martin Schnorr and Donald Mulcahy. John Coonan, Bill Conrad and Henry Jankowiak represented the victorious fifth year. Acting as chairman was Leo Ward of the sixth year.

With an inspiring meeting the 1940–41 edition of the Mission Society came into active existence on Sept. 25. After President Frank DiNolfo had introduced the other officers, John Coonan, Leo Ward and Pat Ward, a lively discussion concerning the make-up of future meetings ensued. Acting on the suggestion of Martin Schnorr a varied program was chosen including such activities as study clubs debates, etc. The "Information Please" type of discussion advanced by Martin Brophy was selected for the October session.

Meeting at the St. William House on Sept. 20, the fifth year club chose a new slate of officers for the coming six months. Fred Boldt was elected President; Richard Orlando, Vice-President, and Thomas Larkin, Treasurer

**Bowling League Opens**

Led by Frank DiNolfo, whose 589 total was good enough raise him to first in the "Big Ten," the St. Andrew's Bowling League steamed up to full speed last week. After undergoing a thorough shuffling, the list of individual leaders now reads: 1—DiNolfo, sixth year; 2—Father Geck; 3—Grace, third year, 4—Conrad, fifth year; 5—Mulcahy sixth year; 6—Lally, fourth year; 7—Dunn, fourth year; 8—Morphy, sixth year; 9—Dailey, third year. 10—Kress, third year.

During the week plans were inaugurated for a six-man touch football league, a tennis-ping pong club and a stamp and coin club.

Also, officers were elected for the recently formed camera club. They were: President, Charles Gaenzler; Secretary, Raymond Spall; Treasurer, Robert Heier.

### Community Choir Launches New Member Campaign

The annual "New Member Campaign" of the Community Choir of Rochester, is now in progress and will continue for the next four weeks. Cornelius M. Maquelin is director and president with Mrs. Marguerite B. Beckwith accompanist.

Members are looking forward to an interesting fall and winter program, consisting of a banquet in the near future, radio programs, concerts, parties and many other colorful events during the coming months.

Good character is above all things else.

### Legion Post To Meet In St. Joseph's Hall

Members of Burrell R. Kohlmetz Post, American Legion, will meet Wednesday evening, Oct. 9, in the basement hall of St. Joseph's School to plan the fall season.

The veterans of "Kohlmetz" entertained their wives and friends at a clambake at Brown's Farm.

All eligible veterans are invited to the meeting on Oct. 9.

## Launch Braille Edition For Blind

(Continued from Page 1)

Reproduction of the Catholic Digest in Braille is regarded as one of the most significant developments in the history of Catholic charitable work among the blind. Although the Braille issue is being limited to 1,000 copies for the present, the number will be increased as rapidly as support is forthcoming.

Arrangements for production of the first Braille Catholic Digest were made through the Catholic Guild for the Blind, of Boston, Mass. The Baille Digest is printed by the National Braille Press, Inc., of Boston. Its contents are identical with those of the ink-print book, and it has a two-color cover similar to that on the regular Catholic Digest.

It is estimated that there are more than 120,000 blind in the United States. In one eastern diocese alone, 1,300 Catholic blind were contacted by workers. In the course of their survey preparatory to bringing out the Braille edition, the publishers learned that many of the blind could not read Braille. However, a large number of Braille reading blind read to other blind, it is pointed out.

The Catholic Digest edition for the blind is printed in the so-called one and a half-point characters, which size is most commonly read among the blind. Braille characters were devised by Louis Braille who, blind himself from the age of three, realized the inadequacy of the line-letter systems in use in his day. Both he and Valentin Hauy, who began the movement for education of the blind as a class, were Catholics.

Already, response to the first issue of the Braille Catholic Digest shows it is accepted as a boon to the blind by the blind themselves. The publishers point out that not only has the new Digest proved a blessing for the blind, intellectually and spiritually, but it has also brought employment to a number of the blind themselves. Blind persons do much of the work involved in production of the Braille Catholic Digest.

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