DIOCESAN NEWS

Catholic Courier

SECOND SECTION

Priest Gives Retreat, Recalls Narrow Escape As China Missionary

AUBURN Exciting experiences of seven years in China's interior were recounted by the Rev Frederic P Gehring, C M , of the Miraculous Medal Novena Band who conducted a parish retreat in St Alphonsus Church last week

The retreat which included a Miraculous Medal Novena for Peace, opened Sunday evening, Nov 9 and continued through Friday evening last A large attendance was reported at each of the services Members of the Columbian Squires, Alumni Squires and of the Young Ladies' Sodality attended each evening in a body

Father Gehring who is well known in the diocese worked in China with his confreres of the Vincentian Fathers under Bishop O'Shea, formerly of Niagara University

During his years in China Father Gehring had seen the ravages of Communism in that country and many times had to flee from marauding bands of Reds

Father Gehring tells the story of a miraculous apparition which came to the aid of the missionaries in the besieged City of Kanchow Kiangsi one thousand miles in the interior of China

The Chinese city was placed by its bishop under the protection of the Blessed Mother The city was experiencing comparative peace until the advent of some 60,000 Communist soldiers under the leadership of two famous Communist Generals Chu Teh and Chu Mao Bishop O'Shea and twelve missionaries were in the city at that time They were the only white people in that part of China's interior The white-capped Sisters of Charity had been sent out through the lines disguised as coolies

Long Siege Expected

As the Communist troops were marching on towards the city of Kanchow the city officials prepared for a long siege until help would be able to reach them from the government The city walls were manned the city gates were barricaded Rice was stored and portioned off The Communists approached they sent word to the city officials to give up the foreigners and the city would not be besieged Later they threatened to kill Bishop John A O'Shea if they took the city

For 45 days they laid siege to the city Inside there were only 2000 Chinese home guards to defend it Unfortunately the Communists had no heavy artillery and the machine guns would do no harm to the city's ancient walls the priest relates

The Communists after many fruitful efforts to scale the walls attempted to undermine them But the defenders stationed blind people of the city around the walls to listen for tapping underground Their hearing being more acute Then the home guard would concentrate their fire in the direction of the mine

45 Days Duration

Every night the attackers would attempt to storm the city walls climbing up in human chains and throwing ropes up with anchors that caught on the wall then attempting to climb the ropes but with little success For 45 days the city was besieged and only 2,000 home guards holding off some 60,000 Communists soldiers

The officials and Bishop O'Shea were giving up hope of the government troops who were commanded by General Chiang Kai Shek stationed at Nanking at that time ever reaching them Air planes however dropped food and ammunition to them from time to time but they had little hope of the troops arriving in time to save the city for these government soldiers had to travel 300 miles overland to reach them

On the forty-fifth day of the siege Chiang Kai-Shek's troops arrived The Communist soldiers were dispersed many of them taking refuge in the mountains nearby The city was saved

A Sign Over The Walls

At the mission where many of the wounded Communists were treated, several of them told of a strange apparition the white clad figure of a woman above the walls with arms outstretched as if protecting the city The 'Kwan Yin' they called her (which is the pagan goddess of Mercy No matter how many machine guns they trained upon it it still stood there, they related The Vincentian missionaries like to believe that the apparition was there and that it was a sign that the Blessed Mother had taken the city under her protection

During his latter years in China Father Gehring saw and experienced many of the hardships of the present war in the Orient His praise of the splendid work of the Sisters of Charity and missionaries taking care of the thousands of refugees and wounded is unlimited.

Mercy Guild Lists Card Party, Food Sale In Auburn

Plans for coming activities were discussed at the Mercy Hospital Guild's meeting held in the rooms of Court Auburn Catholic Daughters of America 44 South Street Mrs F K Rich presided in the absence of Miss Isabel Gosa president

A card party has been scheduled for 2 o'clock Monday afternoon Nov 24, at the Catholic Daughters rooms with Mrs Henry Schmitz chairman of the committee in charge

The Guild will hold a food sale at 80 Genesee St Saturday Dec 6

Pastor Honored On Silver Jubilee By 325 At Banquet

A testimonial dinner was held for the Rev Thomas F Carroll, pastor of St Mary's of the Lake Church, Watkins Glen, last Sunday evening. The event marked the silver anniversary of Father Carroll's pastorate at St Mary's.

Approximately 325 persons were present for the celebration

Rt Rev Msgr Walter J Lee, V F , of Geneva was principal speaker and lauded the accomplishments of Father Carroll and his life as a priest of God

Monsignor Lee stated that as long as he has known Father Carroll (at Elmira Hornell and Auburn) he has never found him to be outside the sphere of a Priest of God "

Father Carroll thanked all who had aided him in his years of service here and expressed his pleasure at the way his efforts had been so kindly received

Other speakers included Mayor Arthur Peck, who praised the priest for his establishment of the Religious Teachers Filippino convent here and his efforts toward community betterment Dr Arthur H Jackson, Board of Education president and Warren Hertenstein.

Messages of congratulation were received from the following the Most Rev James E Kearney, Bishop of Rochester; the Most Rev Thomas H Walsh, archbishop of Newark N J Rev A Morotti, Rochester Rev Sister Ninetta, Mother Provincial of the Religious Teachers Filipini, Morristown, N J , the Rt Rev Bartel H Reinhoerner Bishop of the Rochester Protestant Episcopal Diocese, the Rev J J Moriarty Elmira, the Rev Joseph V Guiloff, Corning the Rev John Conway Auburn, the Rev William J Brien, Elmira the Rt Rev Msgr John J Lee Elmira, the Rev Arthur C Smith Elmira the Rev Francis Lane, Elmira Reformatory Chaplain and the Watkins Glen American Legion Post Elks Club and Board of Vestrymen of the Episcopal Church Roses and good wishes were received from the employes of the Glen National Bank

Olin A Storch toastmaster and committee chairman presented Father Carroll a gift Dinner was served by senior class members directed by Mrs Ella Seanlon

The gift of $145.85 was given by the parishioners and friends and as Mr Storch stated "We hope to be again present at Father Carroll's Golden Jubilee"

As a tribute to Father Carroll about 200 received Holy Communion at the 8 o'clock Mass Through the generosity of the St Lucy Filippini Society and the Committee for the Assumption the altars were covered with three beautiful

Open Army Chapels; 5 Ready At One Post

CAMP UPTON, L I The Rt Rev Msgr Francis W Walsh, of New York, Vicar General of the Army and Navy Diocese preached the sermon at a Solemn Military Mass which was the inaugural Catholic ceremony in the new post chapel here Participating in the services were the Rev W E Capron, Catholic Chaplain of the post and the Rev James V Rogan, pastor of St John the Evangelist Church, Center Moriches L I.

CAMP POLK, La Five new chapels similar to those being constructed at Army posts throughout the United States, have been completed here They were opened in an inaugural ceremony at which Major Alvan C Gillem Jr commanding general of the Third Armored Division presided

expensive altar cloths which were donated to the pastor on the occasion

The Jubilee High Mass at 9 30 a m was well attended Music by the Senior Choir surpassed previous performances The Mass chosen for the day follows

Asperges me
(3 voices) N A Montani
Kyrie from "Missa Brevis"
(3 voices) N A Montani
Gloria N A Montani
Credo from Missa Facile in more di S Lucia (2 voices)
L Bottazzo
Offertory Sacris Solemnis
J Mohr
Sanctus and Benedictus
(3 voices) N A Montani
Recessional "Laudate Dominum"
Fr Schubert arr by N A Montani.

Under the direction of the Religious Teachers Filippini an entertaining and inspiring program was given by the children and young people of the parish Flowers and a beautiful "Spiritual Bouquet" were presented the jubilarian About 250 enjoyed the program ranging from deep emotion to riotous laughter

A beautiful and eloquent discourse conveyed many heartfelt wishes thoughts hopes and prayers to Father Carroll

Ladies of Charity Speaker Places 'Harlem' Blame

NEW YORK—Speaking on the subject, "God in Charity," the Rt. Rev. William A. Scully, S. T. L., Director of Education in the Archdiocese of New York, told over four hundred members of the Ladies of Charity of New York City at the First Communion Breakfast at the Waldorf Astoria on Saturday morning, Nov 15 that the slighting of religion especially on the part of educators was primarily responsible for the problem in Harlem

Monsignor Scully said "There can be no democracy without God no charity without God neither can there be true education without God God in Charity seemed a strange subject to assign to me because I believe it would be difficult to talk about charity without God I realize that the world has grown cold toward God and religion We hear a great deal about democracy and about educating for democracy The founders of our country and the signers of the Declaration of Independence were religious men You as Ladies of Charity have dedicated yourselves first to God and then to your neighbor Lady of Charity what a sweet title It reminds me of our Blessed Lady of Charity, and today I commend you and your work to her"

175 Affiliated

Preceding the Breakfast the Ladies of Charity attended the 9th memorial Mass of the Society at St Patrick's Cathedral Celebrant of the Mass was the Most Rev Stephen J Donahue, D D Auxiliary Bishop of New York who also officiated at the affiliation of 175 new members In this ceremony after the Mass Bishop Donahue was assisted by the Rev Vincent J Brosnan Moderator of the New York Unit of the Society

Father Brosnan speaking at the Cathedral related the story of the organization of the Ladies of Charity in 1617 by St Vincent de Paul In closing Father Brosnan said, Your work will not be easy you will meet with many rebuffs but you will be well repaid for your efforts if at the end of the day you can look up at Christ Crucified and say you have done your acts for Him

Lady Armstrong presided at the Communion Breakfast and gave a brief report of the work in the Central Office of the Ladies of Charity in New York

She stated that seven thousand ninety five interviews were held in the office during the year This did not include the service reports of the various parish organizations She welcomed the new affiliates and stated that there was work today for every able bodied woman in the world She challenged her listeners to go forth and do His work

Elmirans on Program

Other speakers at the Breakfast were Mrs Gertrude M Hourigan President of the Ladies of Charity of Baltimore and Washington and Miss Mary E Fitzgerald Executive Secretary of Ladies of Charity and Catholic Charities of Elmira.

At the speakers' table were Mrs George A Snyder newly appointed President and Mrs Joseph M Dailey Treasurer of the Elmira Unit of the Ladies of Charity and Mrs J Edmund Kelly President of the Buffalo Ladies of Charity Mrs Frank B Lennon an Honorary Member of the Elmira organization which is affiliated with the New York office also attended the Breakfast

The Elmira unit of the Ladies of Charity was organized in April 1940 and now numbers 200 members Their program which includes every temporal and spiritual work of mercy received favorable comment at the New York Meeting.

Dedicates Buildings

Detroit (A Solemn Pontifical Mass celebrated in the college chapel by the Most Rev Edward Mooney Archbishop of Detroit followed the dedication of the new Mercy College buildings here