

A Blessed and Holy Christmas To All Our Readers

The Influential Newspaper

of the Rochester Diocese

EDITION
FOR
ELMIRA

Catholic Courier

SOUTHERN
TIER
EDITION

VOLUME 111

5 Cents a Copy

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1941

\$2.50 per Year

One Section
Page 11

Catholic Navy Chaplain Killed in War

HONOLULU — (NC CABLE) — A Requiem Mass has been offered for the Rev. Aloysius H. Schmitt, a United States Navy chaplain.

Religious authorities have made schools, church halls and similar premises available to the Government Catholic clergy. Religious and laity are cooperating unreservedly in emergency measures.

Iowa Priest Thought First Chaplain Slain

DUBUQUE, Ia. (NC) — An American Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of Dubuque was among the first casualties of the first day of the war with Japan. He was the Rev. Aloysius H. Schmitt, United States Navy chaplain aboard the U. S. S. *Georgetown*, killed in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor Sunday, December 7. Relatives here have just been informed of his death.

Editor's Note: Father Schmitt may have been the first service chaplain killed in the present war. This cannot be confirmed through the Navy Department.

Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox in his report Dec. 16 stated that a chaplain was killed while preparing for religious services. The chaplain's name was not mentioned.

Born at St. Louis, Ia. December 1, 1896, Father Schmitt with the permission of the Most Rev. Francis J. Brannan, Archbishop of Dubuque, was ordained for service as a priest in the United States Navy in 1939. Appointed lieutenant in 1940, he served as Navy chaplain until his death.

Father Schmitt received his elementary education at St. Louis School in his native town and attended Union Preparatory Academy, Princeton, N. J., and Columbian College, Dubuque, where he received his degree in 1922. After completing theological studies at the North American College, Rome, he was ordained December 8, 1925, by His Eminence Francesco Marchetti-Selvaggiani, Vicar General of His Holiness for the Diocese of Rome.

Returning to this country in May, 1926, he was curate at St. Mary's cathedral in Cheyenne, Wyo., and while serving there also taught German and religion at St. Mary's Academy and at Campion Academy. From 1937 until his appointment as Navy chaplain in 1939 he was assistant at St. Mary's Church, Dubuque.

Father Schmitt was on duty at the Bureau of Navigation, Navy Department, for two months after his appointment and then served five months at the Marine Barracks, Quantico, Va., before being ordered to duty with the forces afloat. He had many languages at his command, speaking German, Italian and Latin fluently and reading Greek and French as well.

Father Schmitt's parents both preceded him in death. He is survived by three brothers and four sisters, one of whom is Sister Mary Gertrude Schmitt, of the Order of St. Francis, Mount St. Francis Convent, Dubuque.

Crisis Alters Church Rules

SAN DIEGO (NC) — Regulations governing the conduct of religious ceremonies in the Diocese of San Diego during the present emergency have been issued by the Most Rev. Charles F. Buddy, Bishop of San Diego, in conformity with the advice of officials charged with defense and public safety.

All permission for the celebration of Midnight Mass has been revoked for churches, chapel and public and semi-public oratories while provision must be made to darken windows in private oratories. Masses in parish churches may not start earlier than seven o'clock and afternoon devotion should be concluded before dark.

"CHRIST, OUR SAVIOUR, IS BORN"



Reproduced from "The Adoration of the Shepherds" by Gherardo delle Notti.

The Bishop's Christmas Message

Christmas 1941

My dear People

It is the will of God that the chant of the angels on this Christmas night should be barely audible because of the thunders of a world war. We bow to His Holy Will in gratitude for the grace of the Redemption and in deep love and devotion we shall gather at the crib as usual chant our *Adeus Fideles* welcome the Infant Jesus into our hearts in Holy Communion and then return to the serious responsibilities that are ours at this time. These responsibilities we shall meet with the faith, endurance, courage and resignation that characterize the Christian in accepting the cross of His Master.

There is one thought I would leave with you. We are in an emergency. Our spiritual mobilization must be an emergency responsibility. No one can continue along the usual

path of prayer and mortification. We must increase our prayers. We should begin immediately daily Mass and Communion if at all possible for the duration of the war. We should make our daily Rosary in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament a matter of strict obligation upon ourselves. A Holy Hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament at the price of the sacrifice of time and pleasure will make atonement to God and increase the efficacy of our prayers for victory and peace.

May God bless and protect our beloved country. May the Infant Jesus bless and protect you and all those near and dear to you. May the New Year bring with it a happier and holier world.

With a sincere Christmas blessing, I am

Your devoted Shepherd in Christ.

+ James E. Kearney
BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

\$300,000 Sent Pope for Needy At Christmas

WASHINGTON (NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII is distributing \$300,000 to bring urgent Christmas relief to sorely distressed victims of the war in more than a dozen countries.

This became possible when the Bishops' Relief Committee here in the United States put the sum of \$300,000 at the Holy Father's disposal early this month. The money had been collected in the Passion Sunday Bishops' Relief Appeal and Pope Pius XII desired that it be made available at this time to bring solace and comfort to peoples who are in desperate want.

RELIEF FOR POLAND
Polish sufferers constitute a large percentage of the war victims receiving aid at Pope Pius XII's hand. The Holy Father has allocated \$47,000 to be disbursed for relief in Poland itself. He has also designated \$100,000 to be used in Poland for the relief of Polish and other refugees. Two allocations of \$100,000 each are made for Portugal and Russia, respectively, to assist Polish sufferers in those countries. Bishop Casimir Chylinski, General of the Polish Army, who until recently has been in England, will have charge of the administration of Papal relief among the Poles in Russia, it was stated.

Pope Pius XII is disbursing \$25,000 for Christmas relief among the Slovaks and \$100,000 in Greece, \$200,000 in England, \$50,000 in Scandinavia, \$200,000 in Italy, \$100,000 in France, and \$25,000 in Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg.

EMERGENCY FUND
The Holy Father also has set up an emergency fund of \$10,000 for the immediate distribution of relief among other peoples wherever it is possible.

By placing the sum of \$300,000 at the service of the Holy See, the Bishops' Relief Committee considers only to the actual situation. American Catholics have been able in recent years to extend to suffering peoples abroad through the facilities available to the Holy See the money will be expended directly in aid of the people it is sought to help. The money will extend still further the very notable assistance which has already been given to suffering peoples through the intervention of His Holiness wherever he has been permitted to assist.

Sends Christmas Message To Army

WASHINGTON — In the present crisis the people of the nation look to the men of the armed forces for inspiration and a continuing example of fortitude. Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson said in a Christmas message to the Army.

"In the trials which we shall undoubtedly be called upon to face the fine traditions of our military service and the devotion to duty which I know all of you feel assure our final victory," the Secretary said.

"I send you my Christmas greetings with confidence that the respect and affection which all Americans feel for you will be enhanced during the year which lies ahead."

Deadline Advanced

To permit distribution of the CATHOLIC COURIER to subscribers before New Year's, next week's issue goes to press two days earlier. All news must be in the CATHOLIC COURIER office by noon, Monday, Dec. 29.

Christmas Greetings Edition