

Bishops Pledge President Full Aid In 'Difficult Days-Ahead'

Text of Bishops' Letter To President Roosevelt

Text of the letter of the Bishops of the United States to President Roosevelt follows:

Dear Mr. President:

An Chief Executive of our nation you have called upon the American people for full service and sacrifice in a war of defense against unprovoked aggression. Congress in grave and inspiring unity has spoken the will of a great nation determined to be free. We, the Catholic Bishops of the United States, spiritual leaders of more than twenty million Americans, wish to assure you, Mr. President, that we are keenly conscious of our responsibilities in the hour of our nation's testing. With a patriotism that is guided and sustained by the Christian virtues of faith, hope and charity, we will marshal the spiritual forces at our command to render secure our God-given blessings of freedom.

We will do our full part in the national effort to transmute the impressive material and spiritual resources of our country into effective strength not for vengeance but for the common good, not for national aggrandizement but for common security in a world in which individual human rights shall be safeguarded and the will to live on the part of all nations great or small shall be respected—a world in which the eternal principles of justice and charity shall prevail.

The ultimate strength of a people is in the things of the spirit. The historic position of the Catholic Church in the United States gives us a tradition of devoted attachment to the ideals and institutions of government we are now called upon to defend. Our predecessors, in the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore, solemnly declared: "We believe that our country's heroes were the instruments of the God of nations in establishing this home of freedom; to both the Almighty and to His instruments in this work, we look with grateful reverence; and to maintain the inheritance of freedom which they have left us, should it ever—which God forbid—be imperilled, our Catholic citizens will be found to stand forward, as one man, ready to pledge anew their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor."

Today in the face of the perils they feared, we re-affirm their solemn words. We give you, Mr. President, the pledge of our whole-hearted co-operation in the difficult days that lie ahead. We will zealously fulfill our spiritual ministry in the sacred cause of our country's service. We place at your disposal in that service our institutions and their consecrated personnel. We will lead our priests and people in constant prayer that God may bear you up under the heavy burdens that weigh upon you, that He may guide you and all who share with you responsibility for the nation's government and security, that He may strengthen us all to win a victory that will be a blessing not for our nation alone but for the whole world.

The undersigned Chairman of the Administrative Board, National Catholic Welfare Conference, authorized to forward this letter in the name of the Bishops of the United States, has the honor, Mr. President, to be, with sentiments of high consideration.

Place Resources At Nation's Service

WASHINGTON. (NC) — The Bishops of the United States on Dec. 23 once more attested their full patriotic support of the nation in its hour of need.

In a letter to President Roosevelt, the Bishops pledge to marshal all the spiritual forces at their command to safeguard "our God-given blessings of freedom."

(Text of letter appears in adjoining column.)

It was an act reminiscent of the stirring day in April, 1917, when the Catholic Bishops, clergy and laity "moved to the very depths of our hearts," told President Wilson that "we reaffirm in this hour of stress and trial our most sacred and sincere loyalty and patriotism toward our country, our government, and our flag."

Particularly, the Bishops placed at the President's disposal in the country's service, "our institutions and their consecrated personnel," while promising the Commander-in-Chief to lead their priests and people in prayers for him and for all who share the burdens of the Nation's government and security.

They pray, the Bishops state, that God "may strengthen us all to win a victory that will be a blessing not for our nation alone but for the whole world."

This pledge was given the President by the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference in the name of the Bishops of the United States. The letter containing it was transmitted to President Roosevelt by the Most Rev. Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit and Chairman of the N. C. W. C. Administrative Board.

"We give you, Mr. President, the pledge of our whole-hearted cooperation in the difficult days that lie ahead,"

Citations For Heroism Go To Many Catholic Soldiers

(By N.C.W.C. News Service)

Sixteen soldiers have been cited to receive the Distinguished Service Cross in the first award the United States Government has made of this honor in the present war. Next to the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross is the highest decoration a member of the United States Army can receive.

Those named now to receive it displayed extraordinary courage, often in the face of great odds, in defending against Japanese attacks in the Pacific. Of these first 16 Army men to be so decorated in the present war, five are definitely known to be Catholics.

Two others are Filipinos and the probability is that they are Catholics.

Five are known not to be Catholics and nothing is known yet about the religion of four others. At the same time, it became known that the commander of the heroic garrison of Wake Island is Maj. James Patrick Sinnott Devereaux, United States Marine Corps, a member of a distinguished Catholic family of Washington, D. C.

It has also been made known that the Rev. Aloysius H. Schmitt, a priest of the Archdiocese of Dubuque and a Chaplain in the United States Navy, was killed on December 7 in the first Japanese attacks upon Hawaii, and may have been the first chaplain with the United States armed forces to lose his life in the current conflict.

Second Lieut. Randall D. Keator, of Camp Hill, La., Technical Sergt. Anthony Holub, of Coronado, Calif., Private (First Class) Joseph G. McElroy of Philadelphia, and Private Robert J. Endres of Fairbank, Minn. are among those receiving the Distinguished Service Cross and are known to be Catholics. Private (First Class) Graley B. Williams, of Iowa City, Ia., one of three heroes to whom the D. S. C. has been awarded posthumously, also was a Catholic.

Capt. Jesus A. Villamor and Lieut. Jose P. Gozer, both of the Philippine Air Corps, were named to receive the Distinguished Service Cross, the former with an Oak Leaf Cluster.

Inquiries among relatives have brought the replies that Capt. Colin P. Kelly, Jr., of Madison, Fla., and Lieut. Samuel H. Marett, of Atlanta, were not Catholics, and that Lieut. George S. Welch of Wilmington, Del., Lieut. Jack K. D. Dale of Willoughby, O., and Lieut. Carl P. Gies, of Salem, Ore., others to receive the D. S. C., are not Catholics.

Efforts to ascertain the religion of four others to whom the decoration was awarded have so far been unsuccessful.

Bishop Metzger Named Coadjutor

WASHINGTON. The Most Rev. Sidney M. Metzger, Auxiliary Bishop of Santa Fe, has been named by His Holiness Pope Pius XII to be Coadjutor Bishop of El Paso, with right of succession. It is announced in word from the Holy See received here today by His Excellency the Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States.


The Most Rev. Anthony J. Schuler, S.J., is Bishop of El Paso.

Bishop Metzger was Pro-Rector of St. John's Seminary, San Antonio, prior to his solemn consecration as Titular Bishop of Birta and Auxiliary Bishop of Santa Fe on April 10, 1940. He is a native of Texas, having been born in Fredericksburg, which is in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, July 11, 1902.

At Pearl Harbor




Lieut. T. J. Odium, United States Navy Chaplain at Pearl Harbor, when the base was attacked by Japanese. This photo of Father Odium was taken a few months previously in Honolulu. (N.C.W.C.)



BISHOP KEARNEY
will be at home
to extend New Year greetings
to the people of Rochester
on Sunday afternoon
January Fourth
from two o'clock until six
at 947 East Avenue

The Bishop's Appointments



JANUARY

- 1 Thursday—Pro-Cathedral—Pontifical Mass—12 (Noon). Bishop's House—Priests' Reception—2:00 to 5:00 P. M.
- 2 Friday—St. Patrick's—Low Mass—St. Monica's Sodality—9:00 A. M.
- 4 Sunday—Bishop's House—Public Reception—2:00 to 5:00 P. M.
- 6 Tuesday—Holy Angels' Home—Low Mass—8:45 A. M.
- 13 Tuesday—Columbus Civic Centre—Priests' Holy Hour—2:00 P. M.
- 17 Saturday—Carmelite Monastery—Religious Reception—2:00 A. M.
- 19 Monday—Chamber of Commerce—Roland Woodward Testimonial Dinner—6:30 P. M.
- 20 Tuesday—Rochester Club—Dinner, Catholic Women's Club—6:30 P. M.
- 21 Wednesday—St. Agnes Institute—Low Mass—8:00 A. M.
- 23 Friday—Chamber of Commerce—Dinner, St. Mary's Hospital Campaign—6:30 P. M.
- 27 Tuesday—Sacred Heart Hall—Dinner, St. John Fisher Club—8:30 P. M.
- 28 Wednesday—Mercy High Auditorium—Alumnae Play—8:15 P. M.

By order of the Most Rev. Bishop
LAWRENCE B. CASEY.

National 'Day of Prayer' Wins Response of Diocese

(Continued from Page 1)

to be greeted by him as the New Year begins.

Text of the proclamation of President Roosevelt, setting aside New Year's Day as a national day of prayer follows:

"The year 1941 has brought upon our nation a war of aggression by powers dominated by arrogant rulers whose selfish purpose is to destroy free institutions. They would thereby take from the freedom-loving peoples of the earth the hard-won liberties gained over many centuries.

"The new year of 1942 calls for the courage and the resolution of old and young to help win a world struggle in order that we may preserve all we hold dear.

"We are confident in our devotion to our country, in our love of freedom, in our inheritance of courage. But our strength, as the strength of all men everywhere, is of greater avail as God upholds us.

"Therefore, I, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, do hereby appoint the first day of the year 1942 as a day of prayer, of asking forgiveness for our shortcomings of the past, of consecration to the tasks of the present, of asking God's help in days to come.

"We need His guidance that this people may be huzible in spirit but strong in the conviction of the right, steadfast to endure sacrifice and brave to achieve a victory of liberty and peace."

Dedicates Catholic College To Country

BROOKLYN.—"It is more evident than ever that our cause is the cause of humanity, of Christian civilization, of the Church," the Very Rev. Dr. Edward J. Walsh, C.M., President of St. John's University, declared in a proclamation, copies of which have been sent to President Roosevelt and posted in all colleges of the University.

The proclamation dedicates the University, its administration, its faculty and students to the "rugged march to battle and to victory and to the triumph of the cause of humanity, the cause of God's children throughout the world."

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