

Pope's Example of Courage Amid Wartime Burdens Is Stressed

BOUND OVERSEAS AS CHAPLAINS



Bound for service as chaplains with the Polish Army in the Middle East, are the Rev. Dr. Witold Paulus (left), and the Very Rev. Thomas Reginek, pictured at the Marianist Fathers College, in Washington. They have been working among Polish parishes in the Midwest, following their escape from Nazi internment in 1939. Father Reginek was formerly Vicar General of the Diocese of Katowice and Dr. Paulus was a pastor in Poznan at the time of the German invasion. Attached to St. Adalbert's Church, South Bend, Ind., they both became licensed air pilots during their stay in the United States. (N.C.W.C.)

Refugee Priests To Leave For Chaplaincies In Polish Army After 2 Years In U. S.

WASHINGTON—Two Polish priests who, late in 1939, escaped Nazi internment to reach this country by way of Rome and France and have been carrying on their ministry among Polish Americans in the Midwest for two years, were in Washington last week awaiting orders to depart for service as chaplains with the Polish army.

They are the Very Rev. Thomas Reginek, former Vicar General of the Diocese of Katowice, and the Rev. Dr. Witold Paulus, a pastor in Poznan at the time of the German invasion and a former Rector of the Polish Catholic Mission in France.

Interviewed at the headquarters of the National Catholic Welfare Conference here, the priests said the time of their sailing has not been determined but that it will be "in the near future." Their exact destination is a military secret but they will probably be sent, they said, to some point in the Middle East, where some of three main corps of the reorganized Polish armies, hitherto scattered over three continents, will operate. Two years in America

During most of their two years in the United States, Fathers Reginek and Paulus were at St. Adalbert's Church in South Bend, Ind. Between radio talks, missions, retreats, writing for Polish Catholic papers and general parish work, both priests found time for pilot training. They are now licensed pilots, having successfully completed their solo flying hours and won their wings at the South Bend airport.

Among the other cities where the two priests have worked are Chicago, Detroit, Buffalo, and Scranton. While in this country they have learned English, which is the sixth language they speak, the others being French, German, Italian, Polish and Russian. During their stay in the Detroit Archdiocese at the Polish Seminary of St. Cyril and Methodius, Orchard Lake, Mich., Father Paulus completed a portrait of the Most Rev. Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit.

Father Reginek, who was known to the invaders because he had served as Chief of the Labor and Social Department of the Upper Silesian Government, after World War I, was interned five weeks in Poland before he escaped to Rome. His church in Rybnik, the largest in the Katowice Diocese, was damaged by artillery fire on the first day of the German assault. He left behind a brother, Dr. John Reginek, Director of a normal school at

Tarnowski Gory, who, he said, was later put to death and cremated at the Oswiecim concentration camp in Upper Silesia on July 14 of last year. Received by Holy Father. Father Paulus was sought out by the Nazis in the first days of the occupation of Poznan but escaped in time. He met Father Reginek in Rome, where they were received in audience by His Holiness Pope Pius XII and told the Holy Father of the horrors that accompanied the Nazi invasion of their country.

From Rome the priests reached France, where they were assisted in getting to this country by the United States Ambassador.

Glasgow Prelate Hits Immoral Publications

LONDON (NC) Action is being taken by the police here against publishers and authors of books which, it is alleged, offend against decency.

The need for general action was stressed recently by the Archbishop of Glasgow, the Most Rev. Donald Mackintosh, who called public attention to the growing flood of immoral publications.

In praise of the Archbishop, the secretary of the Alliance of Honor—a non-Catholic organization—Alfred E. Kent has written to the Glasgow Herald a letter in which he says "The official ear is deaf and nothing seems to happen. Yet it is an offense to destroy waste paper. Nevertheless dirty-minded writers manage to publish their garbage in cheap form and with offensive illustrated covers, and get away with it."

"The time has come—may it be overdue—for the government to call a halt. The general public would be behind them."

VICTORIA CROSS London.—The Victoria Cross has been awarded posthumously to Lieut. James Jackman, who commanded a machine gun company at Tobruk. Born in Dún Laoghaire, Ireland, the late Lieutenant Jackman was educated at Stonyhurst College, England, conducted by the Jesuit Fathers.

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

The sympathy of the entire Catholic world for the Pontiff, who has been called upon to guide the Church in those most trying times, and on the other hand the confidence inspired in Catholic people everywhere by the Holy Father's example of courage, by his fatherly guidance and by his efforts for the establishment of a Christian world order, were stressed in statements by Members of the American Hierarchy in anticipation of the approaching silver jubilee of the consecration of His Holiness Pope Pius XII as Bishop.

The Holy Father's efforts for peace are given special emphasis in the many statements, in which the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States call upon their people to join in special spiritual homage on the occasion of the jubilee.

Reverence and Affection "Reverence and affection for the Vicar of Christ are always characteristic of the members of Christ's flock," the Most Rev. Joseph F. Rummel, Archbishop of New Orleans, wrote in a pastoral letter. "Today genuine sympathy becomes an essential part of the devotion which draws us to him whom Divine Providence has raised to guide with unerring sureness the Bark of Peter." "Scion of a noble family whose very name, Pacelli, broods peace, he chose for his crest a dove holding in its bill the olive branch, the consecrated symbol of peace, and selected for his political career the gentle name of Pius, borne by an illustrious line of predecessors, famed in history for their gentleness as well as for their firmness. And yet it has fallen to his lot to govern the Church in an era marked by the ravages of a war, greater and more extensive than any recorded in history."

Foremost among the things that bring sorrow to the Holy Father's heart is "the spirit of hatred for God, for Christ, for the Church and every achievement of Christian civilization, that dominates the pagan ideologies that are fanatically striving for the mastery of the earth," Archbishop Rummel said.

Prayer, sacrifices for peace "None except the Pope himself knows how much he is praying and making sacrifices for the cause of peace," the Most Rev. Francis J. L. Beckman, Archbishop of Dubuque, said in an address. "He has dedicated himself entirely to the cause of peace. His very name, Pacelli, means peace. His utterances are replete with pleas for peace. Consequently we look to him to make the peace that will follow this war."

Our country will not enjoy a speedy peace, His Excellency added, unless "we hold up the hands of the Pope by our prayers and sacrifices."

Avers 13,000 Dead In Austria, Slain Or Ill-Treated

WASHINGTON—(N. C.)—Eighty thousand men and 17,000 women were imprisoned by the Nazis in the first eight months after the occupation of Austria and more than 13,000 were killed or died as a consequence of their ill-treatment during the first year of the occupation, says George M. Karst in his recently published book "The Beasts of the Earth."

Telling from his own experiences the cruel treatment of prisoners in the German Concentration Camp at Dachau the author declares that "the treatment of Catholic priests was even worse than ours." At the outset, he says they shared the common barracks with the other prisoners. Later, however, they were transferred to the isolation blocks. In these blocks the prisoners had to work harder and received smaller rations. Nearly all of those who did not get out soon died there.

In the common barracks the priests had always tried to encourage the prisoners and they in turn enjoyed a certain respect. They even gave spiritual solace to the dying, heard confession and gave absolution. The S. S. could not tolerate such a situation and shut the priests up in the isolation cells.

Mr. Karst who took the title of his book from a quotation from the Apocryphes is a native of Austria and was well known there as a Catholic journalist. A few days after the occupation of Austria by the Germans he was arrested and taken to the Concentration Camp at Dachau where according to his statements about 16,000 men were kept prisoners, their only offense being that they were not in favor of Hitler's regime.

In an introduction to the book, published by the Albert Ungar Publishing Company, New York, Dr. George N. Shuster, President of Hunter College, New York City, states that it is not "the story of an individual, but a typical experience shared by hundreds, nay thousands, of unfortunate people after the fateful Friday which brought the Nazi legions to Vienna."

"The author is a man I have known for years," Mr. Shuster continues. "He was a Catholic journalist of ability and reputation. His sole offense was that prior to the establishment of 'Ostmark' (the name the Nazis gave to Austria) he had believed that an independent Austria, committed to the tradition of courtesy and culture was a worthy ideal. This book is written for the purpose of revealing to free men what it can mean to lose freedom."

Among the 16,000 prisoners forming Dachau's concentration camp, Mr. Karst mentions Dr. Frederic Funder, former Vienna Correspondent of the N. C. W. C. News Service; Richard Schmitz, Lord Mayor of Vienna and President of Catholic Action in Austria; Monsignor Hollnsteiner, one of the most prominent Catholic theologians, and one time Dean of the University of Vienna, many members of the Austrian Government, scores of priests, members of Catholic organizations, high officials and officers of the Austrian Army, Catholics, Protestants and Jews, but not a single common criminal.

Father Cleary Safe In Korea NEW YORK, N. Y. — Eighteen weeks after Pearl Harbor, Maryknoll has received the assurance that the 45 Maryknoll priests, Brothers and Sisters in Korea are safe. Among these is Rev. Patrick H. Cleary, M. M., of Ithaca, and brother of Mrs. J. E. Cleary, 92 San Gabriel Drive, and John P. Cleary, 788 A Street Blvd., Rochester, N. Y. The word was secured through the good offices of the Holy See, whose Delegate in Tokyo, Archbishop Paul Marcella, made direct inquiry of the Japanese Government. The Korean Maryknollers are described as interned but are understood to reside on mission property. Since the Japanese allowance of three yen per day made for each, is not sufficient for daily needs, Maryknoll headquarters intends to augment the amount by remittances through the State Department.

Nun's Cause Is Launched

LONDON The cause has been introduced in Rome of the nun who inspired Pope Leo XIII to consecrate the world to the Sacred Heart, reports Vatican Radio.

She was Sister Mary of the Divine Word, of the Good Shepherd Order, and she belonged through her mother to the famous Von Galen family of Muenster, to which the present Bishop of Muenster belongs.

Vatican Radio, heard here, stated that a letter from Cardinal Merry del Val, Under-Secretary of State during the reign of Pope Leo XIII, testifies that it was through Sister Mary's inspiration that the Pope consecrated the world to the Sacred Heart on June 11, 1899, three days before the nun's mission ended—died.

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Natives Kept Faith Without Priest For Years, Chaplain In Tropics Finds

SAN DIEGO.—(NC) A gripping account of the life of a Catholic chaplain with American forces somewhere in the tropics and of the discovery of a Catholic community among natives who have not seen a priest for "many years," is given in a letter to the Most Rev. Charles E. Buddy, Bishop of San Diego, from the Rev. Kenneth G. Stack, former Secretary to Bishop Buddy now serving as a United States Army Chaplain.

Father Stack wrote that he is "a long way from San Diego" and is the only Catholic priest for hundreds of miles around. Censorship, he said, did not permit him to state his location more exactly. Father Stack is Associate Editor of The Southern Cross, official organ of the San Diego Diocese.

Under a blazing tropical sun, where the heat is such that only the lightest clothing can be worn, Father Stack has an average congregation of more than 700 at daily Mass. Most of them are American soldiers, but some are natives who were converted by missionaries many years ago, Father Stack said. The missionaries passed on to other regions but the Catholic natives kept their faith through the years without the guidance of a priest and now attend Mass daily with great devotion.

Troops Fervently Catholic "The troops I am attached to include many who are fervently Catholic, which makes my work a joy rather than a job," Father Stack wrote. "On the transport I managed to say Holy Mass every day and in spite of very crowded conditions and the inevitable confusion the attendance was splendid. On Sundays I said Mass on the open boat deck as that was the only space enough to accommodate the crowds."

His "biggest trial," Father Stack said, will probably be "the irony of the fact that I who always found my recreation and friendship among priests am now completely cut off from them."

The letter gave a vivid picture of the devotion of the Catholic troops. "During these days of Lent," Father Stack said, "a great many boys walk as far as five miles to assist at daily Mass, and that's no mean penance in this jungle heat. I try to spread myself as much as possible and on Sundays I say three Masses covering a distance of some 35 miles. Masses at Bomb Racks, Tree Stumps

"Week days I travel around the area and try to give each unit an opportunity for Mass and Holy Communion. It sounds incredible but the average attendance at these week day Masses is over one hundred!" "I think I must hold a record for saying Mass in odd places on the top of gun carriages, bomb racks, stumps of trees, etc. But wherever I go with my Mass kit I am always sure of a devout congregation. My priesthood has never meant so much to me as here in the jungle." "Some of the natives in this area are Catholics and they attend Mass each morning with great devotion," Father Stack continued. "It seems that they were converted a long time ago by French missionaries before the British took possession. I am their first contact with a priest in many, many years. Bewildered by War "I cannot speak their language but one of these days I am going to attempt to hear their confessions by the sign language. At least it will be a generic confession. They are a friendly and simple people bewildered by this war that has upset their lives and taken away their families." The lone chaplain asked for prayers, "not for my physical safety because I am willing to offer up my life if God so desires, but for the intention that I will always be a true sacerdos alter Christus."