

Msgr. Bergan Lauded As Chancellor, Pastor On Silver Sacerdotal Jubilee

Confers Honorary Degrees



At the 53rd annual commencement exercises of the Catholic University of America, the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon Dr. Leo S. Rowe, Director General of the Pan-American Union and General Wladyslaw Sikorski, Commander-in-chief and Prime Minister of Poland. Most Rev. Michael J. Curley, Archbishop of Baltimore and of Washington, is pictured presenting the degree to (upper photo) Dr. Rowe, and (lower photo) the Polish Ambassador, who accepted it in behalf of General Sikorski. (N.C.W.C.)

Priest With 500 Chinese Lepers Describes Hardship

MARYKNOLL, N. Y.—With his 500 lepers of the Maryknoll Leper Colony in hard straits for want of rice, and a post of Japanese troops only 600 yards distant, the Rev. Joseph Sweeney, in a new airmail message to Maryknoll, reports tense days in South China.

"Since last June," writes Father Sweeney, "the Japanese have been garrisoned on the other side of the river—only 600 yards wide here. All our rice had to be carried in at night in pitch darkness. The Japanese will probably stay as they have wolfed mines a mile or two up the river. This month the weather seems to keep their patrols quiet but last month and the one before they were very active."

"Last financial year," continues the letter, "our expenses were \$13,000 plus. In April we admitted 106 lepers from Hong Kong on the guarantee of the Hong Kong Government of \$4 and later \$6 per head, monthly. The only thing paid by the Government was three months' supply of rice for that group. Thus our expenses are that much more."

"We have retrenched everything possible, closed a 70-bed refugee hospital, reduced the staff, and cut food to the minimum. We are passing through the coldest weather in memory. Two lepers have died of debility increased by the cold and others are at death's door because we can't afford and can't get cotton and cloth. But food and medicine are the big problem. I lost about a year's supply of the latter on a blockade runner. Since the blockade it has been increasingly difficult to get food and medicine. Exchange is five times the normal in our favor but prices are 20 times

the normal against us. We are far from the markets.

"Thank God we have only to look across the river to the utter misery of life to see how much worse things could be. Japanese planes are often overhead and we might well have the same fate as struck the Portuguese Jesuit mission at Shihong last month—13 bombs. If they cross the river we hope to have time to hop to a hide-out in the mountains, where we have a mass kit, etc. and carry on from there."

Priest Saves Altar Vessels From Bandits

KONGMOON.—(NO)—A small group of bandits rode into the seacoast village of Chikkal early on the morning of Passion Sunday and began a systematic and leisurely looting of the village which continued through until the next day.

The Rev. Donat Chatigny, N.M., Pastor of the Maryknoll mission of Chikkal, is long experienced with South China highwaymen. When he finished his Mass, he decided that the best way to handle the situation was to take a walk into the hills, carrying the sacred vessels with him. Although the entire village was thoroughly looted, no part of the mission was even touched. Father Chatigny returned the next day.

"And I believe that as the angels in heaven juck up 'the words of the Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus' (of the Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving) they will tolerate an interruption from Jesus Christ. Well done, good and faithful servant. Thus did His Excellency the Most Rev. James E. Kearney conclude his sermon at the Silver Jubilee Mass of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William F. Bergan which was celebrated by the Jubilarian in St. Monica's Church on Sunday, June 14, at 11 o'clock.

In reviewing Monsignor Bergan's twenty-five years of serving the people of the diocese in the capacity of teacher, "friend of sinners," chancellor and pastor, Bishop Kearney also declared that the diocese is richer and will be richer for his years of administration.

With His Excellency, Bishop Kearney presiding at the throne, the officers of the Mass with Monsignor Bergan were Assistant Priest, Rt. Rev. Msgr. William M. Hart, V.G., Deacons of Honor, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. J. P. Goggin and the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles F. Shay; Deacon, the Rev. Frederick G. Straub, pastor of St. Alphonsus Church, Auburn; Subdeacon, the Rev. Daniel B. O'Rourke, pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows Church.

The Most Rev. Walter A. Foery, Bishop of Syracuse and close friend of Msgr. Bergan's was also present in the sanctuary, together with several other monsignors and priests. The Rev. Dr. James McAniff, vice-chancellor, was master of ceremonies.

Monsignor Bergan was escorted to the altar by a procession of school children, altar boys, seminarians and clergy. The church was crowded with parishioners and friends of the jubilarian who joined with him in his Mass of Thanksgiving.

Following the Mass, a dinner was held at the Palm Room of the Hotel Seneca. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph E. Cameron, the "good neighbor" pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, was toastmaster, and Bishop Foery, Bishop Kearney and Monsignor Hart were among those who briefly addressed the assembled clergy, friends and relatives of the jubilarian.

Also guests of Monsignor Bergan on this happy occasion were about fifty nuns of the different orders, who, after attending the Solemn High Mass, adjourned to the parish hall where dinner was served for them.

Last Friday evening in the hall an entertainment and reception was held by the people of St. Monica's for their pastor. The program included choral selections by the Eighth Grade pupils, and the Sodality Glee Club, and a very entertaining operetta by "Our Little Ones." Charles A. Klok of the Seventh Grade delivered the "Greeting," and Father Bernard Cleary made the presentation. The school children, the parishioners and the various church organizations presented gifts which were displayed in the front of the hall.

Pastor Moves Parish To Be Near Interned Japanese of Seattle

SEATTLE—With his entire parish moved into an internment camp, the Rev. Leo Tibesar, M.M., pastor of the local Maryknoll Mission to the Japanese has taken up residence close by the camp at Puyallup, Wash., in order to minister to the spiritual needs of his people.

"I've moved into this lovely little town, bag, baggage and parish," states Father Tibesar. "It has rained every day since and the camps have been quagmires. The Japanese settled right down into their cabins and made themselves as much at home as circumstances permitted.

"I'm staying at the rectory two blocks from the camp. Our people each day have morning prayers and Mass, at which some 20 to 30 receive Holy Communion. In the evening they gather for the recitation of the rosary together. Permission has been obtained for the Catholics of the two remaining camps to come in for Mass. Attendance runs to over 500, with an average of about 100 Communions every Sunday."

SEEKS K. C. DATA



Cyril J. Stast

K. of C. Name Statt To Compile War Data

Appointed by Chairman John E. Swift of the War Activities Committee of the Supreme Council, Knights of Columbus, Cyril J. Statt, Master, Fifth District, Fourth Degree has charge of compiling a complete and permanent record of the Council and individual member's contributions to the war effort.

Mr. Statt has been assigned to cover the area covered by the Rochester diocesan area in Region No. 2 headed by Supreme Secretary Joseph F. Lamb.

Information will be sought from the individual councils on the names of members of each Council in the service, branch of service, officer's rank, if any, military honors and deaths occurring in the service.

Each Council will prepare an Honor Roll.

Council contributions such as use of Council rooms for military or defense meetings; entertainment programs sponsored for men in the service; what Council is doing for its own members; and Council's financial contributions to War Bond Program, U.S.O., Civilian Defense and the Red Cross will be information sought by Mr. Statt.

Added information on Councils sponsoring Blood Donors, attending First Aid Courses and furnishing religious articles, gift packages and other articles to service men is wanted. Data on activities sponsored by the Council for men in the service in cooperation with other organizations such as the N. C. C. S., Civilian Reception Committee and other groups will be compiled.

A record will be made of individual membership's contributions to the War Bond Program and a record of outstanding members in the Civilian Protection Program will be compiled.

Any data helpful to Chairman Cyril J. Statt can be sent to him at 48 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester or he will answer any questions concerning the compiling of data on the Knights of Columbus activities in the war effort.

Lift Your Hats

Don't be afraid or ashamed to lift your hats when passing a Catholic Church. The Lord of Hosts will be the more mindful of you and the sincere onlooker will be edified. All humanity has a good deal of use for the man who is consistent and who lives up to his convictions—religious or otherwise. Thousands of converts have been made by actions which in themselves seem of no consequence. The Sign of the Cross at meals—the raising of the hat in passing the church, the reverent saluting of God's priest when going on his daily round among the sick and sad—these simple acts have set many on honest man and woman asking themselves soul-searching questions. Times without number we have heard converts assert that their first steps on the road to the Catholic Church were taken as the result of witnessing these public evidences of Catholic faith.

Benefit Dance Held By Hospital Alumnae

AUBURN—The Mercy Hospital Alumnae held their benefit dance for the Alumnae Association on Friday evening June 12. Mrs. Alice Acre was general chairman and she was assisted by Miss Dorothy Smart, Miss Margaret Bearcroft, Miss Nellie Clark, Miss Margaret Kelly, Mrs. Sylvia Flieg, Mrs. Beaulie Burns, Mrs. Loretta Vignanno, Mrs. Florence Johnson, Mrs. Mary Mulvey, Miss Mary McGrath, Mrs. Rebecca Harne, Mrs. Evelyn Armstrong, Mrs. Margaret Callahan, Mrs. Mary Burns, Miss Catherine Cavanaugh.

Cal Carmen and his orchestra furnished the music for the dance and Nat Carbone, vocalist, contributed greatly to the enjoyment of the party.

Banquet Held By K. C. Auxiliary In Auburn

AUBURN—The K. of C. Auxiliary held their banquet at the Chimeys on Wednesday evening. Mrs. Edward Carroll was general chairman. Mrs. Dominic Colella was song leader and Mrs. Joseph Stapleton was in charge of the entertainment committee.

Mrs. Edward Carroll was assisted by the following members of the Auxiliary:

Mrs. Avery Neagle, Mrs. Joseph Ryan, Mrs. Dennis Renahan, Mrs. Frank Shields, Mrs. Ronald Cox, Mrs. Frank Murphy, Mrs. Albert Lovell, Mrs. William Hickey, Mrs. John Walsh, Mrs. Raymond Olney, Mrs. Joseph O'Donnell, Mrs. Joseph Paul, Mrs. Edward Secaur, Mrs. John Ganey, Mrs. Joseph Stapleton, Mrs. Joseph Conroy, Mrs. Fred Woods, Mrs. Robert Hanlon and Mrs. Dominic Colella.

GOOD SIDE

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