Number of Priests Dwindles In Nation Under Nazi Rule

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Army Distributes Bibles

Brigadier General William R. Arnold, Chief of Army Chaplains, inaugurates the Army's Bible distribution plan, by which every soldier will receive upon request, token texts of the Holy Scriptures. Monsignor Arnold is pictured presenting to Pvt. Anthony Todaro, of Washington, a copy of "My Daily Reading from the New Testament." (N.C.W.C.)

Plan N. C. C. S. Program In Diocese As Naval Station Opening Nears

With the appointment by His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, of the Rev. John S. Randall as diocesan chairman, a set-up of the National Catholic Community Service, member agency of the United Service Organizations, is now being organized here.

Reported influx of the large number of Navy men to be assigned to the Sampson Naval Training Station on the shore of Seneca Lake will present the N. C. C. S. group with its greatest opportunity for service, Father Randall states.

The diocesan chairman is working with the N. C. C. S. group in Rochester affiliated with the U. S. O. Citizens' Committee and the Rev. William McFadden, pastor of St. Stephen's Church, Geneva, will be the local N. C. C. S. chairman and serve on the Geneva U. S. O. Committee.

Morale Program

The National Catholic Community Service is the organization set up by the Archbishop and Bishops of the United States to work with the other U.S.O. member agencies in the program of providing recreation, entertainment and service to men in uniform and war industry workers.

The other member agencies of the U.S.O. are the Young Men's Christian Association, Salvation Army, Young Women's Christian Association, Jewish Welfare Board and National Traveler's Aid Association.

Dedication on June 21 of the 500th U.S.O. Club at Trenton, N.J. marked the rapidly expanding morale work program of the U.S.O. and its member agencies for the men in the armed forces and for women engaged in war industry.

The Trenton Club will be operated by the National Catholic Community Service and is the 184th U.S.O. operation now under the supervision of the Catholic organization.

In existence a little more than a year, the National Catholic Community Service has expanded to the extent that it is now operating in more than 35 states throughout the nation and has personnel serving in the U.S.O. Overseas Division in Alaska, Hawaii, Trinidad, Puerto Rico and the Canal Zone.

Designed by the Bishops of the United States as the official Catholic war service agency, the N.C.C.S. now has professional field staff members and volunteer committees operating on its behalf in virtually every state in the Union.

The national director of N.C.C.S. programs is Daniel J. Culhane who is a graduate of the old Cathedral High School in Rochester.

Supreme Knight Francis P. Matthews of the Knights of Columbus is executive chairman of the N.C.C.S. and a vice-president of the U.S.O.

REPORTS FOR DUTY

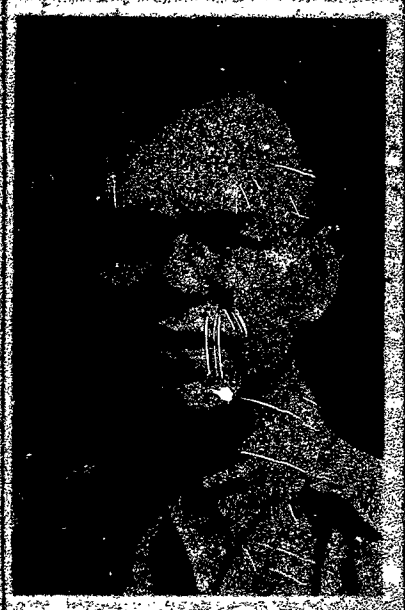

Photo by Heberger

Rev. Francis C. Waterstraat

Fr. Hanna Celebrates First Afternoon Mass At Nation's Capital

First afternoon Mass for men in the armed forces, ever to be celebrated in the Nation's Capital, will be offered by Chaplain Austin E. Hanna, at the Army War College on Friday, August 7 at 5:15 p. m.

Officers and enlisted men at the War College, situated at the junction of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, will assist. The Mass is being celebrated in the afternoon in accordance with the recent decree of the Sacred Congregation of the Sacraments, to allow the men to receive Holy Communion on the First Friday, Father Hanna states.

Chaplain Hanna is a priest of the Rochester Diocese. He has been recently promoted to the rank of Captain in the Chaplains' Division of the U. S. Army.

Church Bells Ring

Syracuse, N. Y. — Catholic Churches of Syracuse and Onondaga County joined with other religious institutions in ringing their bells to announce the opening of the War Bond Pledge Campaign.

Army Chaplain Duties Call Fr. Waterstraat To Georgia Post

The Rev. Francis C. Waterstraat, assistant pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Webster, commissioned a U. S. Army Chaplain with the rank of First Lieutenant, is reporting today, Thursday, at Fort Benning, Ga.

Father Waterstraat, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Waterstraat of Minden, was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on June 7, 1941. He is one of six children and his brother Edward, is now serving in the armed forces.

First assigned as Assistant Pastor, Holy Family Church, Rochester, Father Waterstraat has also served at St. Alphonsus Church, Auburn, and St. Michael's Church, Rochester. He has been at Holy Trinity Church, Webster, for three years.

His early education was obtained at Churchville High School after which he attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries.

He is widely known among youth of the diocese, having been active in Sodality work and with the Boy Scouts in Auburn, the Columbian Squires at Camp Columbia.

Pope Greets Finland's First Holy See Envoy

VATICAN CITY (NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII on July 31 received George Achates Gripenberg, Finland's first Minister to the Holy See. Presenting his credentials, Mr. Gripenberg delivered an address in French in which he rendered respectful homage to the Holy Father, spoke in praise of the Pontiff's many efforts to relieve suffering caused by the war and expressed the desire of Finland for ever cordial relations with the Vatican.

Responding also in French, His Holiness recalled evidences of benevolent consideration which the Holy See has given the Finnish people and the particularly beneficial activities of the Church in Finland, dating from its works for the intellectual and moral development of the country in the era from the middle of the fourteenth to the end of the fifteenth century.

REUNITED JACOBITES SEND SPIRITUAL BOUQUET TO POPE

TIRUVELLA, India — Arrangements were made in the Diocese of Tiruvella, which has been erected mainly for the benefit of Jacobite Schismatics and Protestants who have become re-united to the Catholic Church, to present a spiritual bouquet to the Holy Father on the occasion of his silver jubilee.

Station WENY Recognizes Catholic Daughters Record

The program and achievements of the Catholic Daughters of America, nationally and locally, were to be given public recognition Friday at 12:15 p. m. in a broadcast from Station WENY sponsored by Elmira's Court St. Rita, 137.

Past Grand Regent Mrs. Mary Mallon was assigned the role of commentator on the "Know Your Community" Program.

The organization of the Elmira Court Apr 23, 1911, followed by eight years the institution of the national organization by the Knights of Columbus. The first Supreme Regent was John E Carberry, grand knight of Utica, N. Y., Council.

Court St. Rita was formed under the direction of Mrs. Daniel Sheehan, Sr., who was a member of the Poughkeepsie Court and the wife of the first grand knight of the Elmira K. of C., and the late Mrs. Christopher Biggs, the wife of the second Elmira grand knight.

The charter class of Court St. Rita numbered 25. Today the membership is 170 and four of the charter members still are on the rolls of the court. They are Mrs. John McMahon, first grand regent; Miss Mary Cavin, Miss Margaret O'Connor and Miss Jane Wipfler.

In 1917, the Daughters assisted the Elmira K. of C. in raising money for the War Activities Fund of the Knights. They took part in Red Cross work and performed service on the Canteen which was of great benefit to service men.

Since St. Joseph's Hospital has been established the ladies meet and sew for the hospital's needs.

They have done a great deal of charity work, have assisted in local community drives and are now engaged in many activities connected with the present war and defense program. Members of the court individually have purchased a total of $14,500 in War Savings Bonds. Recently the ladies voted to purchase a $1,000 Bond from the Court funds.

Scholarship Bonds

Chicago, Ill. — Plans for converting one of its scholarship funds into U. S. War Bonds, are under way by the Mundelein College Alumnae Association, it has been announced by Mrs. Charles J. O'Neil, Jr., president of the Alumnae Association.

Bishop Presents Photograph Album To Britain's Queen

LONDON.—Before leaving for Canada, the Most Rev. Charles L. Nelligan, Bishop Ordinary to the Canadian Overseas Forces, was received by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and presented to the Queen an album containing 30 photographs of the Dionne quintuplets.

The Queen insisted on viewing the album immediately and asked many questions, the first being: "Do they live with their parents?" Her majesty then wanted to know about the quintuplets attainments, whether they were musically inclined.

Her Majesty then inquired about the Canadian chaplains' service and the response from the men in the armed service.

Belgium's Holiday

Montreal.—The Belgian colony in Montreal observed the national holiday of Belgium with a special Mass at historic Notre Dame Church.

First Colored Catholic Chaplain Named For U. S. Army Is Divine Word Priest

WASHINGTON (NC) — The United States Army has commissioned its first Colored Catholic chaplain.

The Rev. John Walter Bowman, Colored priest of the Society of the Divine Word, was commissioned a captain this week and is being sent to the Chaplains School at Harvard on August 10.

Father Bowman is the fifth priest of the Society of the Divine Word in the United States to serve as an Army chaplain. He was born on March 16, 1908 in the Nation's Capital, the thirteenth of the 14 children of two fervent Maryland Catholics, Francis and Cornelia Bowman. His parents now reside in Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish, here. Of their children, in addition to Father Bowman, three brothers and five sisters are still living.

St. Teresa's Church in this city was the scene of Father Bowman's baptism, his First Holy Communion and his confirmation.

After having completed his elementary education and embarked upon his secondary schooling, Father Bowman decided to go to St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Miss. Between September, 1926, and May, 1931, he completed the prescribed preparatory studies. In September, 1931, he entered the novitiate of the Society of the Divine Word at East Troy, Wis. Two years later, on August 15, 1933, he pronounced his first vows.

Back once more in St. Augustine's Seminary, Father Bowman finished his philosophical and theological studies and received all the Minor and Major Orders from the Most Rev. Richard O. Gerow, Bishop of Natchez. After being elevated to the subdiaconate on November 1, 1938, and the diaconate on December 8, he was ordained to the priesthood January 8, 1939.

Service Flag Rite

Racine, Wis. — The American Legion color guard appeared recently in Holy Name Church at a Holy Name Society Service Flag ceremony to obtain recognition for the sale of War Bonds and Stamps.