

GENERAL, CHAPLAINS GREET MILITARY VICAR



On the occasion of a recent visit to military posts throughout the country, Archbishop Francis J. Spellman, of New York, Military Vicar of the Army and Navy Diocese, is pictured at Camp Adair, Oregon. Left to right, Brigadier General Paul V. Kane, Archbishop Spellman, Chaplain Thomas P. Birmingham, Chaplain Gerard O'Keefe, Chaplain Ambrose F. Kenney and Chaplain Victor Schwarz. (N.C.W.C.)

Pilot Asks Mother 'To Skip Presents, Have Masses Said'

LOS ANGELES—"We can skip the presents from now on. Just have some Masses said for us."

No message was ever more welcome to the mother of a hero son than this received in a letter from Capt. Robert B. Sullivan, three times decorated for his exploits in the Pacific, by Mrs. Margaret Sullivan, of Los Angeles, a member of St. Brendan's Parish. It came as a result of the receipt of Christmas gifts for her son and other members of the flying command with which he is fighting in the Pacific and which has seen action on widely scattered fields since Pearl Harbor. It meant, she said, that her son and his comrades, almost all of whom he reports to be Catholics, were thinking of things eternal much more than of creature comforts.

Captain Sullivan, who was reported in newspaper dispatches to be the hero of one of the most remarkable air encounters in the Pacific last October, when his Flying Fortress encountered 30 Japanese planes and knocked down four of the enemy to come out unscathed, has been successively awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Oak Leaf Cluster and the Flying Medal.

Attributing the fearlessness of his companions to their fervent religious zeal, Captain Sullivan writes of the devotion which his comrades have to the Blessed Mother. Whenever possible they received Holy Communion daily, he says.

A graduate of Loyola High School here, Capt. Sullivan majored in military tactics before he won his degree at the University of California in Los Angeles. Upon graduation he joined the Army Air School at Kelly and Randolph Field in Texas with the rank of lieutenant.

Meets MacArthur

Milwaukee. The Rev. August F. Gearhart, who holds a Lieutenant Colonel's commission, has been named Senior Chaplain of the American Air Forces in the Southwest Pacific, according to word received here. Father Gearhart is in charge of all Chaplains in the "Somewhere in New Guinea" area. A native of this city, Father Gearhart in his last letter mentioned meeting and talking for 15 minutes in the Pacific war zone with another Milwaukeean—Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Government Offers Historic Mansion To Homeless Nuns

LONDON. The government has offered an old-world country mansion of historic interest to a community of nuns in the West of England who have been wrenched out of their convent.

"He is idealistic, but has a sense of realism that keeps his feet on the ground. You can't fool him. He wants to know the why and wherefore of things. And these are the men who are not only helping to preserve our present form of society, but will have a voice in determining that of the future."

POPE'S PEACE POINTS
New Orleans. "Pope Pius and His Peace Proposals" is the theme of the annual series of addresses sponsored by the Metropolitan Council of the Archdiocesan Council of Holy Name Societies.



3801 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa

A Year's Record

At the Executive Committee Meeting of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference held on Jan. 6 the following report for 1942 was submitted by the Executive Secretary.

Land and Home, the official magazine made its appearance in February under its new name. From the initial press-run of 2,000, it went up to 3,500 for the December number. Russell Lord says of it: "The text is full of vitality and a sort of earthy life eternal, as well as of spiritual matters; and the spot decorations that you have lately developed are in complete accord."

A weekly Rural Life Column is released and is used regularly by forty Catholic weeklies.

Over 50,000 pieces of free literature were distributed in the form of folders, pamphlets, and books.

Approximately 75 small groups of priests, seminarians, study clubs, Catholic and non-Catholic, availed themselves of the Library Service.

The CATHOLIC ACTION FARMERS (C. A. F.) YOUTH SERVICE was established and from it sprang very interesting local group work was developed. Since the departure of Mr. Geisler for the Army, the Service has been edited by Father Puz of Notre Dame and Mr. Hynes of St. John's. It is published every two months in mimeographed form at the National Headquarters.

The four Rural Life Summer Schools held at Bay St. Louis, Mississippi; Atchison, Kansas; St. Louis, Missouri; and Collegeville, Minnesota, had an enrollment of 314 priests, sisters, and laymen. Forty-two dioceses were represented, 15 religious orders, and 27 states. Ninety-one lecturers staffed the schools.

The Speakers' Bureau filled engagements in 43 dioceses, 30 states, with an approximate audience of 75,000 people. Over 30,000 non-Catholics at 70 exclusively non-Catholic meetings heard the various speakers.

The headquarters of the Conference are now permanently located at 3801 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, in a spacious and attractive old residence. The Conference is purchasing it. We need a name for the headquarters. Have you any suggestions?

Mr. Jones: "I'm a self-made man."
Mr. White: "How nice of you not to blame somebody else."

Mexican Missioner

Mexico City. The Rev. Mier y Teran, S.J., who spent many years as an indefatigable missionary among the Tarahumara Indians in

the State of Chihuahua, has died here. Father Mier y Teran conceived and put into practice an educational system which produced excellent results among the Indians.

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Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, D.D., President
Rev. Msgr. Bryan J. McEntegart, L.L.D., National Secretary
Rev. John J. Corrigan, Assistant Secretary

BENEFITS

Our missionaries offer Fifteen Thousand Masses every year for our members. Why not share in the fruits of these Masses by becoming one of us? Annual dues—One Dollar. Family Membership—Five Dollars a year.

OUR MISSIONS SUFFER A GREAT LOSS

The Sacred Congregation for the Oriental Church has just informed us of the death of the venerable and saintly missionary, Bishop Francis Vazhapilly. We pray for his noble soul God's eternal peace.

The death of Bishop Vazhapilly is a great loss to our missions. He served zealously as Bishop of Trichur, India, for the past twenty years. His death was hastened by an accident while enroute to attend a Solemn Mass commemorating the Episcopal Jubilee of the Holy Father. He died, one may say, in a last gesture of loyalty to the Holy See and to Christ's Vicar on earth.

Bishop Vazhapilly was the inspiration of the remarkable Jacobite return to the unity of the Church. Now there are more Catholics of the Syro-Malabar Rite in union with the Holy See than there are dissidents. His last pastoral plan was to raise funds to establish six urgently needed mission stations. He hoped to give new converts places of worship and to make the Church more accessible to many thinking of becoming Catholics.

A few weeks ago, we quoted his last letter to us: "I have an enormous amount of work to do. I have to my diocese forty thousand children who would be in Catholic schools, if we had the schools." Leading souls into union with Christ's Church and giving Catholic education to children were his outstanding works.

Nothing would console the mourning priests of Bishop Vazhapilly's diocese more than to be enabled to finish the work he planned and began. A chapel or a school can be built for Five Hundred Dollars.

Surely the prayers of this beloved bishop in Heaven will move some of our readers to give \$500 to advance the Kingdom of God in Trichur, and to perpetuate the memory of Bishop Vazhapilly. Will you not help us to do so?

FIFTEEN DOLLARS

That sum means much to the missions. For it you can place in a mission chapel a Sanctuary Lamp, which is required where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved, and give a supply of candles which will last a year for Mass and devotions. We are sure this suggestion will appeal to you.

FOR YOUR DECEASED

All Catholics wish to do something for their dead. We suggest the Gregorian Masses. That is, to have Mass offered every day for thirty consecutive days for a particular soul. Many Religious Orders have the Gregorian Masses said for each departed member. You can do so for a friend or relative. Write for our free leaflet.

FOR ONE CHILD

You can enable some poor child to receive Catholic schooling during the new term which is just beginning. A mission pastor needs Five Dollars a term for each child in his mission school. Your donation will enable him to take in one more poor child.

ONE OF A HUNDRED

If one hundred of our readers would send Five Dollars each, we could build a mission chapel in the Near East. Send Five Dollars today. Your donation is needed to make up the Five Hundred Dollars necessary for building a chapel.

USED AT MASS

Would you like to give the things required for the celebration of Mass? You can donate a chalice, missal, crucifix and candlesticks, set of altar linens and a year's supply of candles for Fifty Dollars. Many of our missionaries would be delighted to receive such a gift.

FEW ANSWER

It is strange that so few answer our appeals for Missals. Yet a priest must have a Missal in order to say Mass. We are in need of many for our mission chapels. Ten Dollars will purchase a Missal for a poor chapel. Won't you donate this necessary article for Holy Mass?

YOUR WILL

You should make a will even though you have little of this world's goods. If you die without a will, your property will be divided according to the law of the State and not as you desire. Place in your will the name of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association. Our missionary priests and sisters will never forget you.

PLEASE RENEW

If you are one of our members whose membership is due, please renew at once. The loss of a single member is a serious loss to our missions.

Send all communications to
Catholic Near East Welfare Association
400 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York, N. Y.