

# Bishop Kearney Asks Wider Observance of 'Biblical Sunday'

Commenting on the observance of Biblical Sunday, which will be celebrated February 21, His Excellency, the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, Bishop of Rochester, declares "nothing

## Bill Prohibiting Mailing Of Unsolicited Material Exempts Religious Matter

WASHINGTON — Unsolicited merchandise sent through the mail for the purpose of making a sale, or to induce the addressee to make a gift or donation, would be declared non-mailable under a measure introduced in Congress by Senator Carl Hayden of Arizona.

It is provided in the bill that "this Act shall not apply to any merchandise deposited in the mails by any religious, charitable or eleemosynary society or institutions whose application for the privilege of sending unsolicited merchandise through the mails has been approved by the Postmaster General, if such society or institution is the sole beneficiary of the proceeds of the sale of such merchandise or of the gift or donation induced thereby."

Except where the Postmaster General shall approve the application for the privilege made by one of the above indicated agencies, unsolicited merchandise shall not be deposited in the mails, the measure says. Where it is mailed, it may be returned to the sender and the due postage collected at double the regular rate.

## BOARD TO EXCUSE CATHOLIC CHILDREN FOR RETREATS

LOS ANGELES — The Board of Education of the Los Angeles School District has made arrangements through which Catholic children attending elementary, junior and senior high public schools may be excused two days each semester for the purpose of attending religious exercises.

This applies to the retreats in preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation for elementary grade children, and to parish retreats for pupils attending junior and senior high schools.

## Named In Estate

Milwaukee — Catholic organizations, institutions and priests were named the principal beneficiaries in the will of Richard C. Knox, 88, dealer in real estate delinquent tax certificates. The will disposed of an estate valued at approximately \$200,000, and contained a provision that all inheritance taxes on bequests be paid by the estate.

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could be more in harmony with the mind of the Church than an increase in the interest in Biblical Sunday on the part of priest and people.

The comments of Bishop Kearney, who is a member of the Episcopal Commission of the Confederation of Christian Doctrine, were published in "Our Parish Confederation," the organ of the National Confederation. They are as follows:

### BIBLICAL SUNDAY

February Twenty-First

"Encouraging the reading of the Word of God and meditation on the great truths of religion as they unfold within the pages of Holy Writ."

The recurrence of the feasts of the mind in the Church calendar has been one of the most effective elements in keeping alive devotion to those servants of God. So, too, the institution of Mission Sunday has served each year to renew interest and activity in the works of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, just as the selection of a definite Sunday to renew the popular pledge of the Legion of Decency each year, has retained popular concern for decency in pictures.

It stands to reason then that our efforts to revive in our congregation an active interest in the reading of the Scriptures, can certainly receive great stimulation if we set aside Biblical Sunday as a day upon which the place of the Scriptures in our lives can be brought before our people. While it is true that every Sunday is Biblical Sunday for the Catholic who uses his Missal properly, and thereby comes to a realization of the important place occupied by both Testaments in the sacred liturgy, there still remains a great deal to be gained by setting aside one Sunday for the specific purpose of encouraging the reading of the Word of God and meditation on the great truths of religion as they unfold within the pages of Holy Writ.

The Catholic Biblical Association of America which has committed itself to the apostleship of "popularization of Scriptural knowledge," points out the appropriateness of Septuagesima Sunday for the annual Biblical Sunday. "The selection was prompted chiefly by a practice which reaches back to the early days of the Church. For, as the Roman Breviary reveals, on Septuagesima Sunday, the first station of the gradually crystallizing ecclesiastical year, the Holy Bible was opened on the first page, and thenceforth the reading of the entire book was continued throughout the year, even as it is today. The New Testament was appropriately inserted at Easter-tide. Hence, we are harking back to an ancient tradition when we concede to Septuagesima Sunday the distinction of being designated as Biblical Sunday.

Nothing could be more in harmony with the mind of the Church than an increase in the interest in Biblical Sunday on the part of priest and people. As Pope Benedict said in his classic encyclical: "None can fail to see what profit and sweet tranquility must result in well-disposed souls from such devout reading of the Bible. Whoever comes to it in piety, faith and humility, and with a determination to make progress in it, will assuredly find therein and will eat the bread that comes down from heaven."

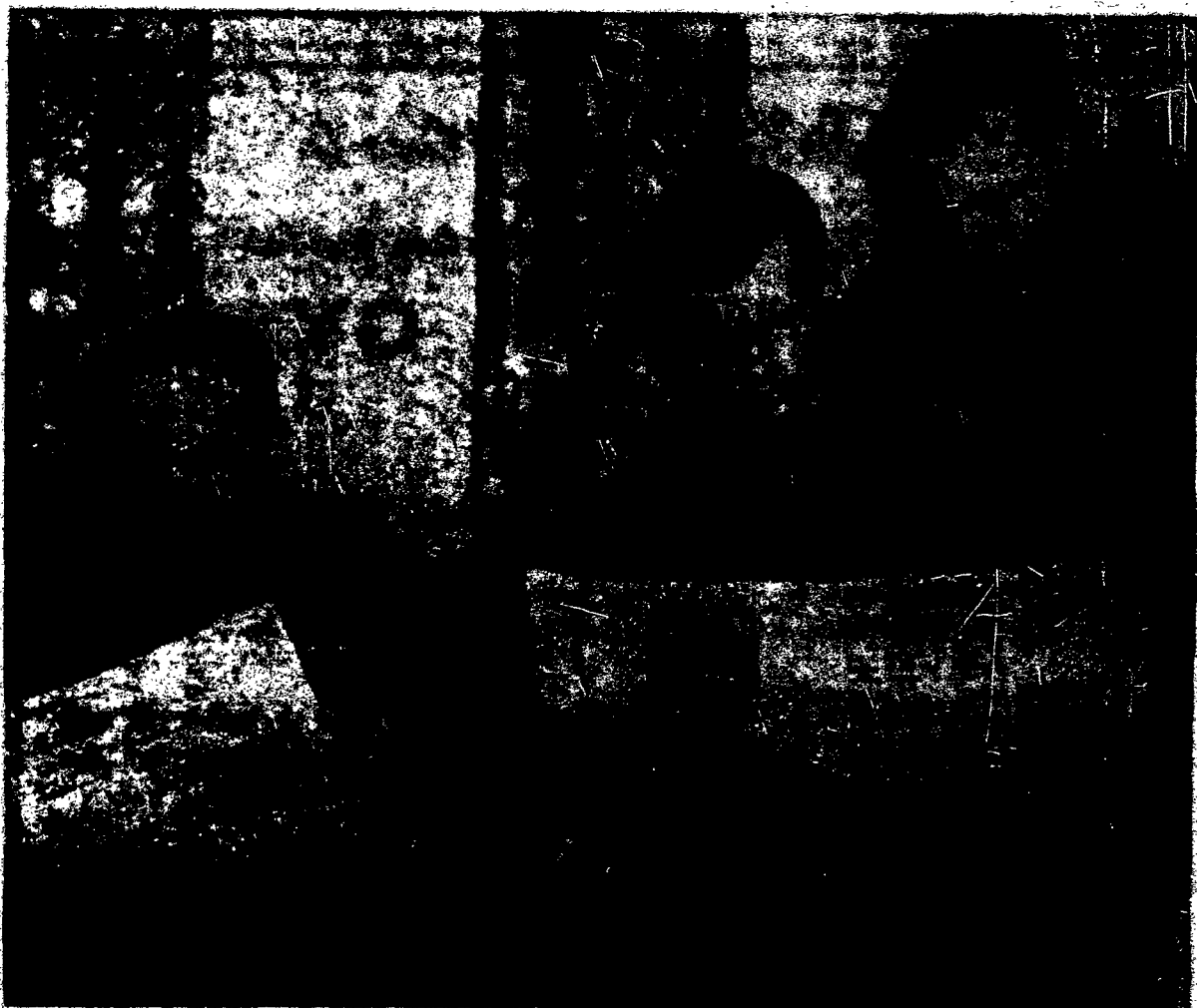
We have reason to look forward with great hope and confidence to definite results in the individual soul and in the Church at large from an increased acceptance of Biblical Sunday with all its implications.

† JAMES E. KEARNEY, D.D.,

Bishop of Rochester, Member of the Episcopal Committee of the C.C.D.

## Prayer A Safeguard

Pray often that you may be safeguarded against a sudden and unprovided death; and above all, that you may be fortified by the Holy Virtues against the dangers of your last hour.



ON THE FIGHTING FRONT—The Catholic paper is conducive to maintaining morale among our fighting men. Here are three of them at the USO building, Franklin Square, Rochester, intent on reading the Catholic Courier. They are: (from left) Pharmacist's Mate First Class Victor H. Bagnall; Pvt. William Gilder and Pvt. George Hollingshead stationed in Rochester.

## Catholic Press Must Safeguard Ideals For Peace With Justice

(Continued from Page 1)

competition with any similar secular news gathering agency. It has a mission of its own. It is a "Church news service, dealing exclusively with the events of the Apostolic Catholic Church, religion and the conflicts of the human race with the moral law."

The N.C.W.C. News Service is to be found in every country of any importance. There responsible correspondents are constantly on the scene to report on current events and how they may influence Catholic life. Very often, as the Bishop points out, they have sensed the facts, when secular correspondents cannot get to the true source. Through the medium of the News Service the words of the Supreme Pontiff are quickly carried into every country of the world. When Bishops of a foreign land issue pastoral letters, representatives of this service are there to bring their messages to every news editor's desk.

This News Service has been a great factor in keeping American Catholics advised of the developments in other countries.

The pastors of German Bishops have been faithfully reported, thereby informing us authentically of the evils of Nazism and its efforts to uproot not only Catholicity but even the idea of a Supreme Being.

It has enabled us to keep in step with the progress of Nazi rule in occupied countries. It has been a potent factor in arousing the patriotism of American Catholics for we have learned the fate that might be ours should the Axis overrun this country. . . a fate not dissimilar from that of Poland.

The CATHOLIC COURIER has been a consistent subscriber to these news releases in order that it might bring this information into every Catholic home in the diocese. This fact alone would seem sufficient reason to heed the invitation of His Excellency Bishop Kearney and subscribe to the COURIER during Press Month.

## Sails on the Same

Everything around changes but the ship of Christ Our Lord sails on the same, the same in herself as when Our Lord's doctrine first constructed her. She was built by Him, the Carpenter's Sons, to last to the end of time and in essential form and character she remains the same, though moved sometimes by swelling sails, sometimes by laboring seas.

## Chaplain Heindl's Work In Pacific Acclaimed By Brooklyn Soldier

Priestly zeal of Chaplain Elmer W. Heindl, Rochester diocese priest, and his concern for his soldiers' physical welfare on the fighting front "somewhere in the Pacific" are glow-

ingly described in a letter one of the boys has written to his pastor in Brooklyn.

Excerpts from the letter which appeared in a Brooklyn church's Parish Bulletin and received here this week, tell graphically of Father Heindl's Daily Mass, when possible, for his troops and of his all-out efforts in helping to keep soldiers of all creeds physically fit.

Father Heindl, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Heindl, 179 Melville St., has been in the Army Chaplain service since March, 1942.

### Credited Chaplain's Zeal

Here is what the letter states in part:

"Dear Father:

"Knowing of your deep interest in the spiritual affairs and attitude of the men in the service, I am most happy to report that I have noticed a definite upswing in the number of men attending Catholic services. This was first evidenced on the troopship in which we crossed when men who had completely drifted away from the Church and had not received the Blessed Sacrament in more than 15 years, resumed attendance at Mass, daily and Sunday and went to Confession. This surge continued after landing and so far as I can see has suffered no diminution as yet."

"No small amount of credit is due our Catholic Chaplain, Father Heindl of Rochester, N. Y., who by his understanding attitude, broad liberality and constant concern over the affairs of our men, both spiritual and temporal, gained the respect, admiration of everyone, Catholic, Protestant, Jew and non-believer alike.

"On this island, which is practically devoid of recreational facilities, he labored strenuously giving fully of his free time and efforts to procure sports equipment, record players, phonograph records and even a radio. When we landed here and were without pay for over two months, he loaned out his money to the men until he was completely 'broke' himself.

"Daily Mass was said, when possible, at 4:30 in the afternoon, this being the most convenient time because of the hours for duty and watch and to receive Holy Communion at that Mass, we were required to fast from solids for four hours and from liquids for one



Chaplain E. W. Heindl Photo By Heiberg

hour, which I understand is a special dispensation granted only to American men in service.

"Unfortunately for us, Father Heindl was assigned to another Battery of our Battalion on the other side of the island about one month ago, so we must now be content with Sunday Mass which is celebrated in the field.

"One of the most impressive sights I will remember is that of seeing a large group of soldiers at Mass in the field and seeing adult men going to Confession in the field, before Mass, completely oblivious of their surroundings and audience, the front seat of a Jeep acting as the confessional for the priest."

## Navy Chaplain Serves 26 Years

SAN DIEGO, Cal. One of the oldest Catholic chaplains in the Navy in point of service is Commander Thomas J. Rogan, who is chaplain for the Naval hospital here. Father Rogan was sworn into service 26 years ago, on the day that the United States entered World War I. He is a graduate of Marquette University