

# Bishop Kearney Asks Wider Observance of 'Biblical Sunday'

Contending on the observance of Biblical Sunday, which will be celebrated February 21, His Excellency, the Most Rev. James H. Kearney, Bishop of Rochester, declares "nothing could be done in harmony with the mind of the Church than an increase in the interest in Biblical Sunday on the part of priest and people."

## All Prohibiting Mailing of Unsolicited Material Except Religious Matter

WASHINGTON — A bill which would prohibit the mailing of unsolicited material 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 institution whose application for the privilege of mailing 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."

Excerpt 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 J. Kuntz, 38, dealer in real estate, religious tax collector. The will disposed of an estate valued at approximately \$200,000, and contained a provision that all inheritance taxes on requests be paid by the estate.

1000 PARADE EVERY WEEK for Now This is Now 1943

## Catholic Courier

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The observance of Biblical Sunday, which will be celebrated February 21, is a member of the Episcopal Commission of the Catholic League of America, and is published in "Our Faithful Country," the organ of the National Catholicism. They are as follows:

### BIBLICAL SUNDAY

February Twenty-First

"Lamenting the reading of the Word of God and meditation on the great truths of religion as they are set forth within the pages of Holy Writ."

The observance of the feast of the Word of God in the Church calendar has been one of the most ancient, almost in keeping with the origin of the Christian religion. The feast of the Word of God, the institution of Biblical Sunday has served each year to renew interest and activity in the study of the Bible, just as the selection of a definite Sunday to reserve 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 sees his Mass properly, and thereby comes to a participation of the important place assigned by both documents in the sacred history, there still remains a great deal to be gained by setting aside one Sunday for the specific purpose of emphasizing 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 importance of "popularization of Scriptural knowledge" points out the appropriateness of celebrating Biblical Sunday for the present Biblical Sunday. The selection was prompted mainly by a practice which traces back to the early days of the Church. For, as the Roman Breviary points out, on Septuagesima Sunday, the first station of the gradually crystallizing ecclesiastical year, the Holy Bible was opened on the first page, and throughout the reading of the entire book was continued throughout the year, even as it is today. The New Testament was appreciably inserted at Rochester, Mass., we are looking back to an ancient tradition when we provide to Septuagesima Sunday the distinction of being designated as Biblical Sunday.

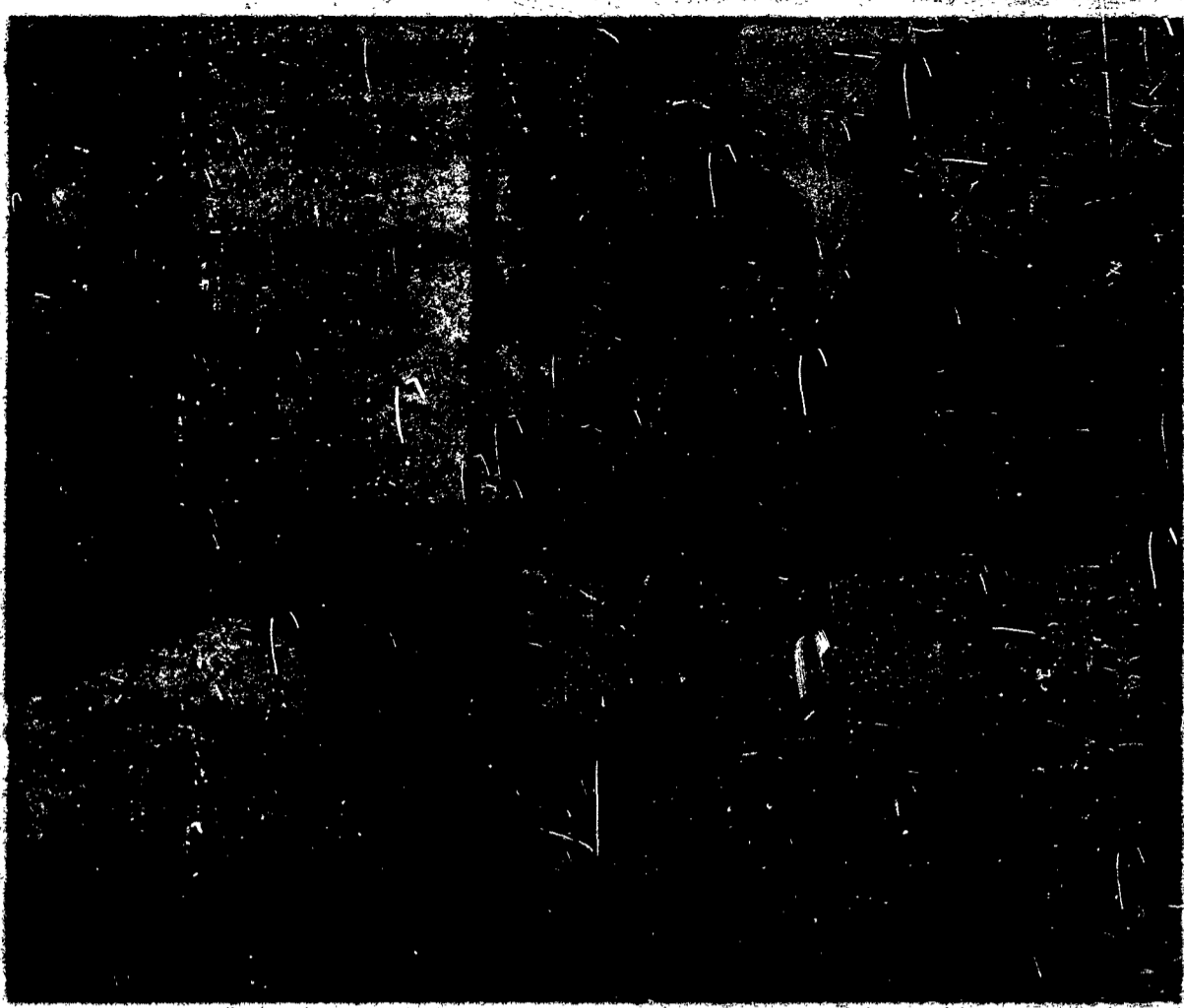
Nothing could be more in harmony with the mind of the Church than an increase in the interest in Biblical Sunday on the part of priest and people. As Pope Benedict said in his classic encyclical: "None can fail to see what peace and sweet tranquility must result in well-disposed souls from such devout 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 not 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 observance of Biblical Sunday with all its implications.

JAMES H. KEARNEY, D.D., Bishop of Rochester, Member of the Episcopal Commission of the U.C.L.

### 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 conducting its religious work among our fighting men. Here are some of them at the USO building, Franklin Square, Rochester, in front of the Catholic Center. They are: (from left) Pharmacist's Mate First Class Victor H. Sagnall; Pvt. William O'Leary 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 conduct of the human race with the moral law."

The N.C.W.C. News Service is to be found in every corner of our continent. They represent the most important and most reliable source of news to report on current events and have the most extensive Catholic network in the world. They offer, in the English and Spanish languages, the most complete and most up-to-date news service. Through the medium of the News Service the words of the Supreme Pontiff are promptly carried into every corner of the world. When bishops of a foreign land have national news, representatives of this service are there to bring their messages to every news outlet's desk.

This News Service has been a great factor in keeping American Catholics advised of the developments in other countries. The presence of German spies here has been faithfully reported, thereby informing us authoritatively of the evils of Nazism and its efforts to spread not only Catholicism but even the idea of a "New World."

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 fact 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 West. 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 itself as when Our Lord's feet were constructed here. She was built by Him, the Carpenter's Son, in the end of time and in essential form and character she remains the same, though moved westward by swelling sails, sometimes by laboring oars.

## 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 glowingly 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 parish bulletin and received in this week's issue of the Courier are as follows: "Father Heindl's Daily Mass, when possible, for his troops and of his all-out efforts in helping to keep soldiers of all breeds physically fit. Father Heindl, 790 Madison St., has been in the Army Chaplain's service since March, 1943. Captain Heindl's staff:

Here is what the letter states in part:

"Dear Father: Thinking 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 not only noted at the messhall in which we served when you were completely deluged away from the Church and had not received the blessed Sacrament in more than 18 years, resumed attendance at Mass, daily and Sunday and went to Confession. This latter confession after leading me to see 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, attention, broad liberality and constant concern over the affairs of our men, both spiritual and temporal, gained the respect, admiration of our men, Catholic, Protestant, Jew and non-believer alike."

"On this island, which is ever truly devoid of recreational facilities, he labored strenuously giving fully of his free time and efforts to procure sports equipment, record players, phonographs 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."



Chaplain Elmer W. Heindl

...which I considered to be a special dispensation granted only to American men in service. "Unfortunately for us, Father Heindl was assigned to another Battery of the 1st Marine Division on the other side of the island about one month ago and we must now be content with Sunday Mass which is celebrated in the field. "One of the most impressive nights I will remember in that of seeing a large group of soldiers at Mass in the field and seeing what was going on. Confession in the field, before Mass, completely oblivious of their surroundings and conditions, the focus point of a joyous setting as the confessional for the priest."

## Navy Chaplain Serves 25 Years

RAY DIBYNSKI, Col.—One of the most Catholic chaplains in the Navy is going to retire at 65. His name is Thomas J. Dibsinski, who is chaplain to the USS Intrepid. Father Dibsinski was given his service 25 years ago on the day that the United States entered World War I. He is a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.