Religion 'Essential' McNutt Reminded As Listing Is Delayed

In baseball parlance it is "two strikes and you are out." If that adage is to be followed by the War Manpower Commission, religion in the United States is in a precarious position.

Twice the Rt. Rev. Michael J. Ready, general secretary of the NCWC, has directed the Commission's attention to the omission of the listing of religious activities as essential. These letters directed to Chairman Paul V. McNutt were dated Nov. 30 and Dec. 19. It was two months later, Jan. 30, before Mr. McNutt favored Monsignor Ready with a reply.

Fails to Concede

In his reply, Mr. McNutt, on behalf of the commission, offers clarification of the status of workers in health and welfare activities for the guidance of local boards in questions of occupational deferments but fails to concede an "essential" status to the bulk of religious, charitable and educational institutions.

Monsignor Ready pointed out in his recent letter that "there is no intention on the part of the Church to demand an unreasonable position for Religion and its activities." On the other hand, he continued, local Selective Service boards "should not be stopped in granting a just recognition of the service these religious institutions give in our American communities."

Chairman McNutt in his long overdue reply stated that the "List of Essential Activities" only provides "a list of manufacturing and non-manufacturing activities." For this reason "the churches are included in the "Index to the List of Essential Activities" as a means of identifying a type of institution which carries on an important aspect of religious activity." Religion was had little consideration in this grouping of activities for, as the Monsignor stated, "administrative buildings, seminaries, convents and similar institutions caring for the directive and functional operation of the whole field of religious activities still are not regarded as essential."

No Recognition

The one consolation which can be drawn from this latest ruling of the War Manpower Commission is that cited by Monsignor Ready: "there is still no recognition of fundamental and essential religious activities."

The use of these Lists "only as a guide to local draft boards to assist them with their determinations regarding occupational deferment" will not bring "even the small measure of relief the Bishops petitioned on November 30th," in the opinion of Monsignor Ready. The future of these religious, charitable and educational institutions is fraught with grave danger. Various governmental bureaus, as well as the Selective Service and the United States Employment Service "will be guided by the Commission's list in deciding whether religious institutional requirements are essential to our Nation's Cause." This is apt to drain these institutions of sufficient manpower to operate efficiently.

Japs Bar Red Cross Aid To Jesuits In Islands

In response to an inquiry of the Jesuit Philippine Bureau of New York City for information regarding the possibility of contacting the Jesuit Fathers in the Philippines, Norman H. Davis, Chairman of the American Red Cross stated:

"No problem causes me quite as much concern as that of getting Red Cross help to American prisoners in the Philippines. We have made most earnest efforts through the International Red Cross and in close collaboration with the Department of State. Although our requests have been continued and emphatic, the Japanese Government has thus far failed to provide any agreement whereby continuing relief supplies could be sent these prisoners. We shall not cease in our efforts and are determined to exhaust all possible means until we succeed."

Mr. Davis further stated that the International Red Cross Committee was advised that 200 tons of relief supplies had been reshipped from Hong Kong and Yokohama to the Philippines.

"Of these 200 measured tons were from supplies sent by the American Red Cross on the diplomatic exchange ship Gripsholm. Greater quantities have been provided by us for the next sailing of the ship Gripsholm on its exchange mission. Unfortunately, however, all these supplies will not go far enough in meeting needs. Not until the Japanese agree to the appointment of an International Red Cross Delegate to the Philippines and to the granting of safe conduct for Red Cross relief ships sailing regularly, could we give adequate assistance."

Mr. Davis concluded: "It is pleasing, though not surprising, to know that the Alumni and students of the Ateneo merited the commendations of General MacArthur. It is my earnest hope that as further information comes from the Philippines, it will be found that the Jesuit Fathers there are safe and carrying on in the tradition of the Society of Jesus."

The Ateneo is a large Catholic school in Manila under the direction of the Jesuit Fathers, including the High School and College courses.

The Ateneo is known as the West Point of the East because of the military school attached to the University. Many of its graduates distinguished themselves with General MacArthur in the defense of the Philippines.

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RT. REV. MSGR. W. M. HART, V.G., Editor-in-Chief
REV. JOHN E. RANDALL, Managing Editor
HOWARD W. KLIFFERT, Manager
THOMAS R. O'CONNOR, News Editor

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Students Kneel Every Hour To Pray For Men in Armed Service

NEW ORLEANS. — When the bell in the clock-tower of the church strikes the hour every child in the Redemptorist school kneels to pray for some man in the armed forces of the United States.

Boys of the fifth and sixth grades have organized two armies, one is "The Army That Kneels and Prays That the Army Might Stand" and the other is "An Army on Its Knees To Help an Army on Its Feet."

'Parish' Set As Discussion Club Topic

"Our Parish—House of God and Gate of Heaven" will furnish the topic for the discussion with Discussion Clubs opening their season on Sunday, March 7, and continuing to Palm Sunday.

Impetus is given to the Discussion Club program by a letter from His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, directed to all the pastors in the diocese. The letter discussing which work in the parish is sponsored by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine of which the Rev. George G. Vogt is director.

In conjunction with this, the Lenten program, the Rev. Richard Thomas of St. Bernard's Seminary will inaugurate the program with a series of sermons over Rochester Catholic News, Station WHAM (1280 KC) on Sunday, March 7 at 12:45 p. m.

Bishop Kearney in commending the work of the Discussion Clubs in this diocese states:

"Religion is being attacked in many countries of the world by subversive and subtle arguments. The weakness of Protestantism throws the brunt of the defense of religion upon the shoulders of the ordinary Catholic.

"Millions of dollars are spent yearly in propaganda by the forces hostile to the traditions of our country and our church.

"Bishop Walsh of Charleston, S. C., tells us of the great number of soldiers and sailors returning to religious practices in the southern camps and, in nearly every case, giving as a reason for their conversion a lack of understanding of their religion.

"Therefore, I propose that in every church there be some one who will be the spokesman of the parish. This religious spokesman will be a person capable of speaking to others, whose faith is such that they are a spiritual example and guide to the people of the parish and to the citizens of their community.

"Pamphlets to aid in the program entitled 'Our Parish—House of God and Gate of Heaven,' have been written by the Rev. E. A. Mahoney of the Seattle, Washington diocese, especially for the Discussion Clubs here. They were published by the Paulist Press. These pamphlets may be obtained from the pastor or of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine office, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N. Y.

Designed to give the people of the Parish a deeper appreciation of their parish, the pamphlets are attractively arranged. On the frontispiece is a special picture of the new altar in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, dedicated through the munificence of the rector and "Liberated Italy." The wood cuts were done by Mary Katherine Finegan of Rochester.

Divided into seven chapters, the pamphlets cover "Our Parish" and its Church; the altar; Our Parish Shepherd; Our Parish Flock; Families; the Mass of Sacrifice and Our Parish in Action.

All former leaders are urged to conduct their clubs this year and to volunteer their services to their pastors.

The Confraternity director urges the leaders and especially parish chairmen to mail in the names of the club members to gain the Indulgences granted by the Holy Father for all participating in the Discussion Club Movement.

'Sampson News' Lists Masses

"Sampson News"—a breezy, little four-page paper, finely illustrated, is published for, by, and in the interest of Sampson Navy Men at the U. S. Naval Training Station, Sampson, N. Y.

Action photos taken at the station, news items of the men at the Station and accounts of entertainment sponsored both there and in Rochester are included.

Under an illustration of the Chaplain's flag appears the time of religious services, Catholic, Protestant and Jewish. Using Navy time, Masses are listed as follows:

0715—Mass in C, F and G drill halls and B Ship's Service.
0800—Mass in C, F and G drill halls and B Ship's Service.
1000—Mass in C, F and G Ship's Service Buildings.

AREA

Masses at 0700 and 0800.

ST. JOSEPH

Bishop Urges Prayer To St. Joseph In March

Faithful of the Rochester Diocese are directed by His Excellency, Bishop Kearney to make a special prayer to St. Joseph during the month of March in the following letter sent to the pastors:

[illegible]

The Bishop's Appointments

MARCH

4 Thursday—Sacramento Hall—St. Patrick's Church Sunday A. M.
St. Francis Xavier—Operation Service—[illegible]
5 Friday—St. Patrick—Low Mass—St. Bernard's Seminary P. M.
St. Bernard's Seminary—Confirmation—[illegible] P. M.
St. Francis Xavier—Novena Service—7:45 P. M.
6 Saturday—Eastman Theatre—School Victory Rally—[illegible] P. M.
7 Sunday—St. Francis Xavier—Novena Service—7:45 P. M.
8 Monday—St. Francis Xavier—Novena Service—7:45 P. M.
9 Tuesday—Columbus Civic Center—Priests' Holy Hour—[illegible] P. M.
St. Francis Xavier—Novena Service—7:45 P. M.
10 Wednesday—Blessed Sacrament—Low Mass—8:45 A. M.
The Most Rev. Bishop will offer Holy Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church each Wednesday morning during Lent unless otherwise noted.
St. Francis Xavier—Novena Service—7:45 P. M.
11 Thursday—St. Francis Xavier—Novena Service—7:45 P. M.
12 Friday—St. Francis Xavier—Low Mass, Closing of Novena—8:00 A. M.
St. Andrew—Lenten Sermon—7:45 P. M.
14 Sunday—St. James Transcendental—Confirmation—3:00 P. M.
Mark Twain Hotel, Elmira—K. of C. St. Patrick's Dinner—6:30 P. M.
17 Wednesday—St. Patrick—Pontifical Mass—10:00 A. M.
Powers Hotel—Dinner, Knights of Equity—6:30 P. M.
18 Thursday—Columbus Civic Center—K. of C. Dinner—6:45 P. M.
19 Friday—Nazareth Convent, Pittsford—Pontifical Mass—11:00 A. M.
St. Andrew—Lenten Sermon—7:45 P. M.
21 Sunday—St. Mary's Church—Low Mass, Catholic Women's Guild—9:00 A. M.
St. Patrick, Mt. Morris—Confirmation—4:00 P. M.
25 Thursday—Carmelite Monastery—Low Mass, Reception of Habit—8:00 A. M.
26 Friday—St. Andrew—Lenten Sermon—7:45 P. M.