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GENERAL NEWS

Army Needs 959 More Catholic Chaplains By October—Msgr. Arnold

WASHINGTON (NC)—A total of 959 additional Catholic chaplains must be provided for the United States Army by October if the needs of Catholic men in the service are to be met adequately, says Gen. William H. Arnold, Chief of Chaplains, announced at his first formal press conference in the Pentagon Building of the War Department.

Monsignor Arnold pointed out that in the month of December, the latest report which usually complete reports have been received, army chaplains reported 127,475 occasions of contact touch 127,475 persons, an increase of 1,274,000 personal contacts over the previous month. Many chaplains in addition to those on duty must be furnished by the churches, he said, if the religious needs of the men in service are to be met.

Two Months Behind

In the earlier months of the war effort, Chaplain Arnold said, the number of chaplain applications kept pace with the expansion of the Army. About last August requisitions from the field began to exceed the number of clergymen applying. We are just about two months behind our procurement needs. If the number were available we could today assign to duty 600 or more chaplains.

"Approximately 4,000 chaplains must be appointed before the end of this calendar year to meet current and anticipated needs. This number required to fill the gap between those now in the Army and those required breaks down roughly as follows: Protestant groups, 3,028; Roman Catholic, 859; Jewish, 66. Two hundred and thirty-five of the above number should be Negro chaplains, of whom 200 could be assigned to duty today. All appointments must be made three months previous to the close of the year in order to allow time for processing and for attendance at the Chaplain School."

Slightly Behind

Chaplains at the conference reported that the Army is printing 5,000,000 copies of the Scriptures for the men in the service and that in December more than 117,000 of these had been distributed. The Scriptures being printed are those approved by the respective churches.

A copy of a recent order from a major general to units under his command was read. In this order all commanding officers were urged to regard the chaplain as one of the most important officers and to cooperate with him in every way in bringing to the men the benefits of religion. It was urged that religion is a chief factor in morale.

"Probably nowhere is the religious cooperation of this Nation more apparent and more real than in its Armed Forces," Chaplain Arnold said. "The Army, in its policy concerning religion, exemplifies the spirit of freedom of conscience which is one of the ideals for which our troops are fighting."

Many Services Held

Giving the high lights of the December consolidation of chaplains' monthly reports, for which 199 reports are yet to be received, Chaplain Arnold observed:

"During the month of December we held 22,841 services with a total attendance of 6,737,755. The sacraments were administered on 57,422 occasions with 942,848 participants. Chaplains reported 326,794 occasions of pastoral activity at their stations, including personal conferences, with a total of 4,522,233 military personal contacts. These figures do not include 3,983 marriages and 971 baptisms. There were 3,137 professions of religion."

Chaplain Arnold announced that 42 chaplains were among Army casualties thus far reported, including wounded, killed, prisoners and missing in action.

CONFIRMATION AT CASABLANCA



In what was believed to be the first confirmation of American military personnel in North Africa, 20 soldiers and sailors and one Army nurse received the sacrament recently from Bishop Henri Vielle, Vicar Apostolic of Rabat, who is pictured above. The nurse and her spouse are unidentified. Among the chaplains assisting were Chaplain Edward J. DeMars, of Detroit (back to camera), and Chaplain Joseph M. Clark, S. J., of San Francisco (in background). The picture was taken in the Sacred Heart Church, Casablanca, French Morocco. (N.C.W.C.)

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Catholic Hour Message

Present War Is Judgment Of God—'All Are Guilty' Declares Msgr. Sheen

NEW YORK (NC)—The present world war is a Judgment of God and is to time what hell is to eternity, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, of the Catholic University of America, declared in an address delivered Sunday night over the "Catholic Hour" radio program.

The address was the twelfth in a series of 17 on the general theme "The Crisis in Christendom." The Catholic Hour, carried over a network of the National Broadcasting Company from Station WJAF here, is produced by the National Council of Catholic Men.

"It is the God of Justice Who needs to be preached today," Monsignor Sheen said. "Modern man's dictum—Religion has nothing to give us—has been too long unanswered. Now let the answer be given. Certainly, it can give you nothing; but it can take away something—it can take away your diabolical pride, your self-sufficiency and thus make room for morality and peace."

"Discounting all political and economic considerations as secondary let us look on this war solely from the point of view of Divine Justice."

"We commonly speak of this war as a *Crusade*. Now our English word *crisis* is taken from a Greek word which means judgment; and that is just what this war is—a judgment of God."

Particular Judgment

"History like individuals, has its particular and general judgments. Particular judgments come at various moments in a nation's history, when it works out the full moral consequence of its decisions and its philosophy of life. The General Judgment will be at the end of time when Our Lord shall come to judge all the nations of the world."

"We are presently living in a moment of particular judgment. In other words, our present world crisis is a judgment of God on our era and our times."

"But what is meant by the Judgment of God? We mean by it a 'verdict of history.' It is a time when the full consequences of our way of life become evident. The Judgment of God definitely does not mean that God is outside history as a mighty Potentate Who occasionally to remind subjects of His power, smites them for His good pleasure. Neither does it mean that this war is a divinely sent visitation or punishment, extrinsic and unrelated to our existence, as a spanking to a child who stole the jam—for a spanking does not necessarily follow the stealing."

"The Judgment of God means that the Transcendent God is also inside history by His Laws, far more intimately than an inventor is in his machine, or an artist in his painting. God has impregnated certain laws in the universe by which things attain their proper perfection. These laws are principally of two kinds; natural laws and moral laws. What we call the natural laws, such as the laws of astronomy and the laws of physics

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and the laws of biology, are in reality so many reflections of the Eternal Reasons of God. God made things to act in a certain way. In this sense the oak is a judgment on the acorn, the harvest is the judgment on the seed that was sown.

"But God did not make man like the sun, which can only rise and set. Having made man free He gave him a higher law than the natural law, namely, the moral law. First must obey the natural law of its nature, but man merely ought to obey the moral law. His freedom gives him the license to rebel."

All Are Guilty

"This war," Monsignor Sheen said, "is to time what hell is to eternity, the registering of the conflict of the human will against the Divine. It was forged in exactly the same way as the Cross. As the Cross was made by a horizontal bar of man crossing the vertical bar of God, so the war is the result of the contradiction of the Divine Will by the human."

"The whole world stands under doom, because we are all guilty before God. Not all equally guilty, thank God, but guilty in varying degrees. We have not denied God as does Communism, nor have we set up false gods as does Nazism or Japanese Imperialism. But we have ignored God, or treated Him as a benign power whose sole function it is to bless our plans, to sugarcoat our idealism, and to lend a tone of respectability to a culture that is secularistic and man-centered."

British Troops Attend Mass in Tripoli Cathedral

LONDON—The Most Rev. Camille Vittorini Facchinetti, Vicar Apostolic of Tripoli, spoke of the piety and devotion of soldiers of all nations at a Mass in the Tripoli Cathedral, which was attended by English and Dominion troops of the British Eighth Army, who knelt side by side with Italian civilian worshippers, according to advices received here by the British Information Service.

Girl, 11, Collects Old Rosaries For Servicemen

DUBUQUE, Ia.—Eleven-year-old Dorothy Srobona has written a letter to The Witness, Archdiocesan weekly, telling how she collected broken rosaries and medals to be repaired and sent to men in the armed service.

"I am a little girl, eleven years old," she writes. "I belong to St. Vach's Church, Clutter, Iowa. I read in The Witness that the soldiers are in need of rosaries. I collected all our broken rosaries and medals so that you could make rosaries for them. I know they find peace and comfort in saying a Rosary. I hope the collection will make several rosaries and that they will give peace and comfort to many soldiers."

Accept your sickness from God, and in these black hours be very content to have Him and no other as a witness to your pains of body and of mind.