

# Prelate Hits 'Merry-Go-Round' For Postmaster General Blast

**FORT WAYNE (NC)**—An attack made upon Postmaster General Frank C. Walker, who was accused in a syndicated column published by a number of smaller newspapers of having been influenced in the denial of second class mailing privileges to obscene publications by the National Organization for Decent Literature, is refuted in a letter which the Most Rev. John F. Nell, Bishop of Fort Wayne and Chairman of the NODL, has addressed to the author.

Writing to Drew Pearson, who conducts the column "Washington Merry-Go-Round," Bishop Nell noted that the writer had charged that the Postmaster General was cooperating by design with the NODL. Asserting that there is no collusion between the NODL and the Post Office Department, the Bishop called attention to the fact that publications which were seized from the mails were not on the NODL disapproved list and stated that "if anything, the standards of the Post Office Department are more severe than those of the NODL."

Text of Bishop Nell's letter follows:

"My attention has been called to the observations made in the Mar. 25 installment of the 'Washington Merry-Go-Round.' That installment deals with the NODL, with which, you imply, Postmaster General, Frank Walker is cooperating by design.

"I can assure you, and I hope that you will accept this assurance, that there is no collusion between the NODL and the United States Post Office Department.

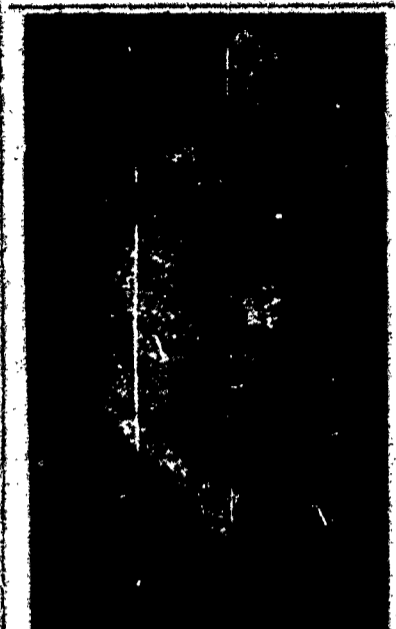
"If anything, the standards of the Post Office Department are more severe than those of the NODL, because it has banned from the mail magazines which were not on the NODL disapproved list. It is not likely that, in his capacity, the Postmaster General thinks in terms of morals as much as he does in terms of the mails, based on the part of publishers to expect the Federal Government to pay most of the cost of carrying through the mails periodicals which to say the least, are calculated to do more harm than good. Kindly read carefully the statute governing the grant of the second-class mail privileges to periodicals.

"Those who examine magazines for the NODL do not pass arbitrary judgment on them, nor permit their own personal standards to influence their judgment. They relate the magazines to the five-point Code of the NODL, which nearly all publishers of magazines have recognized as most fair and sane. There is no predilection in that Code. In fact warm commendations of our policy have come from publishers, from national, regional and local distributors, from thousands of retail dealers.

"We should like to ask you, Mr. Pearson, to examine objectively the Code of the NODL in order to satisfy yourself whether it is not eminently sane and sound.

"If Frank Walker, as you say, indignantly denied that members of his own religious faith were influencing his policy in barring

magazines from the mails, he told the plain truth. Personally I have refrained from approaching him lest he might become embarrassed. But about Mr. Walker's office liberally receiving every week hundreds of mailed copies of magazines, leaflets and circular letters advertising same which may not law-



REPORTED MISSING in action in Africa is Chaplain Stephen W. Knox, St. Bernard.

## Assistant Chief Of Navy Chaplains Dies; St. Bernard Alumnus

Word of the death of Lieut. Commander Thomas J. Knox, Assistant Chief of Chaplains of the United States Navy, has brought deep sorrow to many priests in the Rochester diocese who knew him as a student at St. Bernard's Seminary.

Lieut. Commander Knox died Mar. 21 at the Naval Hospital at Bethesda, Md., at the age of 42 years.

In the death of Lieut. Commander Knox, the United States Navy lost an exceptionally able chaplain, the Most Rev. John F. O'Hara, C.M.G., Military Delegate, said in a statement issued in New York.

"He had the full confidence of Catholics and non-Catholics alike and the commanding officers with whom he served were fully appreciative of his work in maintaining high morale among the men," Bishop O'Hara said. "In his last sea duty he served on the flagship of Rear Admiral Randall Jacobs, who is now Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

"Father Knox's death is a loss not only to his home Diocese of Savannah-Atlanta, but to the Military Ordinate as well."

After attending St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester, he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on May 21, 1923. He entered the Navy Chaplains Corps in 1932, and prior to becoming Assistant Chief of Chaplains, served aboard the Battleships New Mexico and Wyoming and at the Navy Yards at Philadelphia, Norfolk and Washington, D. C.

Before entering the Navy he was assistant pastor of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Savannah.

In announcing the death of Father Knox, Capt. Robert D. Workman, Chief of the Chaplains of the United States Navy, said: "During his years in the Navy, Chaplain Knox won for himself many warm friends. His death comes as a deep loss to the Chaplains Corps and to the Navy."

## Mother of Navy Hero To Christen Vessel

**NEW YORK**—When the Destroyer Escort U. S. S. "Dempsy" is launched at Boston Navy Yard on Holy Thursday, Apr. 22, it will be christened by Mrs. James A. Dempsy, of this city, mother of the late Ensign Richard J. Dempsy, Catholic naval hero.

fully he carried by mail, he has ample reason for independent and wholly objective action. You, I am sure, are too good a philosopher to fall for the fallacy 'post hoc, ergo propter hoc.'

"You leave the impression on the readers of your column that the Washington Office of the NODL, sequestered publishers in some corner of northwestern Iowa for publication, while the fact is that these publishers who submit magazines have themselves requested the privilege of doing so because they claim they actually treat stories containing incidents of ill-fortune to be inspected before going to press with them.

"As for the NODL, is Catholic I should like to declare that the Bishops of every country have both the right and duty to give attention to their books in matters relating to morals. If the clergy and laity of other countries, if anyone of other religions, if anyone of other persuasions, if anyone of other sects, believe in the NODL standards, they have an equal right to get behind the effort to make magazine literature safer for youth.

"It may not be out of place to remind you that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is just as sympathetic towards the NODL as is the United States Post Office Department. If it has not suppressed many very low periodicals it is only because it is not within its province to prosecute. It must leave that to the Federal Courts.

"And it may not be out of place to remind you of the figures on the increase of sex crimes among minors during the year 1942 as compared to 1941. Figures released on March 26—only five days ago—disclose that 'arrests of girls under twenty-one for sex offenses increased 104.7%'; that rape was committed every fifty-two minutes of the day and night during that year—an increase of 115% over the previous year. J. Edgar Hoover believes that the salacious publications are largely responsible for the increasing tide of sex offenses.

"I feel, dear Mr. Pearson, that even if you are not inclined to make corrections, you will, in the interest of what is fair, send a copy of this to the papers which use your syndicated column."

## Deny Mail Privileges To Five Magazines

**WASHINGTON**—The Post Office Department announces five magazines have been denied the second-class mailing privileges under the postal status forbidding obscenity in the mails. This status is designed to prevent the use of the United States mails for sustained and systematic appeals to lascivious curiosity or for the circulation of periodicals for the purpose of profitably pandering to the obscene, lewd and indecent.

In the case of three of the magazines—"Speed Adventure Stories," "Speed Detective," and "All Story Love"—their applications for entry as second-class mail matter were denied. In the case of "Street and Smith's Love Story Magazine," an application for re-entry as second-class mail matter was denied, while the publishers of "Uncensored Detective" have abandoned the application without establishing the requirements of the law governing second-class matter.

## Seek Scapulars For Soldiers

**NEW YORK**—Orders from military chaplains for more than 100,000 additional free scapulars for our Catholic Service men have sent the headquarters of the Scapular Militia into high gear during the past two weeks. The Very Rev. Gabriel N. Paurback, American Assistant General of the Carmelites and Religious Director of the Scapular Militia, said the group already has supplied over 600,000 Scapulars free to the Armed Forces.

## Courtesy Magic

There is a magic about courtesy that enhances friendly words and kind actions: it wins and converts friendly.



NAVAL TRAINING at the Norfolk Chapter School and nearby areas in Navy service were held in the Seminary, St. Bernard's, Chaplain Francis J. Pappas, point of Rochester Harbor, Mass., yesterday, to duty, last week.

### The Bishop's Appointments

- APRIL**
- 2 Friday—St. Patrick's—Low Mass, St. Monica's Sodality—9:00 A. M.
  - St. Bernard's Seminary—Confession—1:30 P. M.
  - St. Andrew—Lenten Services—7:45 P. M.
  - 4 Sunday—St. Patrick's—Low Mass, Nocturnal Adoration Society—7:45 A. M.
  - 7 Wednesday—Our Lady of Mercy High School—Mary Guild Luncheon—12:00 P. M.
  - St. Lucy—Novena Service—8:00 P. M.
  - 8 Thursday—Our Lady of Mercy High School—Friday Reception—8:00 P. M.
  - 9 Friday—St. Andrew—Lenten Services—7:45 P. M.
  - 11 Sunday—Holy Family—Confirmation—8:00 P. M.
  - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel—Meeting of Service Plan—7:45 P. M.
  - 12 Tuesday—Columbus Civic Centre—Primit' Holy Eucharist—9:00 P. M.
  - 16 Friday—Catholic Women's Club—Luncheon—8:00 P. M.
  - St. Andrew—Lenten Services—7:45 P. M.
  - 18 Sunday—St. Bernard's Seminary—Meeting of I. M. S. St. Basil's—9:00 A. M.
  - 21 Thursday—Pro-Cathedral—Feast of St. Joseph, Hearing of Holy Oils—10:15 A. M.
  - Teach-ins—8:00 P. M.
  - St. Patrick—Holy Mass, Nocturnal Adoration Society—10:00 P. M.
  - 22 Friday—Pro-Cathedral—Mass of the Pro-Seminary—12:00 Noon
  - St. Andrew—Lenten Services—7:45 P. M.
  - 25 Sunday—Pro-Cathedral—Feast of St. Thomas—12:15 P. M.
  - 26 Monday—St. Bernard's Seminary—Confirmation—8:00 A. M.

## Cancel Student Mission Meet

**CINCINNATI**—Postponement of the biennial national convention of the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade, scheduled for this year, has been announced by the Very Rev. Magr. Edward A. Freking, national secretary, in a letter addressed to the national officers and diocesan directors. The letter was taken because of the difficulties of transportation and the request of the Government that civilian travel be curtailed.

## New Maryknoll Bishop To Be Consecrated in Mexico For Bolivia

**MARYKNOLL, N. Y.**—The Most Rev. Alonso Escalante, of New York, recently named Vicar Apostolic of Pando, Bolivia, will be consecrated at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City. It has been announced here by the Most Rev. James E. Walsh, Superior General of the Maryknoll Fathers. No date for the ceremony has yet been scheduled.

Escalante is the national officer and diocesan director. The letter was taken because of the difficulties of transportation and the request of the Government that civilian travel be curtailed.

## Archbishop To Lead Good Friday Rite In Civic Auditorium

**SAN FRANCISCO**—In order to care for the large increase in the population of San Francisco, and especially to care for the large number of the members of the Armed Forces of the United States in and around this city, John J. Mitty, Archbishop of San Francisco, has made arrangements to conduct the traditional Good Friday Holy Devotion on Good Friday in the Civic Auditorium.

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