

Veterans of Sea Battles Gain Spiritual Comfort In Retreats

By MILDRED JENNINGS

GENEVA—From the far-flung battlefields of the world to the quiet halls of Our Lady of the Lake Retreat House on Lockland Road come hospitalized sailors, marines, and other service men connected with the United States Naval Training Station at Sampson, N. Y., to



SPIRITUAL RETREAT brings these Sailors and Marines from Sampson Naval Training Station to Our Lady of the Lake Diocesan Retreat House on Lockland Road, Geneva. In front row center is the Rev. John P. Murphy, C.S.S.R., Retreat House Director. Numbered among these young men receiving spiritual solace at the Retreat House are Pacific veterans of sea and land battles.

experience something of "the peace that passeth all understanding" to attend the chapel services, to hear the word of God as expressed by the retreat master and to pray silently before the beautiful chapel altar.

The men participate in a modified retreat program and enjoy the various recreational facilities provided by the kindly retreat master, Father John Murphy, of the Redemptorist Order, director of the institution.

Gain in Weight
Booming guns of mighty battle-ships and the roar of fighter planes are far away. Here in the calm and quiet that builds up troubled spirits for another day. At the conclusion of the retreat program, the men are enriched not only in spirit but in body, for Father Murphy looks after their physical as well as their spiritual well-being. He smiles broadly when he tells of their gain in weight.

"Some of the fellows gain as much as four or five pounds during their stay," he says.

Father Murphy arranged the week-end programs for the service men about eight weeks ago when he opened the beautiful residence on Lockland Road to a group of sailors from Sampson. Since that time he has been conducting programs each week for groups of men. The retreat house, which was dedicated only a year ago, is surrounded by broad lawns stretching to the edge of Seneca Lake and is one of outstanding

residences in this section of the country. It is just across the lake from the Sampson Training Station.

Sea Battle Veterans

Father Murphy's program is designed chiefly for hospitalized sailors and in this group as expected there are many men who have participated in naval battles which will go down in history. They are the men who have fought in the front lines—out there in the far waters of the world where they met the ships and planes of the enemy and stood against them with all of the strength, valor, and patriotism which distinguished the war heroes of olden time. They have fought the good fight and they enjoy their brief rest here in this peaceful haven.

Father Murphy believes that they deserve what little he can do for them in the way of physical and mental uplift. But those who know the inside story of his work believe that he is doing a great deal.

However, Father Murphy does not limit the retreat program to the sailors. He has also conducted two retreats for the nurses at the Naval Training Station. The program is especially adapted to them and apparently is popular with them.

Sixty-four sailors have been registered for the retreat programs to date and twenty-two nurses have attended the programs arranged particularly for them.

All Faiths Included

Father Murphy is not confining his program strictly to those of the Catholic faith. In the groups which have come over from Sampson are men of the Greek Orthodox faith, the Jewish faith, and many non-Catholics of various denominations who are interested in the retreat program. Captain C. W. Carr, MC, USN, Commander of the Hospital unit at Sampson, has lent encouragement and hearty cooperation to Father Murphy in his work.

Noteworthy in this connection is the fact that everything at the retreat house is provided free of charge, including transportation, meals, smoking and religious articles. Speaking of religious articles, Father Murphy has lost count of the number he has issued to the men. He tries to take the place of rabbi, minister, and priest from the boy's own parish. He tries to talk to them as would the three leaders of the particular faiths represented. If a boy wants to know something in particular about the Catholic faith, Father answers his questions. All of this goes to bring about a clearer understanding and a better feeling on the part of everyone.

Needless to say there are many interesting stories told by the sailors who have been on active duty. "These fellows are real heroes," commented Father Murphy when

interviewed. "They have been in the thick of the battle and they deserve the highest praise. Some of the men have seen action in Guadalcanal, Wake Island, the Coral Sea Battle, some are merchant men, and all have felt the real horrors of war."

"Yet they all want to get right back into it. They are anxious to become well enough to fight again. That's the test of a real hero," the retreat master continued.

It was emphasized that once they arrive at the retreat house on Saturday noon, the men do not leave the grounds until the closing time on Sunday evening. There were about thirty-two in attendance this past week-end. The men are transported by the Transportation committee of which Louis L. McGuigan, John Gleason and Judge Thomas A. Kane are members.

The director particularly praised the transportation committee, Mrs. Nora Sullivan, mistress of the retreat house, and Miss Loretta Patents, business in charge, for their whole-hearted cooperation, which has helped immeasurably in making the programs so successful.

Commenting on the cooperation shown by the service men themselves, the director said that they assist with the dishes and do any extra work they can and to do. Several of them assist in serving at meal time and they show a fine spirit of helpfulness at all times.

Father Murphy plans to have twenty or thirty service men as guests at the retreat house every week-end until June, when the regular program for laymen of the Rochester Catholic Diocese will open. The week-end retreats will then be confined to laymen only, but Father is making arrangements to have the service men's retreats during the week.

The present program for the men from Sampson includes four or five addresses, public discussions, and a fine recreational program. It is a change of atmosphere from the hospital surroundings and is becoming increasingly popular.

Asks Census of Greek Rite Catholics

NEW YORK—In a circular letter to all Catholic chaplains in the armed forces, the Most Rev. John F. O'Hara, C.S.C., Military Delegate, requested chaplains at posts or stations where 100 or more members of the Greek Rite or the Ukrainian Catholic Church are stationed, to make a report of the approximate number to the Military Ordinariate here.

He that is a friend loveth at all times, and a brother loveth in distress.

The Bishop's Appointments



MAY

- 7 Friday—St. Francis Assisi, New York—Jansen, N. Y. Palace, 8:30 A. M.
- 8 Saturday—Mount Carmel—Low Mass, International Federation Catholic Albanians—12:15 P. M.
- 9 Sunday—St. Joseph—Low Mass, Police Holy Name Society—8:30 A. M.
Pro-Cathedral—Solemn Mass, Holy Name—11 A. M.
St. Patrick, Newark—Confirmation—8:00 P. M.
St. Anthony, Gates—Confirmation—7:30 P. M.
- 10 Monday—Chapel of Commerce—Dinner, Operating Community Chest Drive—8:00 P. M.
- 11 Tuesday—Aquinas Institute—Pontifical Mass for Aquinas Men in Service—8:00 A. M.
Columbus Civic Centre—Prison Holy Hour—8:00 P. M.
Pro-Cathedral—Confirmation—7:45 P. M.
- 12 Wednesday—St. Bernard's Seminary—Ordination—8:30 A. M.
Holy Family High School, Auburn—Dedication Confirmation—8:00 P. M.
St. Francis de Sales Society, Geneva—Dedication Confirmation—8:00 P. M.
Auditorium Theatre—Newark Benefit Concert—8:00 P. M.
Columbus Civic Centre—Camp Belle Marie Card Party—10:00 P. M.
- 13 Thursday—Columbus Civic Centre—Rochester Diocesan Conference—7:00 P. M.
St. Lucy—Confirmation—7:45 P. M.
- 14 Friday—Nazareth College—Glee Club Concert—8:00 P. M.
- 15 Saturday—St. John Evangelist—Low Mass, Reception of Religious Habit, Sisters of Mercy—8:00 A. M.
- 16 Sunday—Nazareth University, Nazareth Falls, N. Y.—Pontifical Mass, Sacraments, Exercises—8:00 A. M.
St. Thomas Aquinas, Leicester—Confirmation—1:45 P. M.
St. Lucy, Rafted—Confirmation—4:00 P. M.
St. Stanislaus—Confirmation—7:45 P. M.
- 17 Monday—Nazareth College—Low Mass—8:00 A. M.
Chapel of Commerce—Dinner, Closing Community Chest Drive—8:30 P. M.
- 18 Tuesday—Sacred Heart Academy—Confirmation—8:00 P. M.
St. Patrick—Confirmation—8:15 P. M.
- 19 Wednesday—St. Andrew's Seminary—Low Mass—8:00 A. M.
St. Peter & Paul's School, Elmira—Dedication Confirmation—4:00 P. M.
St. Gabriel, Hammondsport—Confirmation—7:45 P. M.
- 20 Thursday—Pro-Cathedral—Sacraments, Exercises, St. Mary's Hospital—8:00 P. M.
Our Lady of Mercy High School—Glee Club Concert—8:15 P. M.
- 21 Friday—Pro-Cathedral—Pontifical Requiem Mass, Bishop O'Hara's Youth Anniversary—10:30 A. M.
- 22 Sunday—Nazareth College—Pontifical Mass—Sacraments, Exercises—10:00 A. M. Albanian Luncheon—12:15 P. M.
Holy Apostles—Confirmation—8:00 P. M.
Corpus Christi—Adult Confirmation—8:00 P. M.
Pro-Cathedral—Adult Confirmation—7:45 P. M.
- 23 Tuesday—Sacred Heart Academy—Pontifical Mass—8:00 A. M.
St. Monica—Confirmation—7:45 P. M.
- 24 Wednesday—Villa Maria Academy, Bronx, N. Y.—Confirmation Address—8:00 P. M.
- 25 Friday—Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Albany, N. Y.—Pontifical Mass, Operating State Commission, Knights of Columbus—10:00 A. M.
- 26 Saturday—Hotel DeWitt Club, Albany, N. Y.—Address, E. of C. Dinner—7:00 P. M.
- 27 Sunday—Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Tuxedo, N. Y.—Solemn, Montserrat Lamm's Golden Jubilee—11:00 A. M.
- 28 Monday—St. Joseph—Pontifical Requiem Mass, Memorial Day—10:00 A. M.
Immaculate Conception Hall—Dinner, Rochester Diocesan Sodality Union—8:30 P. M.

Communions Many At Navy Post, Chaplain Kelly Says

A bulletin received this past week from Chaplain Leonard Kelly, U. S. Navy, formerly a teacher of Religion at Nazareth College, stated that within four days, 500 Catholics out of the 700 stationed at Camp Farragut, Idaho, went to Confession. Masses during Holy Week were well attended by those not engaged in "militant" activities. Holy Thursday morning, 300 attended Mass and 300 received Communion and in the afternoon, 200 more received. 300 were present at the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday evening.

At 5:45 Easter morning Mass was celebrated outside for 200 men in quarantine camp, half of whom received Communion. Many present were not Catholic. 1000 attended the High Mass in the large drill hall at 8:15 and 600 of that number received. The Chaplain who witnessed the display of Faith, called it "a resurrection of Christ in the hearts and souls of many young defenders of our country."

Purchase of War Bonds and Stamps help put a dangerous Axis partner, inflation, out of the fight.

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