

But the servant of the Lord must not wrangle but be mild toward all men, apt to teach, patient.

NCCS Trustees Laud Success Of F. P. Matthews In Britain

WASHINGTON (NC)—Lauding his successful accomplishment of a "very difficult mission" undertaken at its request and under its direction, the Board of Trustees of the National Catholic Community Service has adopted a resolution extending its thanks to Francis P. Matthews of Omaha, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the NCCS.

The Board spoke with reference to Mr. Matthews' recently-completed 19-week tour to survey the moral and social conditions surrounding the servicemen of the United States in England, Ireland and Scotland. Noting specifically that Mr. Matthews is Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, the Board of Trustees stated that, in his able handling of the mission it had entrusted to him, Mr. Matthews has reflected much credit upon the organization of which he is the head.

The NCCS Board of Trustees is composed of the Archbishops and Bishops who constitute the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Mr. Matthews reviewed for the Board of Trustees the places he went as representative of the NCCS, told of his visits to camps of the American forces, and reported on the moral and social conditions surrounding them.

The American Red Cross, Mr. Matthews told the Board, is doing a splendid job in the field in which it is serving. It has a large program under way, and will very substantially supply the material needs of the men and women with the armed forces in the way of recreation, entertainment, housing and food, he said. Mr. Matthews reported that he found a great need for the work which the NCCS is so splendidly equipped to do, and also that there is a great desire for this sort of service on the part of the men in the armed forces.

Mr. Matthews pointed out that the other armed services in England—British troops and Canadian troops—are the beneficiaries of the services of civilian agencies with a definite religious background and program, and that the United States troops in these areas would profit from these services.

MARK SEE'S SESQUICENTENNIAL



Most Rev. Joseph P. Rummel, Archbishop of New Orleans, stands beside a portrait of the first Bishop of New Orleans, the Most Rev. Ignacio Luis de Penalver y Cardenas, a native of Havana, who took possession of the Diocese of New Orleans July 24, 1765. The portrait, which had hung since 1862 in the rectory of St. Louis Cathedral, the same rectory now in use, was transferred to the Cabildo, the state museum, where it and other historic matters connected with the archdiocese were assembled for a special exhibit as part of the sesquicentennial celebration, May 11 and 12. New Orleans Item photo. (N.C.W.C.)

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Denies State Aid To Religious Schools

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Attorney General Goldstein pointed out that "no public money may be used as aid or maintenance, directly or indirectly, of any religious instruction." He said it was apparent that "a point may be reached where any conceivable benefit to the religious instruction from a service which is designed primarily to serve a wartime emergency becomes too remote to invoke the constitutional prohibition."

As an example, he said, in a portion of a building used one day a week for Sunday school, or incidental religious instruction, which is not its principal function, "a child care project could properly be conducted in that building" by a school board, social welfare agency or private agency.

Mr. Goldstein said there was no question of the State's right to provide funds for health and welfare services for all children, but when the funds granted are used in a manner directly or indirectly to aid any religious institution or school under the direction or control of a religious denomination, then the grant would be in violation of the Constitution.

GROUP FORMED TO CORRECT ERRORS IN SECULAR PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — Bienville General Assembly, Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus, has undertaken the organization of the United Catholic Organizations Press Relations Committee to correct erroneous impressions created in the public mind by the secular press relative to the Catholic faith and its practices, and to defend the integrity and patriotism of the Catholic citizenship.

Cornell U. To Honor Premier of Quebec

ITHACA, N. Y.—Cornell University will bestow an honorary degree on Assard Godbout, Premier of Quebec, on May 23.

Prayer Inscribed On Plane Brings Bomber Crew Through Safely, They Firmly Believe

By LIEUT. DONALD T. SHEEHAN, A.C.

SOMEWHERE IN NORTH AFRICA—Among the combat crew of a certain bomber in the North African theater, atheists are as rare as they were in the famed fox-holes of Britain.

In fact, the airmen are such ardent believers in the power of a little prayer, mysteriously inscribed on their ship months ago, they dread the day when the ravages of war and weather will have wiped it out.

The prayer, written by an unidentified private at a hangar in the States, reads that:

"God bless the crew of this plane. I will say a prayer for your safe return."

Excepting the private's grade, the author's signature is indistinguishable. The boys wish they knew the name of their well-wisher. For since the day that simple act of faith and hope was inscribed, neither heavy flak nor intense enemy fire has kept them from returning safely from 18 death-defying missions over enemy territory.

Divine Intervention?

Do they attribute their success to Divine Intervention?

Well, they don't exactly call it that, but as the pilot, Capt. William R. Pritchard, of Mobile, puts it:

"There have been all too many times when some thing above and beyond our armored protection and skill has pulled us through. A lot of our buddies in the squadron used to rib us and say it was luck. After our last mission they changed their tune."

"We think there's something to that little prayer," the Captain reverently adds. "After all, if it was just luck, the old law of averages would have ruled us out long ago."

Substantiating the latter observation, Captain Pritchard recalls that not a man has ever been wounded although the ship, called the "Coughin' Coffin" because of its jinxed history in the States, has barely made home on several occasions.

Take that last sortie, for instance, when a piece of flak, seeking a soft spot, penetrated the nose section of the engine. Instantly the boys noticed that Jerry had hit them in a vulnerable place. They harbored some doubts about their ability to return in one piece.

And with considerable justification, too, for later examination revealed a neat hole an inch in diameter.

Neither crew nor mechanics, nor anyone else who has seen the hit, can offer an acceptable answer for their safe delivery—other, than perhaps the prayer.

Struck in Other Places

That piece of flak, which attained its desired objective in the engine, wasn't the only piece which reached home that day. Lt. Paul N. Gregory, Brownwood, Tex., serving as combined navigator-bombardier, is thanking the Power behind that supposition that he wasn't peering down the drift-meter, the moment another piece went up the instrument. These navigational aids have a two-inch diameter.

Tail-gunner S/Sgt. Emlyn H. Mitchell, Okla., Pa., is proud to fight another day in spite of the fact that two well-directed shots pierced his rear "perch," a foot apart in front and back of him. Another just missed his pul, S/Sgt. Herbert A. Boim, turret-gunner, and falling short there, went on to graze the ship's control cables.

As if the enemy were aware of an invisible "something," which guides the bomber, another piece struck viciously an inch below the prayer itself. It bounced off, leaving only a paint-scratch.

Senator Mead Honored By Fellow Parishioners

BUFFALO—United States Senator James M. Mead in recognition of serving 26 years as trustee of the Church of the Visitation, here, was honored at a Communion breakfast sponsored by the Holy Name Society of the parish.

The Rev. Eugene S. Atry, pastor, gave a brief address, following which Senator Mead was presented with a commemorial booklet of the parishioners and a gold emblem of the Holy Name Society.

I believe that every human mind feels pleasure in doing good to another.—Thomas Jefferson.