

Delayed Congressman Gets Private Meeting with Pope

LOS ANGELES (NC)—An odd twist of fortune gave Congressman John J. Rooney, of Brooklyn, a private interview with His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

Members of Two Faiths Join in Prayer Octave

BY REV. RICHARD GINDER

During the week beginning January 12, Protestants and Catholics throughout the world will be praying for Church Unity—"that there may be one flock and one shepherd." And never was there more need for presenting a united front of prayer to Almighty God than right now.

This week of prayer—the Church Unity Octave, as it is called—originated in the Protestant Church about 20 years ago. It started with a group of fervent Episcopalians who were saddened at the frightful sight of a Christianity torn to shreds by contradicting beliefs. Looking around, they saw the Catholic Church with its 300 million communicants throughout the world; they saw it as the largest, the most ancient, the most efficiently organized, and the most powerful church claiming to teach God's truth.

Because they remembered the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke—"And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church..." And will give unto thee the keys of the Kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matt. 16:18-19) — because they knew that the Holy Father is the only living man who claims to be God's messenger on the face of Christ's Church, they resolved to join in a common prayer for the unity of the Church.

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Gl's Trek Long Miles to Mass

Catholics are asked to spend less than an hour in church out of the whole week. Millions of them do so—regularly, respectfully and on time. They are the greatest source of edification to non-Catholics as well as to their brother and sister Catholics.

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...from an article in "The Sign" by Father Fabian Flynn, C.F., Chaplain in the First Army who is presently being hospitalized at Mitchell Field, L. I. "Last Sunday," writes Father Flynn, "I celebrated Mass in a cow barn, a scant few hundred yards from the German lines, the farthest forward I have yet been able to set up an altar. A group of men walked more than two miles to be present to the service. Their company was strung out holding a position only a few hundred yards from the enemy. These men had been on the alert all night with straining eyes, and ears, constantly harassed by snipers, snoring patrols, and mortar fire. They had not had an hour of sleep. They were dirty, unshaven, weather-beaten, weary to exhaustion. Yet at dawn when their platoon was relieved until the next night, before rolling in to blankets they travelled the long miles to be present at Mass which they learned, by means of the GI grapevine, was to be said.

This incident is not an unusual occurrence. It is symptomatic of the spirit of faith and devotion manifested by so many of our Catholic soldiers in combat. There is something wholesome and contagious about religion as these men practice it. It is faith in action; the fulfillment of Catholic home training.

The spirit of our men abroad should make us reluctant to win or even live for Mass. (The Brooklyn Tablet)

Everybody's War

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News from Elmirans in Service

BY MARGARET KENNEDY

There is news again this week and many of our readers would make us very happy if they would call us and tell us about their boys and girls in the service. Your Pastor gives us your name and makes no discrepancies, but if you have no phone we can't contact you. So, as Frank Tripp would say, "get on that phone" and call 4001.

First on our list this week is Eddie Terhulst, 1/c John E. Mack who has been in the Navy since March, 1942. Sampson, of course, was his first stop. He then moved on to Michigan City, Indiana, then to Texas A and M University, and completed his training at Treasure Island, Calif. He is now at Solomon's Island, Sd., awaiting an assignment. Jack was graduated from St. Patrick's School, the Academy and Notre Dame University. He is married to the former Miss Alice H. Mack, who with their two year old son, Jackie, resides at 415 West Gray Street. Mr. and Mrs. Mack are members of St. Patrick's Parish.

Now we want to tell you about Anthony Pecchia, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Pecchia, 1223 West Water Street. Anthony joined the Navy on Nov. 30 and is just finishing his recruit training up at Sampson. He says he likes the Navy and Sampson is a fine place. The food is very good, he tells his mother, and they had a grand time Christmas and New Year's. When he finishes his boot training, Anthony hopes to be assigned to the Navy Air Corps as Airplanes have always been his hobby. He was graduated from Number Five School, the Academy and spent several months at the Elmira Ground School before entering the service. The Pecchia family are members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

From St. Catharine's we heard that Edward L. Gryka, Edward is in the Tank Corps and has been in the service since August 1942. He received his basic training at Camp Upton, N. Y., and was later transferred to Fort Knox, Ky., for further training and instruction in handling all types of Tanks. Edward was seriously injured, while training at Fort Knox and was hospitalized there for about three months. He has recovered now and is back on duty. A graduate of number Ten School, Edward attended the Academy for three years and then moved to Alton, N. Y., and finished High School there. He returned to Elmirans shortly after his graduation, however, and entered the service from this city. While he was in High School, Edward was prominent in all branches of sports, especially football and basketball and for a short time played on the football team at Fort Knox. Edward is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Gryka, 285 Fayette Street and is expected to come home on a furlough within a few days.

Our next stop was St. Anthony's Parish, and we found a true Elmiran—Bernie—Bernie Thomas. Bernie Thomas has been in the service since March 1942. Tom is with a Medical Corps surgical group and trained at Camp Pickett, Va., and Greenville, Pa., Penn., before being sent overseas in September 1942. He went first to England, where he received further training and during the invasion of France spent sometime with a Hospital Unit there and then moved on to Belgium.

At present he is stationed at an Army Hospital in Paris where he is assisting Surgeons in the Operating rooms. Thomas is a Convert and assured his wife who is the former Miss Mary Antwerp, that he attends Mass and receives the Sacraments regularly.

He has not had much time for sight seeing in Paris, but did tell his wife that he visited Notre Dame Cathedral and was much impressed by the beautiful altars and statues. Recently he purchased a picture of the Cathedral which he sent home. A graduate of Number Eleven School and the Academy, Thomas worked at Snyder's

Antwerp has been in the service since August 1942. Like all good sailors, Bernard trained first at Sampson and was then transferred to Norfolk, Va. From Norfolk he went on sea duty and was stationed aboard a Merchant Marine ship as gunner. His family tells us that two Navy men are usually stationed on the Merchant Marine ships and are known as the Armed Guard. During his tour of duty with the Merchant Marine, Bernard visited England, Persia, India and many other Middle Eastern Ports. On one of his trips to Persia he purchased a very beautiful rug for his family. He said that most of these rugs are made by young boys nine and ten years old. These youngsters spend long hours in poorly lighted rooms weaving the intricate patterns in the rugs and many of them lose their eyesight after a very few years at this work.

Bernard says there are no Chaplains aboard the Merchant Marine ships, so the men have to wait until they get to some port where a priest usually comes aboard and celebrates Mass. He told on one occasion, they were in port for a very short time. A priest came aboard and said Mass and because he did not have time to hear all the Confessions of the men who were on board, he gave them general Absolution with the condition that they go to Confession at the first opportunity.

Bernard has returned to this country and was on shore duty at the Fleet Post Office in New York a short time ago when he became ill and found an operation was necessary. He is now at the Newport Naval Hospital where he is recovering nicely and expects to go back on sea duty in a short time.

A graduate of St. Anthony's School and the Academy, Bernard entered the service just two months after he finished High School. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Antwerp, 721 Front Street.

The second star in the Antwerp service flag represents their son-in-law, Corporal Thomas Ritter, who has been in the service since March 1942. Tom is with a Medical Corps surgical group and trained at Camp Pickett, Va., and Greenville, Pa., Penn., before being sent overseas in September 1942. He went first to England, where he received further training and during the invasion of France spent sometime with a Hospital Unit there and then moved on to Belgium.

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Food Market before he entered the service. He is the son of Mrs. Hazel Ritter, 620 1/2 Windsor Avenue.

CDA Counsellors Plan Junior Communion Sunday

CORNING — At a recent meeting of the counsellors of the Junior Catholic Daughters at the home of Mrs. Reynolds Everett, Fritchard Ave. Feb. 25 was set as the date for a Communion Sunday for members of the organization. It will be a spiritual offering for the Holy Father.

Social activities for before and after Lent were discussed at the meeting.

Attending were the Rev. John V. Albert, chaplain of the group; Madam Walter Steele, Angela A. Buffamonte, Bernard Woepel, William Gerson and Miss Margaret Barrett, grand regent of the senior court.

JUNIOR CDA ACTIVITIES

CORNING — Troops 5 and 8 of the Junior Catholic Daughters held meetings at the homes of Miss Elvira Lentricchia and Elbert Baker, respectively.

Conducting the meeting of Troop 5 was Miss Joan Hargrett, president. Mrs. John Croft, counsellor, announced that she will give the assignments for the first honor tests at the next meeting which will be held at the home of the Misses Jean and Joan Hargrett.

Others present were Patricia Dyer, Rita Majo and Becky Reilly. At Troop 8's meeting assignments were given and the second honor test reviewed. Attending were Patricia Hyland, Rita Bavisette, Joyce Platta, Mary Placard, Susan Fabrizi and Mrs. Walter Steele, counsellor.

PONTIFF'S 'GREAT SOCIAL' DOCUMENT IN U.S. RECORD

WASHINGTON — Leading the 1944 Christmas Message of His Holiness Pope Pius XII as "one of the great social utterances of the Holy See," Senator James E. Murray of Montana, obtained unanimous consent of the Senate for the printing of the message in the Congressional Record.

"I believe this message of the Pope," said Senator Murray, "will rank alongside Rerum Novarum and Quadragesimo Anno as one of the great social utterances of the Holy See. I hope it will do for the promotion of right thinking with respect to democracy and peace what the two great social encyclicals did for the promotion of intelligent thought with respect to the problems of labor and social policy."

The only way to have happiness as a permanent guest in our lives is to keep our eyes open to the happiness

Pre-Induction Retreats Draw Boys

Is there yet another spiritual revival going on amongst America's youth labelled "soft" by their enemies and "delinquent" by their elders in many fields? Some observers are noting with quiet confidence that Catholic youth is on the march as never before.

Boys of seventeen and eighteen about to enter the armed forces have been going to Mount Madonna, the Jesuit retreat house at Saugerties, New York, to make a pre-induction retreat lasting for the week. They are going for a spiritual refreshment and a new start.

The idea of a pre-induction retreat is a new one and was started last year at Mount Madonna as an experiment. During 1943 more than 200 boys made these retreats and many have decided that the Catholic faith was their strength.

A number of the boys who made the retreats last year are now in the service and are making a good record. They are now in the service and are making a good record. They are now in the service and are making a good record.

Soldiers-to-Be Make Retreat



17 AND 18-YEAR-OLD BOYS about to enter the nation's armed forces are making a retreat at Mt. Madonna. (Special retreat house on Saugerties Road. More than 200 youths attended last year.)

of boys who have never attended a retreat. They have been so well as evidenced that they return to their homes and high schools as better men and high school

Afterward to Mt. Madonna is a retreat house. They have been so well as evidenced that they return to their homes and high schools as better men and high school

Christmas Was Only Workday in Russia

which seem to them like fairy tales.

The church was open in the neighborhood under discussion. It is a question of English speaking church service. Some of the members there say service

Fight for Free Press

THEY TALKED (Continued) ... G. O'Connell, former president of the National Student Reliance Association, recently ...