



February 26, 1945

Dear Reverend Fathers:  
A recent volume on Saint Joseph appeared under the exceptional and significant title "The Man Nearest to Christ." It recalled an equally interesting title which Father Blant used some time ago in a volume which protested against the decline in devotion to this great saint, "Give this man place."

Certainly during the month of March we should "give this man place." The month of March is set aside by the Church as the month of St. Joseph. Despite the simplicity demanded in the Lenten ritual, she specifies that St. Joseph's altar may be decorated with flowers, and she encourages special services in his honor.

As patron and protector of the universal Church, St. Joseph must have a special concern for the future of the Church of Christ in the period of unrest which must follow in the wake of the world-wide hostilities. We must gather about his shrine during March with the prayer of the Church upon our lips, "We beseech thee and we humbly pray, that thou wouldst look down with gracious eye upon that inheritance which Jesus Christ purchased by His blood . . . Even, as of old, thou didst rescue the Child Jesus from the peril of His life, so now defend God's Holy Church from the snare of the enemy and from all adversity."

I am sure that the protection of the growing boy, Jesus, will also prove himself a protector for our boys and girls serving their country in zones of danger and suffering. With the exception of our Blessed Mother, we have no more powerful intercessor with the Prince of Peace than this great saint, and our prayers for victory and peace can fall upon no more sympathetic ear.

I wish, therefore, that during the month of March the well known prayer, "To Thee, O blessed Joseph," be recited after every Mass, Sundays and weekdays, and that this prayer be recited at the devotions on Wednesday and Friday evenings during March.

I am particularly anxious that this prayer be added to the daily prayers in each classroom during March, so that this great Saint may occupy the place that is due him, in the hearts of our boys and girls.

Let us then, during the month of March, in the words of Father Blant, "Give this man place."

Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,

*+ J. J. O'Shea*

BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

## Seeks Amity Between Vatican and Kremlin

WASHINGTON (INS) — President Roosevelt, it was learned here this week, has entrusted New York Democratic Leader Edward J. Flynn with a delicate mission to Moscow — the seeking of a diplomatic understanding which would permit establishment of diplomatic relations between the Vatican and the Soviet Government.

### French Priest Aids Communists Will Defend Molotov Leader Before Assembly

PARIS (By Wireless) — A Catholic priest, Father Philip, announced to the French National Assembly in session here that he will personally undertake the defense of the Communist Magistrate, François Thysse, recently sentenced to hard labor for executing two traitors in Marseilles prison. The executions were carried out by Thysse, and two other white Communists, Jean Gouin and Georges Léonard, who were condemned to death without trial.

Backed by numerous Communists in Catholic lay delegations, Father Philip declared that being a priest, did not make him hesitate "to defend this hero even though he is a Communist, whom he carried out his duty according to his lights."

There is much work to be done to bring the Communists back into the fold of the church, Father Philip said, and he urged the French people to support him in his efforts.

The French priest, a native of France, was born in 1892.

He studied at the Seminary of Paris.

He was ordained a priest in 1919.

He served in the Foreign Legion.

He was a member of the Franciscan Order.

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