'Ten Terrible Days,' Maryknoll Nun Reports of Philippine Bombardment

Maryknoll, N. Y.—(NC)—The first letter received here from one of the American Maryknoll Sisters-missioners imprisoned in Fort Santiago, Manila, gives a ghastly picture of conditions endured in the military prison and of the dramatic rescue of the internees by U. S. forces. Writing from Santo Tomas Internment Camp, Sister Mary Brigida, formerly of Sacred Heart parish, Brooklyn, addressed the Mother General of the Maryknoll Sisters at the Motherhouse here.

"Thanks be to God we have gotten through safely," she writes. "Just now the camp radio announced that the internees at Los Banos had been liberated. Our Sisters have been there since July. Sister Concepcion and Sister Claver, native Filipino Maryknoll missionaries, are in Santa Ana, Manila, with the Spanish Charity Sisters. They fled there from the Philippine General Hospital, where they had taken refuge when St. Mary's Hall burned.

"Sister Trinita and I have been separated from the Sisters since April, when we were taken as prisoners to Fort Santiago.

Ten Days of Terror

"I became so sick that the (Japanese) sent me to the Philippine General Hospital to recuperate, after which I was to go back to prison. I didn't recover too rapidly, as they never called for me, thank God. I was at the hospital during the bombardment, by our good American guns, which were turned into quite action, because the enemy had made of the [illegible] fortress. There were ten [illegible] days and terror [illegible]

"[illegible] patients, plus seven or eight thousand refugees who had fled there from the burning neighborhoods of Paco, Malate and Ermita were crowded together in the [illegible] victims of the front line battle. There were not many casualties, however. The Americans evacuated the place well at the last moment. [illegible] They feared that the Japs had been [illegible] [illegible] have [illegible] [illegible] or so [illegible] and [illegible]

"The people were wild with delight and gratitude, thanking each American soldier, kissing their hands and hanging about to [illegible] I am now with the American internees at Santo Tomas University Camp, having real bread! and butter! and milk! and regular meals. God bless Uncle Sam.

"[illegible] the most extravagant of New York newspaper men have to tell of Manila events will be mild in comparing with the reality. Fire, rape, slaughter, vandalism, savagery . . . Your prayers have brought us through."

Funeral Mass Held For Sister of Mercy

[illegible] Sister Mary Francis Xavier, [illegible] died Wednesday, March 14, at 3 o'clock, from the Motherhouse chapel on Blossom Road. Death occurred Monday, March 12, 1945, at St. Mary's Hospital after a brief illness of five [illegible]

[illegible] Sister of Charity [illegible] Mass was celebrated by the Rev. [illegible] assisted by the Rev. [illegible] and the Rev. [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

Msgr. Sheen Says

'Masses' Led by Ruthless Leaders Imperil World

New York—(NC)—All that is good in the world once again is being threatened by the "masses" manipulated by conscienceless officials of the "absolute State," the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, of the Catholic University of America, declared in a Lenten sermon at St. Patrick's Cathedral here.

He emphasized that it was not the Jewish people who elected to crucify Christ, but the "masses" defined by His Holiness Pope Pius XII in his 1944 Christmas message as "inert of themselves, an easy plaything in the hands of anyone who exploits their instincts and impressions," in contrast to the people that "lives and moves by its own life energy."

"When Pilate asked 'Which of the two would you that I release to you?' he thought the people would choose Christ, not Barabbas," said Monsignor Sheen. "But his strategy failed. For the high priests had turned the people into a mass—the kind of mass which the Pope described in His Christmas message as the greatest enemy of democracy, inert of itself and open to any outside influence.

"No government should give the people a choice between good and evil. The majority is a legitimate test of government when the people choose between good means to a good end. When the people turn into a mass and conscience is lost, the majority invariably chooses evil instead of good.

"Pilate knew he was delivering goodness and justice to death. He held out until the mob cried, 'You are not a friend of Caesar if you don't sentence him.' There they crossed a dirty pit. That is the apostasy of the spirit of Christ in the world today, buffeted, beaten, holding a mock sceptre. Pilate is the only judge mentioned in the Creed: 'He suffered under Pontius Pilate.' I think this is a prophecy and a reminder that in the last conflict in the world between good and evil, Christ will go to death under the power of the omnipotent State.'"

Monsignor Sheen said the Four Freedoms are empty words unless there is "justice to defend, ideals to preserve, truth to believe and God to worship."

Test of Saint's Heritage Seen in Post War Upheavals

Washington — (NC) — The double shot which Saint Patrick inoculated on Irish souls—assurance of Christianity even to the shedding of his blood in its defense, and a flaming patriotism—will be challenged more than ever in the perilous years ahead, declared Rev. Dr. Edmund A. Walsh, S.J., Vice President of Georgetown University, declared in a St. Patrick's Day address before the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick here.

Recalling reports that Eire will be excluded from the ultimate peace conference, Father Walsh continued: "Perhaps she will one day account it a blessing not to have cooperated in the injustice now being contrived against another Catholic nation of central Europe, in appeasement of atheistic communism.

"Ireland's destiny," he concluded, "has never been that of a great power as power is measured. In the world of men, her strength has been rooted in the power of her will to freedom, in her unbreakable loyalty to the supernatural in man, and in the election of a Wolfe Tone, a Grattan, a Robert Emmett, a Daniel O'Connell and a Parnell to die on their feet rather than to live crouched on their knees before any totalitarian aggressor."

FATHER DAMIEN'S BIRTHPLACE IN BELGIUM INTACT

Washington — (NC) — The birthplace of Father Damien, famed apostle to the lepers of Molokai, in Tremelo, Belgium, is intact, after the Allies recaptured the village, it was announced in word received from Europe.

Knights Conduct St. Patrick's Party

AUBURN — A St. Patrick's dance was held on Saturday evening in the Club Room of the Knights of Columbus Home. Charles Cudney was general chairman. Joe Mingrat and his orchestra furnished music for dancing. [illegible]

Basketball

Senior Recreation League

AUBURN — Two first round games in the final series of the scheduled games of the Senior Division of the Recreation League were played on Tuesday evening. St. Francis [illegible] Knights of Columbus [illegible] The Catholic [illegible] and the American [illegible] defeated the American Legion team 39-18.

FINAL STANDINGS

	W	L	Pct.
I. H. C.	9	1	.900
Boys Co.	6	4	.600
Odenbach	5	4	.555
St. Francis	5	5	.500
Alois	4	5	.444
[illegible]	4	5	.444

Girls Basketball League

[illegible]

Bowling

[illegible]

Mass for Yanks Offered By Cologne Bishop

Cologne, Germany — (NC) — A Solemn Mass of Requiem for America's hero dead who made the supreme sacrifice in the Cologne area was offered by the Most Rev. Wilhelm Stockum, Auxiliary Bishop of Cologne, in St. Catherine's Church in Hurth, a suburb of this war-devastated Rhineland city.

Ordinarily the service would have been held in the Cathedral of Cologne, but damage caused by air raids has made it impossible to use the church proper of this great Gothic monument. Yet, despite the damage, Mass is celebrated daily in the Sacristy of the Cathedral.

The Requiem for the Americans marked the first service at which Bishop Stockum has officiated in Cologne since June 1944, when he went into hiding to escape the Nazis.

The service was held under American auspices and was attended by many American chaplains, as well as officers and enlisted men of the United States Army. German priests also participated and the music was sung by a German choir.

St. Patrick's (Seneca Falls)

Fr. Gefell Lecture Enjoyed

By JOAN A. REARDON

SENECA FALLS — St. Patrick's Guild and Altar Society was afforded a pleasant and unusual treat by the presentation of stereopticon views and a lecture on the Shrine at Lourdes, by the Rev. Joseph H. Gefell, Pastor Emeritus of Holy Family Parish, Rochester, in the school auditorium on Monday evening. Father Gefell came to Seneca Falls upon the invitation of Father Quirk, a friend of long standing.

Father Gefel took his audience in spirit with him from the time he left New York until he returned. He told many humorous anecdotes relating to his five trips across and painted the beauty of the Shrine and the ceremonies held there, in words.

The opening prayer of the meeting was offered in memory of Mrs. William H. Burns, whose death occurred recently.

Mrs. Patrick Cudby, school nurse at St. Patrick's, who is also chairman of the Home Nursing Branch of the local chapter of the Red Cross, extended an invitation to all members of the Guild to enter the classes in home nursing now forming.

Miss Ruth A. Page, Executive Secretary of the Seneca County Tuberculosis and Public Health Committee, spoke to the group, asking members to come to the Trinity Parish House, for X-rays of the chest. The unit will be there on Friday, April 20, and members desiring to attend were asked to register during the evening and to specify the time when they wished to go. Miss Page explained the reason for X-ray of the chest and expressed the hope that members would respond 100%.

Mrs. Andrew Sipos presented a report on the card party, of which she was chairman. Mrs. Sipos disclosed a total receipt of $182, which was badly needed to replenish the Guild treasury.

The social hour, planned by a committee headed by Mrs. Frank Spoley, followed.

Sgt. Joseph A. McGrain

Sgt. Joseph A. McGrain, son of Mr. and Mrs. Austin McGrain of Rochester, has advised his grandmother, Mrs. Joseph McGrain Chapin St., of his safe arrival in England.

Corp. Carlo L. Frappelli, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Frappelli, Chapin St., is spending a few days with his family. Carlo has recently returned to the States after spending 14 months overseas, and due to a slight wound, is receiving treatment at the Utica General Hospital. N. Y. He was stationed in Southern England, Wales and France. [illegible]

[illegible] Pfc. Z. Whitney [illegible] son of Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] [illegible] Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] Pfc. Joseph Giannini, son of Mr. and Mrs. Massimo Giannini, Mechanic St., now stationed in France, has been awarded the Infantryman's Badge, according to a communication received this week.

Frank Carnevale, M. 1/c, USNR, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Carnevale, Bridge St., has recently returned to the States after nine months overseas. Frank recently returned to duty after recovering from an operation performed in a military hospital in England.

Pvt. Francis Martini, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Martini, Bridge St., is now a patient in a hospital in England, convalescing from an operation. Frank was injured following his arrival in France, and was transferred to England for medical care. In a recent letter to his parents, he stated that he is now on the road to recovery and hopes to return to his company soon.

Albert T. Sulfordini, S. 2/c, son of Mrs. A. Sulfordini, Center St., has completed his basic training at Sampson N. T. C., and is spending a short leave at his home.

Pvt. Francis Z. [illegible], son of Mr. [illegible] has now completed his basic training at Fort Knox Armored Center Training Center, Ky., and will now be assigned to special duty with an Armored Unit.

[illegible]