

Why Worry About Death? Asks Franklin's Chaplain

Heroic Priest Tells How Faith Makes Brave Men

Washington, D. C. (NC) — "It is impossible to get panicky if you are praying," Lieut. Comdr. Joseph T. O'Callahan, S.J., said here just after his arrival from New York.

The heroic chaplain of the aircraft carrier *Franklin* recalled that when the first explosion came after sunrise on March 19, the feast of St. Joseph, the men began to pray.

Asked if his men feared to die, Chaplain O'Callahan said: "Why should people get bothered about dying? If they accept God, and the fact that heaven is where we are to stay for eternity, why worry about death?"

From the time the *Franklin* left Pearl Harbor, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was offered each morning. Two days prior to the bomb hits, Mass was said in the afternoon and general absolution was given the entire complement of Catholic men because of the impossibility of hearing the confessions at all, the chaplain recounted, telling the story of the *Franklin* and its heroic crew.

All Had Holy Communion

Chaplain O'Callahan stated that all Catholics on the carrier received Holy Communion within two days of the actual time the carrier was struck by bombs. One-third of the ship's official complement were Catholics, he said.

"Immediately after the carrier was struck, there was a 40-second interval before the next explosion," he said. "I pronounced general absolution for the entire Catholic complement. Then the hangar deck burst into flames. Many were killed.



Lieut. Comdr. Joseph T. O'Callahan

About 300 men and the ship's doctor were trapped in a compartment below. They were panic-stricken until urged, by the physician to collect their thoughts and pray. Father O'Callahan said.

"There was a sudden quiet as the men whispered their prayers," the chaplain recounted. Then Lieut. Donald A. Gary, until two years ago an enlisted man with 20 years experience, volunteered to break through and attempt to find a way of escape. In the meantime the trapped men continued to pray. Lieutenant Gary returned. Forming a chain, the men followed him from the compartment and through a passage filled with high explosives reached the deck.

Father O'Callahan finally led relays of volunteers into a smoking ammunition magazine. It was believed the ammunition would explode momentarily. Lifting the shells, the Chaplain passed them to the long line of men in back of him, the last man tossing them into the ocean.

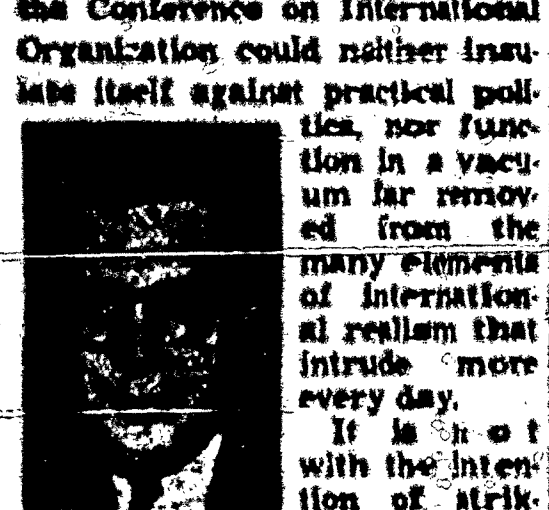
Father O'Callahan told of the boy who came to him as they were about to go into the magazine. "Give me absolution, Father," he said. "But I gave you absolution before," replied Chaplain O'Callahan. "I know, Father, give it to me again." The Chaplain absolved him again, and the boy's face lit up. "Now I'll go down there," he said.

After the first blasts and during the 20 hours in which the men worked saving the ship not a single life was lost and not one man was injured, Chaplain O'Callahan said, attributing this good fortune to prayer. "After all," he remarked, "we did not forget that it was the Feast of Saint Joseph."

Political Issues Influence Parley

By Dr. Richard Patten

San Francisco—(NC)—Four weeks of arduous labor, innumerable speeches and high hopes for drafting a charter of the United Nations organization have clearly revealed that the Conference on International Organization could neither insulate itself against practical politics, nor function in a vacuum far removed from the many elements of international realism that intrude more every day.



It is striking with the intention of striking a note of realism that these factors are mentioned, but rather in order to emphasize that this note of realism is everpresent here.

To all, except the incurably starry-eyed, it should be evident that whatever comes out of this convalescence will have to fit into many, and sometimes not very pleasant, circumstances, which are the practical politics of a world that has just seen the end of one-half of the global war.

The San Francisco meeting had two preliminary blows which produced incalculable effects. The death of President Roosevelt can hardly be overestimated in its importance. The bitter controversy over the meaning of the veto power and the place of the "Big Four" in the Security Council might never have raged with such intensity if the late President had been here to intervene.

It is no exaggeration to assert that the United States delegation is not the strongest in the history of modern diplomacy; nor has the United States been as decisive as one might have wished in terms of vision, consistency and imagination.

The second event that cast a shadow of this gathering was the end of the war in Europe. It means that the whole concept of the structure of a world organization that was to precede the emergence of peace was being shattered with disconcerting rapidity.

The end of the war pushed the problem of territorial adjustment straight into the picture. The shadow of unreality grew since the political environment in which the Conference started no longer existed.

In the background of all this, like a gigantic canvas which sets off more vividly the Conference scene itself, are day-by-day complications, each exerting some impact on the ebb and flow of negotiating and bartering. The barup in the Near East with the controversy between Lebanon, Syria and France had instant repercussions at San Francisco. It savored of power politics. It looked like the old-time sphere of influence.

The Trieste bombshell injected another element of perplexity and brought doubts to the minds of those who wanted to keep the creation of an authority to maintain order and peace separate from the scramble for territory. The seal with which Marshall Tito barged into Austria and the northern Adriatic caused many to wonder how far the long arm of the Kremlin would really reach.

Pope Sees Sports Connected With Moral Education

Vatican City — (NC) — Sports are closely connected with moral education and, hence, come well within the province of the Church. His Holiness Pope Pius XII told 5,000 Italian athletes in an address in which he explained the place and function of physical culture in the service of human and Christian education.

The young sportsmen who wore the garb of their favorite games, presented one of the most colorful and unusual scenes ever witnessed in Vatican City. They came to the historic courtyard of St. John of Damascus in Vatican City to pay homage to the Vicar of Christ after corporate Communion.

Rejecting the notion of those who say that the Church should confine herself exclusively to religious affairs, His Holiness affirmed that sports form part of education and are very closely linked to moral education, thus becoming a matter of concern for the Church.

The body of man is also a creation of God, the Pontiff explained. He recalled the biblical doctrine that the body is a temple of the Holy Ghost, ransomed by the Saviour and destined to a glorious resurrection, and exhorted his listeners to cultivate their bodies in a spirit of sacred reverence.

Reds 'Concerned' By Our Criticism

London—(INS)—International News Service learned this week from the most authoritative Russian circles in London that the Kremlin is seriously concerned over official Anglo-American firmness against Soviet unilateral action in Europe, and the intense wave of critical reaction in Britain and the United States.

Catholics Hit by Reds on Frisco

Moscow Charges Anti-Soviet Campaign

Moscow — (RNS) — Anti-Soviet "calumnies" are being spread by Catholics in an effort to influence delegates at the United Nations Conference, Izvestia charged here in a dispatch from Z. Zhukov, its correspondent at San Francisco.

"Catholic propaganda, which mostly follows outright reactionary political aims, is carried on in such forms as sending to all possible addresses specially printed literature — pamphlets, declarations, and so on." Zhukov denounced George E. Sokolsky, columnist of The New York Sun, for "his sudden readiness to take on the post of defender of the Vatican." He charged that Sokolsky has "become filled with suspicious sympathies towards those many millions of people who inhabit the countries of Eastern Europe where the Red Army now is."

The Russians fear the current controversy may jeopardize two future plans of the Kremlin:

- 1.—The hopes of securing a large, long-term American loan.
- 2.—The hopes of obtaining a favorable position in the Pacific where the U.S.S.R. hopes to get certain territorial concessions regardless of whether or not Russia enters the Pacific war.

Russian circles in London fear the brusque tactics of Premier Joseph Stalin in Europe may cause the Americans to entertain second thoughts concerning China, where Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek's alleged growing unpopularity has enabled Moscow-directed Chinese Communists to make considerable gains in power.

The U.S.S.R. frankly has no desire that China become a second Greece, with the Americans forcefully prostrating a semblance of democracy. It is believed that Russia's ends can most cheaply be achieved by placating the United States.

It was learned that the Soviets positively will make no concessions to the Polish exile government in London.

However, genuine Anglo-American pressure on Moscow might cause Yugoslavian Marshal Tito to adopt a more conciliatory mood in regard to the Italian and Trieste squabble.

Likewise, a firm joint stand by the U. S. State and War Departments might enable American war correspondents to obtain conducted tours of the portions of Europe occupied by the Red Army, although freedom of movement for American newspapermen will be denied until Sovietization of these areas is completed.

The biggest current "bogey" facing the Russians is the formation of an anti-Communist Lath' bloc in Europe, spearheaded by the French.



WHILE JUST BEHIND them rise the foggy clouds of combat, a chaplain and his fellow soldiers bow their heads in prayer. Here, on a hillside near Okinawa, is one of the many outdoor altars, where Army, Navy, and Coast Guardsmen meet to remember their buddies lost in Pacific Island warfare. (INS, (NC) photos.)