

Symbols of the Faith he is carrying to our fighting men in the Pacific are the tabernacle and crucifix held by Chaplain Francis J. Pegram, son of Mr. and Mrs. Pegram of 451 Boland Park, Rochester, and former assistant pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Elmira. The tabernacle and crucifix were made by Navy men aboard an aircraft carrier from the metal of a crashed Helocat fighter plane. The interior is lined with silk from a parachute which saved a flyer's life. The tabernacle has traveled about 147,000 miles of Pacific waters. (Official U. S. Navy Photo)

Elmirans Join in Civic Mourning For Rt. Rev. Monsignor John J. Lee

Tributes From the Press

People from all walks of life united in expression of sincere regret following the announcement on Saturday of the death of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Lee, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul's Church and Elmira's oldest active clergyman.

The untimely passing of the 67-year old prelate evoked warm tributes of praise for his many achievements from civic and religious leaders.

Stated Elmira's Mayor Strachen:

"In the passing of Father Lee this community has suffered a great loss. Father Lee was a lovable, gentle, God-fearing man and his good deeds will live on for generations. It was my privilege to have personally known Father Lee and his death is a loss to me as well as to the community. He will be greatly missed in civic and religious life."

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. William F. Bergan, chancellor of the Rochester Diocese, speaking for Bishop Kearney:

"The Diocese of Rochester has lost one of its most valued priests in the death of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Lee, who has so ably administered the parish of SS. Peter and Paul's in Elmira and who has represented the Bishop of Rochester as dean of the clergy in Elmira.

"Msgr. Lee has been known to the priests and laity as a zealous, earnest priest. His example has been an inspiration to the clergy

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Elmira Advertiser

For fifty-one years the Rt. Rev. John J. Lee devoted his energy and his strength to the duties of a parish priest, a calling to which he brought strong faith, a compassionate heart and a deep humility.

More than half his service—23 years—was as pastor of SS. Peter & Paul's Church and his labors have left their impress on the hearts and the lives of hundreds of parishioners.

The oldest active clergyman in Elmira, he had been head of the Elmira Catholic Deanery since 1932 when the late Bishop John Francis O'Hern appointed him vicar forane. In the same year he was honored by Pope Pius XI by being elevated to the post of domestic prelate, with the title of monsignor, in recognition of his work. The honor, which was announced at Christmas time, brought happiness not only to its recipient but to hundreds of friends who knew the scope of his work and the zeal he brought to it.

Monsignor Lee had a prodigious memory and as he went about his work, it was his pleasure to meet men and women whom he could remem-

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Sunday Telegram

A service of more than half a century in the Lord's vineyard has ended for the Rt. Rev. Monsignor John J. Lee.

The members of the entire community will join with the parishioners of SS. Peter and Paul's and with the Diocese of Rochester in mourning his death. Monsignor Lee's interest and influence were widespread beyond his immediate parish—for his city and county, for patriotic support of his country's war effort.

Fifty-one years a priest, 37 years of his career were spent in Elmira, 17 in the neighboring village of Watkins Glen.

He was a man of the staunchest faith, a priest of self-sacrificing devotion to his calling and a pastor of extreme solicitude for the spiritual welfare of his flock.

A deep-rooted sympathy for the unfortunate was one of the outstanding traits of his character, and over the years he gave practical, unostentatious assistance to many.

Elmira is the richer in that he lived and labored here.



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