

GIs Study by Mail to Become Priests

(In N. Y. World-Telegram)
By ANDREW TULLY

New York — Somewhere on a grim Pacific isle a kid in khaki crouches over a mimeographed pamphlet in the wavering light of a gasoline lantern.

His lips form unfamiliar words, "Deus, Dei, Deo."

The boy is studying Latin, embarking on a career in the priest-hood via a correspondence course.

He is one of 300 servicemen who have applied for admission into the Maryknoll Fathers, because they saw for themselves. They are men from the fighting fronts, the Pacific mostly, who have met and marveled at Maryknoll missionaries on desolate chunks of coral and in jungle morasses and on the blistering China plain.

And seeing what these priests do, seeing what no book can adequately illustrate, they have become inspired. They want to help.

"Your missionaries out here are their own best models of what they preach," wrote one Marine from a jungle base.

"How can I join the society and become a fighter for peace?"

That Marine, wearing the bronze and silver stars and a Purple Heart with a Oak Leaf cluster, is now in a Maryknoll seminary.

"We insist that they take time to think it over," said Fr. Charles McCarthy, vocation director and assistant superior general of the Maryknoll headquarters in Ossining. "But even at the very outset there's no doubting their sincerity. As good fighting men themselves, they admire and respect the fighting spirit of our missionaries."

So cautiously does the society tread, however, that of the 300 applicants only 17 thus far have been accepted. Of these, eight

are Navy men, three are from the Army, three from the Marines, one from the Merchant Marine and two from the Air Force.

The Navy's majority is understandable. They are the men most frequently exposed to the good works of the Maryknoll missions. And of the 300 only 25 are from the European theater, where servicemen rarely come in contact with a missionary.

The correspondence courses, Fr. McCarthy explained, are for those servicemen who either did not finish high school or failed to take enough Latin there. Maryknoll recommends two courses, one from the University of Southern California and one from Notre Dame. The fee per course for servicemen is \$3.

What pleases Maryknoll officials most is that the servicemen will begin their studies with an inspiring practical picture of what the society accomplishes. "We won't have to tell them what's expected of them," said

Fr. McCarthy. "They've already seen their fellowmissionaries at work."

For instance, Fr. McCarthy treasures letters like the one from a Marine on Guadalcanal, dated Oct. 4, 1942, in which this fighting man declared he was overwhelmed at reading your circular pertaining to your wonderful mission to Hawaii and Bolivia. And the one from the soldier on another Pacific island who picked up a discarded Maryknoll appeal from the mud of his command post, and wrote in asking to be admitted to the society.

He likes to point out, too, that these Maryknoll novices are top flight military men. One of the latest, a lieutenant from Tonkern, served with the 3rd Army, was wounded twice and had a foot and an arm frozen in the Battle of the Bulge. Another young officer, a bombardier and gunner on a Flying Fortress, shot down three Messerschmitts in one mission over Germany. "Tomorrow, they'll be Soldiers of Peace."

CBS Lists Father Gillis

New York — (NC) — The Rev. James M. Gillis, editor of The Catholic World, begins a series of five alternate Sunday addresses on the topic "Man," on the later program of Columbia network's "Church of the Air," on Sunday, Dec. 2, from 1 to 1:30 p. m., EST. The title of Father Gillis' first talk is "Creature of God."

Mails Brazil Students

Vancouver City — (NC) — Twenty-two students have been assigned by the hierarchy of Brazil to take up studies at the Rosarilium Pontifical College at Rome, and nine more are now waiting in Paris to go to the Eternal City. Observance Romanos, reporting the news, calls it an "auspicious event" and one of which Brazil may well be proud.

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Catholic Press Urged To Aid Labor Solution

New Orleans — (NC) — A "declaration of interdependence" by management and labor and cooperative efforts with the aid of government were suggested by the Rev. Vincent O'Connell, S. M., of Notre Dame Seminary here at a one-day meeting of the Southern Region, Catholic Press Association of the United States.

It is the duty of the Catholic press, Father O'Connell said, to push a solution of the management-labor problem "so that we may not be guilty of a sin of omission" such as has occurred in other countries in economic matters.



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