

Diocesan Priest in Japan



Meeting with Bishop Paul Taguchi of Osaka, Japan, in that city following Mass in Kokuminkaihan (People's Meeting Hall) was a group of Chaplains and GIs. Included was Chaplain Joseph G. Gelfi, Diocese of Rochester (second from right). Bishop Taguchi's Cathedral was burned during the war.

Benes Reassures Czech Catholics

Prague (RNS)—Dr. Eduard Benes, president of Czechoslovakia, reassured Catholics in his country that they can look forward to continued freedom of religion.

Receiving a deputation of Catholic priests from Moravia, Dr. Benes pointed out that he always had been a staunch defender of religious as well as political freedom and toleration. He added he was well aware of the clergy's patriotic behavior during the war and emphasized that every Catholic citizen of the republic can await trustfully the future of the state.

Miss E. A. McNamara Dies; Widely Noted for Charities

Corning—Miss Elizabeth A. McNamara, 14 1/2 Fourth St., died early Thursday morning at Clifton Springs Sanitarium where she had been a patient for a little over a month.

Miss McNamara, who was born in Corning and spent her entire life here, was well known for her many charities. She was a generous giver to her own parish church, St. Mary's, as well as to other Catholic churches in this city and Des Moines, Ia. Her private charities were numerous and helped often to mitigate suffering.

Her gifts to St. Mary's Church included a new altar in 1941 which replaced the one she gave about 30 years ago; the rebuilding and electrifying of the organ in memory of her brother, the late Colonel J. M. McNamara.

of Corning and Des Moines, Ia., chimed and an address unit.

Not only did Miss McNamara's philanthropies win for her the Papal blessing on three separate occasions but she was also privileged to have had audiences with three Popes. In 1910 on her first trip to Europe she was one of a small group who had a private audience with Pope Pius X. In 1919 she had an audience with Pope Benedict XV and on April 3, 1921, she was presented to Cardinal Ratti, who two years later was made Pope Pius XI.

Miss McNamara conducted a business school in Corning for many years. She was a member of the Corning Woman's Club.

Burma Missioner Cites Aid of Army Engineers

Calcutta, India — (NC) — In a letter published in the CMA Roundup, the U.S. Mission for the China-Burma-India theater, the Rev. James B. Devine, a missionary of the Columbian Fathers in northern Burma, thanks the Army Corps of Engineers for what they have done to help his people.

"Last May," he writes, "I returned to my mission station after three years' internment under the Japanese to find that my house, church, school and the entire village in which they had been situated had been burned. The 1905th 'C' Company was encamped nearby and I was kindly allowed to pitch my tent in their area. The following five months were the happiest I have ever spent, and what a contrast with the preceding three years.

"During these months I got to

know men whose friendship I will cherish and remember for the rest of my life. I received from them kindness, consideration, encouragement and help, both financial and otherwise. A similar debt of gratitude is due the other companies of the 1905th and to the officers and men of the 209th Engineers, who were camped close by on the road."

(Among the 1905th Engineers acquainted with Father Devine is George R. Helfrich, 59 St. Jacob St., Rochester, and a member of Holy Redeemer Parish. Expected home for Christmas, Helfrich worked on the Stillwell Road for two years and often mentioned Father Devine in his letters.)

Non-Political Stand Of Group Stressed

Buenos Aires (NC) — Underlining the non-political character of Catholic Action in Argentina is the recent statement of the Buenos Aires Archdiocesan Committee of the organization, reminding its members of Permanent Commission of the Argentine Hierarchy in 1937.

To clear up "harmful misunderstanding" that has arisen, the committee pointed out the following restrictions laid down by the Bishops in regard to political activity of Catholic Action members:

- 1) Members of the Argentine Catholic Action must not use the organization badge during meetings and assemblies having a political character.
- 2) They must not display simultaneously the Catholic Action badge and a political badge.
- 3) In ordinary life, outside of political meetings and assemblies, they will use only the Argentine Catholic Action badge.
- 4) Use of the Catholic Action salute, "Viva Cristo Rey" (Hail to Christ the King), must be avoided in political gatherings.

Friendship (RNS)—The Rev. Francis Augustus S.M.A., missionary and ethnologist, and a member of the French Conventuals, recently has been here.

Born in Lyons, France, he has served in extensive geographical studies in Dahomey, French Equatorial Africa, and was widely known as the first white man to film the secret religious rites of the Dahomey natives.

Corporal Shakes Stigmatic's Hand

Meeting the famous Theresa Neumann goes down as an unforgettable experience for Corporal William Bierbruer of 152 Bayne Avenue, according to a letter he wrote his mother, Mrs. William Bierbruer.

Stationed with a truck detachment in Bamberg, Germany, Corporal Bierbruer visited the noted German Stigmatic the day before Thanksgiving.

"I think it was just about the greatest thing I have ever seen and about the greatest thing that ever happened to me," he subsequently wrote his mother.

From the village priest, the Rochester boy learned the history of Theresa, he relates, before going to meet her where she was chopping wood in the forest.

Although it was bitterly cold and he could feel it despite his heavy clothing, the stigmatic's hand, when he took it was "hot as fire."

"Imagine getting to shake hands with a person like that. It makes me feel as though I have never really lived. I will never forget that day, Nov. 11, 1944, when I met the famous Stigmatic."

When I thought of her I felt a great peace and joy and I felt as though I had been talking to those about the most wonderful thing that ever happened to me.

APPEARS IN DEATH

Two years from 1943 the Rev. Father declared that he was certain that the spirit of a stigmatic had appeared in the person of a French priest, and he had been in the presence of Christ and other saints and angels.

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10 Fur Coat (black)	595 to 695	595 to 695
10 Fur Coat (black)	595 to 695	595 to 695
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