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Lay Brother From Clyde Leaves for New Guinea

Brother Ignatius, nee S. Sanzo of Clyde, was in the party with 18 missionary priests of the Society of the Divine Word leaving for the society's missions in New Guinea.

Departure ceremony was held on Nov. 2 at Techny, Ill. Six priests and three brothers left for Africa; seven priests and one brother, for China; five priests left for the Philippine Islands; five priests for India, and one for Japan.

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Precious Blood Father Returns From Rome Visit

Home after a flight to and from Italy, the Rev. Sebastian Contegiacomo, C.PP.S., has returned to his duties as pastor of Church of the Precious Blood on Benson St. at Lexington Ave.

Father Sebastian went to Rome for a General Chapter of the Fathers of the Precious Blood of which congregation he is a member. With his confreres, he visited His Holiness Pope Pius XII at the summer residence, Castel Gandolfo, and he reported the Holy Father as looking well. They also visited the soldiers' cemetery at Anzio Beachhead.

The chapter, Father Sebastian reported, was presided over by Very Rev. Albert Kramer, C.PP.S., new Father General of the order and an American. Father Albert was formerly provincial of the American Province in Ohio.

All his family, including his mother, were in good health, Father Sebastian said, and he had a happy reunion with them.

Nazareth College Aids Student Relief

(Continued from Page 1A)

other parts of the world. Students have been by-passed by most relief campaigns.

"Spurred on by this crisis, Nazareth College has made a vigorous start on the relief campaign. An active publicity program is under way. A special meeting will be held this week to devise means of procuring individual contributions. Individual donations will be considered a matter of conscience—the individual must sacrifice — thereby, each student will have a personal share."

35 Years of Charities Service Marked By 'Miss Mac,' Staff Dean

"I've gotten out of it so much more than I've given." That is the way "Miss Mac" summarizes her thirty-five years of continuous service to others as a member of the staff of Rochester Catholic Charities.

"Miss Mac" is Elizabeth M. McSweeney, treasurer, and senior caseworker of the Child Care and Family Division, Rochester Catholic Charities.

When in February, 1912, the Most Rev. Thomas J. Hickey, Bishop of Rochester, seeing the necessity of help for needy Catholics, suggested the formation of a Catholic Charity Guild, Miss McSweeney, who already had for years given volunteer service to St. Ann's Home as a member of the Victoria Circle, was among the first to volunteer. A charter member of the Guild and its first (and only) treasurer, she was active as a volunteer until November, 1914.

DURING THIS PERIOD, large numbers of Catholic immigrants were coming to Rochester. The various parishes were no longer able to provide material assistance to the large numbers of needy looking to the Church for help. Under the "poor laws" of the time, the public agencies were unable to provide the kind of assistance many needed. The Catholic Charity Guild offered assistance on a city-wide scale, rather than on a parish basis.

As the work grew, the need for a central office was realized. On Nov. 5, 1914, the first office was opened in the Duke Building. Miss McSweeney was asked to assume charge of the office, working with the Rev. Jacob Staub, who pioneered in the formation of the city-wide organization.

Record of 35 years in Catholic Charities work is looked over by Miss Elizabeth M. McSweeney, treasurer and senior caseworker of the Child Care and Family Division, Rochester Catholic Charities, with Very Rev. Msgr. Gerald C. Lambert, diocesan director.

With thirty five years of continuous service in the casework field, "Miss Mac" is probably the dean of caseworkers in the community. No lay employee of the Diocese of Rochester is her senior in point of continuous service.

Until 1928 "Miss Mac" served as Intake Worker for Catholic Charities. "Of course, in the early days, we didn't use the title, 'Intake Worker,' but it was part of my job to see everyone who came to our office. Our staff was small, and there was much to be done. With the arrival of thousands of Catholic immigrants in this area, the need for our work grew steadily," Miss McSweeney said. "Looking back, it is amazing to see the many activities which grew out of the work we began on such a small scale."

"AT FIRST, our work was largely giving material assistance to the needy. As the people of our community looked to us for other kinds of service, we made every effort to meet their needs. As early as 1916, a letter from the Bishop to all the churches strongly urged the use of foster homes for small children. By 1922, we were placing all young children referred to us in foster homes. Our work with unmarried mothers began early, as people looked to us for help of this kind," Miss McSweeney went on.

"For many years, we cooperated with the National Council of Catholic Men in their work with immigrants. We met all Catholic immigrants arriving in this area, and assisted them in their initial adjustment to this country. This service was discontinued when immigration was virtually eliminated. Now that we have need for this type of service, we are again working with new arrivals from Europe."

"MISS MAC" recalls with a smile that her beginning salary was thirty five dollars per month. Of this, thirty dollars was provided by the Men's Charity League, and five dollars by the Bishop himself. The League maintained branches in each parish, and the income from members' dues supported the organization.

"In 1917, Catholic Charities was granted a charter by special act of the State Legislature. Under the authority of this charter, our activities expanded," Miss McSweeney said. "We were authorized to do child placing, adoption work – in fact, the foresight Father Staub and Bishop Hickey displayed in preparing the charter, has permitted us to engage in the many varied activities of a modern social agency without amendment of our charter."

Among the casework activities in which Catholic Charities pioneered was service to unmarried mothers in their own community. Miss McSweeney, and Miss Kathleen d'Oller, present Executive Director, initiated a program of foster home care for these girls. This work attarted nation-wide attention, and inquiries were received from widely scattered agencies across the country for information on this new approach tocare for the unmarried mother In 1928, Miss McSweeney took charge of this phase of Catholic Charities' work. In the past nineteen years, "Miss Mac" has personally worked with over girls. "I'm afraid I can't tell you exactly how many," Miss Mac" apologized. "You see, I've always been more interested in my individual girls than in keeping statistics."

Pre-Marriage Contract On Children Ruled Valid

Geneva — A religious contract made before marriage assuring the religious education of the future children is a legally enforceable agreement, it was revealed in Geneva this week as the decision of Justice Nathan D. Lapham was made public in settlement of a separation case contested before him this summer.

The Geneva jurist's ruling in denying a wife's plea for separation from her husband contains the significant pronouncement that 'a religious agreement entered into at marriage is a legally enforceable agreement." Said to be unique in legal history in New York State, the ruling by Justice Lapham, as a referee of the Supreme Court, emphasized that a mutual contract concerning "religious training of children" should be upheld as any other enforceable agreement.

NAMES OF THE litigants in the case were withheld because they have effected a reconciliation since the decision.

While the Domestic Relations Law provides that contracts made between persons contemplating marriage must remain in force after marriage, this is the first time in New York State that there has been a decision which classed an agreement on religion as a legally enforceable contract.

In the case in point, a mother of two infants had agreed prior to marriage to bring them up in the Roman Catholic faith and herself had voluntarily become a convert to that faith.

Later, during the wartime absence of her husband she dropped all semblance of her promised agreement and in action for separate maintenance, sought that the children's father, her husband, be denied the right to any of their time.

Not only did Justice Lapham deny this wife the separation she sought but he instructed that the father of their children had a legal right to 3 hours of time with them one day a week and that when each reached the age of 5 years the father might after application for court authority place the child in a parochial school nearest the mother's home.

Mrs. Murphy Rites At St. Augustine's

Funeral services for Mrs. Catherine Murphy were held Thursday, Oct. 30, at St. Augustine's Church. Mrs. Murphy died Oct. 26, 1947, at the family home, 74 Stanton St.

Solemn Mass of Requiem was celebrated by the Rev. D. R. Sullivan assisted by the Rev. Michael Connor, C.P.P.S. as deacon, and the Rev. Robert Mulgrew, C.P., subdeacon.

Also attending were the Rev. John M. Duffy, Rev. John S. Hayes, Rev. J. Beecher Sullivan, Rev. Edward Tobler, Rev. Louis Hohman, Rev. Julius Durkin, C.P., Rev. Canon Frey, C.P. and Capt. Terence Murphy, C.P.

She is survived by five daughters, Mrs. Ralph Sorensen, Mrs. John Foley, Mrs. Guy Paddock, Mrs. Charles Kreuzer and Mrs. Albert Roth; five sons, Francis, Thomas, Bernard, George and Joseph Murphy; two sisters, Mrs. Henry Linehan, Geneva, and Mrs. William Stark; one brother, Michael Roche, Geneva, and four even grandchildren.

Sister Thomasina Rites Conducted

Norwalk—Funeral services were held Friday (Oct. 31, 1947) for Sister Mary Thomasina Stellacy, one of a pair of twin sisters, both members of the Sisters of Mercy community.

Sister Thomasina died Tuesday, Oct. 28 in St. James Mercy Hospital, where her sister, Sister Mary Aquinas is superintendent. Sister Thomasina was in the 44th year of her religious profession.

Requiem Mass was conducted in St. Ann's Church, Hornell, by the Rev. Joseph Ryan of Albany, a cousin of the sisters.

Born in Albany, the daughter of Johanna and Matthew Stellacy, Sister Thomasina entered the Sisters of Mercy in Rochester in 1901 and took her vows in 1904. During her 30 years as a teacher, she taught at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, St. John the Evangelist, St. Andrew's and Holy Cross schools in Rochester, and at St. John's, Clyde, and St. Mary's, Corning.

In later years, Sister was mistress of novices at the Rochester motherhouse of the community for 3 years before becoming bursar for the order.

For the past eight years, she had been in poor health, being confined much of the time in St. James Mercy Hospital.

Surviving besides Sister Aquinas are four other sisters, the Misses Mary, Catherine, Anne and Josephine Stellacy.

Notre Dame Men Set Communion Breakfast

A turn-out for a Communion Mass and Breakfast, Dec. 7 and a Christmas Dance, Dec. 27, were planned for alumni of Notre Dame University at the Rochester Alumni Club's meeting Wednesday at Hotel Sheraton. President William Bell presided.

The Communion Mass will be celebrated at Old St. Mary's Church with the breakfast following at the hotel. Arnold Morrison is chairman of the dance.

Motion pictures of the Aquinas-Detroit Central and the Aquinas-St. James games were shown by Coach Harry Wright.

Speakers To Hear of Mass

Rev. Dr. Joseph H. Gefell, chaplain, Nazareth Motherhouse, will discuss the significance of the Mass at the regular meeting of the DCCW Speakers' Bureau at 8:15 p. m. Friday, Nov. 7. Meeting will be held in Old St. Mary's School, South St.

Father Gefell will supplement his talk with colored slides of the Mass.

Two members of the DCCW Speakers' Bureau are listed for talks, Tuesday, Nov. 11. They are:

Miss Lucy Sheehan, "Children's Literature," St. Ann's Circle, St. Ann's Church Hall, Brighton Park.

Mrs. Arthur P. Farren, "Cana Conferences," Auburn Chapter, Nazareth College Alumnae Association in Auburn.

Radio Acceptance Poll Opened by Nazareth Unit

Nazareth College students are participating in the Radio Acceptance Poll, which is beginning this week on college compuses all over the country. This is a nation-wide poll of college students to determine the acceptability of well-known radio comedians.

Mary Kay Klee, senior, Jean Sullivan and Ann Heffernan, juniors; Jane McLaughlin, sophomore, and Norma Jean Cloos, freshman, have been selected as the central Nazareth commission to ask 170 girls each week to take part in the poll by rating various comedy programs on the air.

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