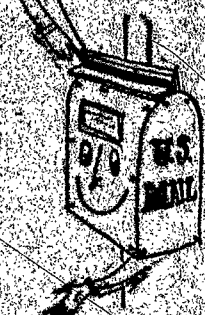


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## Priest Here Mourns Death Of Bishop Ford In Red China

Death of Bishop Francis X. Ford, Maryknoll missionary in a Chinese Communist prison brought deep and personal sorrow to a Rochester born priest who had labored with him for 24 years in China.

The Rochester Maryknoll priest is the Rev. Charles P. Hilbert, M.M., who in 1928 when the Kaying mission in Kwantung, China was under Red occupation, took an ill priest to Hong Kong and was later refused an entrance visa by the Communists to return to China.

Thus did Father Hilbert, perhaps, escape the fate of his Bishop and friend in a Red China prison.

**WORD OF** the death of Bishop Ford at Canton on Feb. 21, this year, was reported by his secretary, Sister Joan Marie Ryan of the Bronx on her arrival in Hong Kong, last week. Bishop Ford was a Brooklyn native.

While aware of Bishop Ford's imprisonment and the sufferings he was undergoing, word of his death came as a shock to Father Hilbert and to many others in the Rochester area where he was widely known for his deeds and by personal contact.

Father Hilbert, who is staying at the home of his brother, James C. Hilbert, 145 Normandy Ave., first went to China as a Maryknoll missionary in 1925 to join the Rev. Francis X. Ford, assigned by Maryknoll to open the Kaying Mission.

**TWO PRIESTS** worked closely together. When in 1935 Bishop Ford was consecrated at Maryknoll on Sept. 21 by Bishop James A. Walsh, co-founder of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society, Father Hilbert was one of his chaplains. When Father Hilbert's father died in October of 1946, Bishop Ford came to Rochester to attend the funeral.

Saddened deeply by the death of Bishop Ford, under whom he had served as Vicar General of the China diocese, as rector of the Minor Seminary, and as Chancellor and Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Father Hilbert spoke feelings of his Bishop.

Bishop Ford was a man of great humility, Father Hilbert recalled. His first purpose was to save souls and with great sympathy for the Chinese people he worked with that purpose always in mind.

Possessed of a brilliant mind, Bishop Ford would write articles after articles on the typewriter, Father Hilbert said. "He once wrote 92 articles at one time for mission magazines, such as 'Field Aft.' throughout the world."

Father Hilbert also recalled the Archbishop Anthony Riberi, Papal Nuncio to China, had termed Bishop Ford "one of the foremost missionary Bishops in all China."

Father Hilbert expressed gratitude to the Rev. Robert J. Fox for arranging the Memorial services for Bishop Ford on Saturday.

Young Francis Ford was the first boy to enter the Catholic Foreign Mission Society at Maryknoll, Father Hilbert said.

**WHEN A YOUNG** seminarian at Cathedral College in New York, the then Rev. James A. Walsh, co-founder of Maryknoll, visited the Seminary in 1912 to explain the aims of his Society to the seminarians.

As the priest was leaving, one of the students ran after him down the walk. Father Hilbert said, "I asked if he could join. That boy was Francis Ford, the first student."

After a brilliant course, Father Ford was in the first group to depart for the foreign missions. Bishop Walsh lived just long enough, leaving a sick bed to do it, to consecrate the first Maryknoll student as a Bishop. Bishop Walsh died in the spring of 1936.

A frequent visitor to Rochester in his younger days, Bishop Ford often went to Scottville, village near Rochester, to confer with the late Rev. Louis A. Lambert, named as a Catholic journalist. He also visited with younger men and was a friend of the Rev. James T. Wood of Fairport and the Rev. Michael C. Hynes of Oswego.

For propaganda purposes, the Communists accused Bishop Ford of engaging in "anti-communist, counter-revolutionary and espionage" activity. When the charges were made public Bishop Raymond A. Lane, Superior General of Maryknoll, called them "ridiculous and fantastic."

"Bishop Ford was one of the best friends the Chinese people ever had," said Bishop Lane. "He devoted the best part of his life to the Chinese people. He was an outstanding promoter of Chinese culture and tradition."

Bishop Ford was born in Brooklyn on Jan. 11, 1882. His father, Joseph E. Ford, was a publisher of the Irish World. He attended St. Francis Preparatory School in Brooklyn and Cathedral College in New York City. In 1912 he was the first student to enter the newly-founded Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America at Maryknoll.

**ORDAINED** to the priesthood on Dec. 25, 1917, he was one of the first group of Maryknoll Missionaries to leave for China the following year. In 1925, when the new South China mission territory of Kaying was assigned to Maryknoll, he and Father Hilbert started to work there. Ten years later he was named by the Holy See as first Bishop of Kaying. Shortly after his consecration as Bishop on Sept. 21, 1935, he returned again to China.

Throughout World War II, Bishop Ford remained in China, although for three years he was almost completely surrounded by enemy troops. Kaying, normally a city of 200,000 swelled to more than a million persons during the war. Bishop Ford devoted the majority of his time to helping these refugees. He came back to the United States for a short rest after the war, but gave lectures on China in the hope of winning more American aid for the rehabilitation of the Chinese people.

Worn out after more than a year of imprisonment, Bishop Ford on Feb. 21, 1952 was the first American Bishop to die under the Chinese Communists.

## Boston Plans '53 Ireland Pilgrimage

Boston — (NC) — Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston will lead a pilgrimage to Ireland in August, 1953, it has been announced here.

The pilgrimage will sail from here on August 18, 1953, aboard the SS Rotterdam Amsterdam and arrive in Dublin, Ireland, on August 24, according to plans.

It is expected that some 700 persons will make the pilgrimage. The pilgrimage was arranged through the Holland-America Line. Archbishop Cushing named the American Express-Catholic Travel Agency to handle all travel arrangements.



**IN MEMORY** of Bishop Francis X. Ford, Maryknoll missionary whose death in a Red China prison, saddened him, Rev. Charles P. Hilbert, M.M. (right) arranges with Rev. Robert J. Fox, pastor, for a Solemn Mass of Requiem Saturday, Sept. 12, at 10 p. m. in St. Peter and Paul's Church, Rochester. Father Hilbert shows the pastor some of record of 24 years with Bishop Ford in Chinese mission. (Courier Staff Photo.)

## Father Hilbert To Open New Mission In Formosa

Rev. Charles P. Hilbert, M.M. who made his studies for the priesthood at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminary before joining the Catholic Foreign Mission Society at Maryknoll will go to Formosa at the end of October to resume his missionary activity.

Father Hilbert has already spent about 25 years in the missions of China and recently was attached to the Maryknoll House in Buffalo.

**HIS SUPERIORS** at Maryknoll have assigned him to work in the Prefecture Apostolic of Taipei in Northern Formosa where no priest has ever labored before.

Father Hilbert was chosen by Bishop Raymond A. Lane, M.M., Superior General, to open the mission in Formosa because of his proficiency in the Hakka dialect used in the Kaying Mission in China now in control of the Communists.

The Rochester priest will survey and open up the district and when the mission is established, other Maryknoll priests will follow and Father Hilbert will be superior.

**HEADQUARTERS** in the area where there is no church nor chapel will be established in Miaoli, a town of about 40,000 population.

Father Hilbert, who spent 24 of his mission years working with the late Bishop Francis X. Ford, M.M. in China has an extensive background for his work on the island. He has served as pastor, rector of a native minor seminary, Cathedral rector, chancellor, vicar general and director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in the Kaying Mission. In addition, he edited The Southern Star, one of the few Chinese language mission magazines in Asia.

Following his return to the United States in 1950, Father Hilbert assisted the Home Missions of America by serving as novice master at their novitiate in Glenmary, Ohio. For the past year he has been stationed at the Maryknoll House in Buffalo.

Other honored guests at the banquet were Rev. Msgr. Lawrence B. Casey and the Rev. Richard Tormey.

Terry O'Brien and Joan Relchart acted as co-chairmen while Josephine Lombardo handled decorations.

**Vows Taken In Carmelite Order**  
Nine young men who took their vows in the Carmelite Order at services conducted at Whitefriars, Auburn, Monday morning, are shown with Rev. William Henry O. Connel, rector, master, Washington, D. C., professor of theology at House of Studies (left) and Rev. Finbar Ryan, O. Carm., Novice Master at Whitefriars. Others in photo (from left), front,



**NINE YOUNG MEN** who took their vows in the Carmelite Order at services conducted at Whitefriars, Auburn, Monday morning, are shown with Rev. William Henry O. Connel, rector, master, Washington, D. C., professor of theology at House of Studies (left) and Rev. Finbar Ryan, O. Carm., Novice Master at Whitefriars. Others in photo (from left), front,

## Cathedral Parish To Build Convent, Rector Announces

Plans for a new convent in Sacred Heart Pro-Cathedral Parish, funds for which will be sought in a campaign to be conducted from Oct. 12 to 25, were announced by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Lawrence B. Casey, Rector, in his sermon to the parishioners last Sunday. The goal has not yet been assigned.

Need for the new convent to be erected at the site of a house at 283 Flower City Park to be moved, was explained in the Parish Bulletin for last Sunday.

The Bulletin said that the present frame building at 1361 Lake Avenue is entirely unsuited for present or future needs. Twenty Sisters of St. Joseph who teach in Sacred Heart school are, as of now, housed within its walls, nine of whom are living in the attic.

**STRESSED ARE** the facts that plumbing facilities are far too inadequate. The Chapel will hold only twenty nuns, the Community Room and Dining Room are much too small. There is no space for a recreation room. The kitchen is about half the size it should be.

The proposed convent is being designed by Edward M. Lorsch, architect, engineer and Donald M. Walzer, architect, associated. The convent structure to be built is being designed not only to take care of present but future needs.

The new convent will include a chapel to seat 30 and will have reception and waiting rooms on the ground floor. The Community section will be three stories and include the community room, refectory, kitchen and work room. Bedrooms will be on the second and third floors. In the basement will be the recreation room, trunk and laundry rooms.

A **CLOISTER** to assure the Sisters of privacy will be included to the rear of the convent. This will be landscaped and shrubbed and suitably arranged for the Sisters' comfort and convenience.

The convent exterior will be of dark buff brick to match the school across the parking station and will house 28 nuns. Plans are for the building's completion late in 1953.

**HEADING A** large army of campaigners for the new convent will be John P. Boylan as General Chairman, Vice Chairman is William H. Bragg, Big Gifts Chairman Oscar J. Trabold and Vice Big Gifts Chairman, George Miller.

Sacred Heart School, this year, has 1,077 boys and girls registered. On the basis of baptismal records, the enrollment of the school in 1953 is estimated to be well over 1,300. The school now has 22 nuns and 2 lay teachers and in 1953, the Bulletin said, a faculty of at least 27 teachers will be needed.

Rev. Mother Helene, Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph, has

## Forty Hours

Devotions of the Forty Hours will be conducted in the following Churches of the Diocese of Rochester:

Friday, Sept. 12 — Holy Redeemer, Rochester; St. Mary's, Dansville.

Sunday, Sept. 14 — Groton; Oswego; Watkins Glen; St. Casimir, Elmira; Homeoye.



MSGR. CASEY

been more than cooperative in helping Sacred Heart School solve its problems, the Bulletin said. She has assigned two additional teachers to the school. They live at Nazareth Hall on Raines Park and are required to walk each day to and from Sacred Heart School. The Bulletin further points out that the "nuns at our own convent must cover the equivalent of three city blocks four times a day, good weather and bad, to reach school."

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