



RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS of His Holiness Pope Pius XII, who will be 77 on March 2, show the Pontiff displaying a vigor remarkable for a man of his advanced age. This week he is reported fully recovered from an influenza attack which confined him to bed.

Holy Father Recovering From Influenza Attack

Vatican City — (NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII was on the way to full recovery after an attack of influenza and bronchitis which confined him to his bed.

Observators Romano, Vatican City daily, issued several bulletins on the Pontiff's illness and his recovery.

As he was convalescing the Pope said his Rosary for the intention of those missing in war and the members of their families, an Observatore announcement said.

An altar was set up near the Pope's bedroom so he could assist at Mass and receive Communion.

Rome — (RNS) — His Eminence Cardinal Micara, Vicar General of Rome, addressed a message to the people of the Italian capital expressing the joy at the improved condition of Pope Pius XII who is recovering from an attack of influenza.

Cardinal Micara urged the faithful to give thanks and he implored that God hasten the return of Pope Pius to his work.

Dr. Jordan Hits Naming Conant To German Post

Milwaukee — (NC) — The naming of President James B. Conant of Harvard University to be U. S. High Commissioner to Germany "certainly does not promote the best American interests," according to an internationally known Catholic priest-newsmaster.

Father Max Jordan, longtime National Broadcasting Company reporter in Europe, and still a correspondent of the N.C.W.C. News Service there, termed President Eisenhower's appointment of Dr. Conant an unfortunate choice.

"Both Protestant and Catholic public opinion in Germany is not likely to view Dr. James Conant's proposed appointment with favor, as it will only help to bolster forces antagonistic to Christianity," Father Jordan declared.

EXPRESSIONS HIS views during the Wisconsin Catholic Action Convention here, the priest journalist recalled that the Harvard physicist last year denounced private schools as divisive and a "threat to our democratic unity."

"At the very time when Archbishop Aloisius J. Muench, Apostolic Nuncio to Germany, found himself obliged for the first time to lodge an official protest with the West German Federal government, which was about to violate its concordat with the Vatican, the announcement of the proposed appointment of Dr.

Relief Goal Set At Five Million

New York — (RNS) — A goal of \$5,000,000 has been set for the annual relief collection of the Bishops' Fund for Victims of War. It was announced here by War Relief Services — National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Mother Visits Cardinal Son In Red Prison

Washington, D. C. — (NC) — Avery Dulles, S.J., a Jesuit scholastic who is studying for the priesthood, saw his father formally assume the position of Secretary of State in ceremonies at the White House.

The oath-taking ceremony for eight cabinet members was staged in the East Room of the White House with Chief Justice Vinson administering the oath individually.

The new Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, was the first to receive the oath. His son, now with the Society of Jesus, is a convert to the Catholic Faith.

THE BROADCAST said the Cardinal's mother visited the Primate of Hungary in a jail in the Tatra mountains area. The report said that the Cardinal appeared well and is permitted to celebrate Mass each morning.

However, the only books he is permitted to read, the broadcast stated, are ones dealing with Marxist theory.

PREVIOUS REPORTS on the visits between the Cardinal and his mother stated that these generally take place in the presence of several plainclothes policemen.

The Cardinal is reported kept in the Tatra mountains because he is suffering from heart complications as a result of thyroid trouble. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in February, 1949, for alleged treason.

Legislature Gets Good Friday Bill

Albany, N. Y. — (RNS) — A bill to make Good Friday a legal holiday in New York was introduced in the state legislature here by Sen. Frank S. McCullough (R) of Rye.

The bill, which proposes that State offices and banks be closed on the Friday before Easter, commonly known as Good Friday, was sent to the Senate codes committee for study. A similar measure died in committee last year.

Belgian King Pays Secret Visit With Priest To Brussels Slums

Brussels — (NC) — A report by a social worker-priest on the wretched conditions of Brussels' Marollen section — six acres of foul smelling slums — induced King Baudouin of the Belgians to visit the area to see for himself recently.

The report was made by Father E. Froiture, chaplain of "Les Petits Sapins" (the little pine trees), whose old year sends thousands of poor children to the country for their health.

THE YOUNG KING, who was incognito, was accompanied on the visit only by Father Froiture and Alfred De Taeye, Minister of Public Health.

The three spent six hours walking about the "Marollenkwartier," entering 30 of the tenements, and generally being taken as a delegation of sanitation inspectors or other minor functionaries.

Methodist Minister Tells Why He Likes Roman Catholicism

Chicago — (RNS) — A Methodist minister listed seven reasons "Why I Like Roman Catholicism" in an article published here in the Christian Advocate, official weekly of the Methodist Church. The article is the first in a series by the Rev. Arthur O. Ackenbom of Kansas City, Kan., aimed at promoting "a better understanding and appreciation of other faiths."

Catholicism, because: (1) It has established "the humanity of the followers of Christ." (2) As the "mother" Church, it has preserved through the ages "the bulk of our Christian traditions." (3) It is "worldwide in expanse and in goal." (4) It "counts beauty as a treasure, its worship is stately and magnificent."

(5) It has discipline "from the humble communicant . . . to the consecrated priest." (6) IT IS "no respecter of persons" in that it bars no one on the ground of race or color. (7) It is realistic. "There is a healthy realism about Roman Catholic philosophy," Mr. Ackenbom said, "that has given this faith its great capacity for self-revival. After each of the schisms and internal

threats, which has menaced Roman Catholicism, the Church has come back stronger than ever." THIS PHILOSOPHY, he said, has proved its ability to adjust itself to "transient externalities" without compromising "the eternal verities." "Here, indeed, is a great hope of a united Church," Mr. Ackenbom said, "with Roman Catholicism bringing forth an acceptable

formula for reconciliation. It has the spirit both of Roman Catholicism and of the Churches that have become separated from the older Church." In discussing the Church's discipline, the Methodist minister suggested that it would be well to "re-examine the basic principles of the confessional in our day when we are rediscovering how important peace of mind is to health and happiness."

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Rev. E. J. O'Brien, Monastery Chaplain Buried In Elmira

Elmira — Solemn Requiem Mass was offered here in St. Cecilia's Church Wednesday morning (Jan. 28, 1953) for the Rev. J. Edmund O'Brien, chaplain of the Dominican convent of the Perpetual Rosary.

The 57-year-old priest died unexpectedly on last Friday (Jan. 23, 1953) in Fort Lauderdale, where he had arrived only the day before for a short vacation.

Celebrant of the Funeral Mass was the Rev. John J. Burke, pastor of St. Vincent dePaul Church, Churchville. He was assisted by the Rev. Francis E. Hester, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church, Rochester, as deacon; and the Rev. Philip E. McGhan, chaplain of St. Joseph's Hospital here.

THE REV. Ignatius X. Cameron of St. Mary's of the Lake Church, Ontario, and life-long friend of Father O'Brien, preached the funeral sermon.

Recalling Father O'Brien's long career as a parish priest, a teacher, and a chaplain, Father Cameron particularly commended to the deceased's spirit of sympathy and understanding for the ignorant and the erring.

"In his years as a parish priest, Father O'Brien possessed a human, common touch and an easy approach which endeared him to many who sometimes feared and shunned the austerity they seemed to see in priests," said Father Cameron.

He expressed confidence that Father O'Brien would not be forgotten in the prayers of those whom he served as a priest.

FATHER O'BRIEN was born in Elmira on Jan. 10, 1896, the son of Daniel and Ann Ford O'Brien. He studied in the Elmira schools and at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries, Rochester.

Ordained to the Holy Priesthood on June 10, 1922, Father O'Brien was assigned to Blessed Sacrament Church, Rochester, as assistant pastor. From there, he was appointed to Holy Family Church, Auburn, where he served until his return to Rochester as assistant pastor at Old St. Mary's.

In 1932, Father O'Brien was appointed chaplain at Craig Colony, Sonyea. He remained there for eight years until his assignment as pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church, Churchville.

Father O'Brien became chaplain at the Dominican Monastery in Elmira in August, 1945, while in addition to his duties at the Monastery, he taught religious education at Elmira College.

SURVIVING Father O'Brien are his brothers, Ford O'Brien of Sonyea, N. Y., and Lawrence O'Brien of Elmira Heights; a sister, Mrs. Charles Lawler of Schenectady, N. Y., a niece, Judith Ann O'Brien of Elmira.

The Office of the Dead was celebrated by the priest of the Rochester Diocese on Tuesday evening.

Assisting the officers of the Funeral Mass were: Rev. William A. Burns, 1st Master of Ceremonies; Rev. James C. Lane, 2nd Master of Ceremonies; Rev. John S. Whalen and Rev. Bartholomew O'Brien, readers; Rev. Nicholas P. Alletto, chanter.

The choir, under the direction of Rev. Benedict Ehmman, included: Rev. Albert L. Simonetti, Rev. Guy A. Wert, Rev. Thomas F. Florack, Rev. Alfred J. Horst.

BEARERS for the deceased were the Reverend Fathers Leo G. Schwab, Vincent P. Collins, Frederick W. Bush, Joseph M. (Continued on Page 6)

Vatican Newspaper Lauds President's 'Homage To God'

Rome — (NC) — President Eisenhower's pre-inaugural trip to church and the prayer that prefaced his inaugural address were commended in an editorial in Osservatore Romano, Vatican newspaper.

The religious tone of U. S. inaugural proceedings were contrasted with present-day Europe's liberal and secularist attitudes. The editorial called the President's action "solemn homage to God," but noted that similar action if taken by the heads of some European nations would arouse "alarm."

The editorial scored certain European newspapers which reported that after his prayer, President Eisenhower "got back on the track and began reading the inaugural address."

Osservatore Romano stated that such wording was used because "in the liberal, democratic and advanced Europe of today, elevating the mind to God in the most august and fateful moments of life and doing so before a believing people is to get off the track."

AFL, Scouts Join Catholic Men In Newsstand Probe

Washington, D. C. — (NC) — A countrywide alert to the threat of obscene literature is now being sounded through national and civic organizations.

Affiliates of the National Social Welfare Assembly — including the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America — will be briefed on a plan formulated by the National Council of Catholic Men to rid the nation's newsstands of filth in print.

COPIES OF THE six-point NCCM program as presented to a Congressional committee by Father Thomas J. Fitzgerald of Chicago have been requested by Robert E. Bondy, director of the National Social Welfare Assembly.

Mr. Bondy stated that Father Fitzgerald's testimony will be transmitted to NSWA affiliates with the suggestion that these organizations make known to the House committee and by NCCM their position on the obscene literature problem.

The Catholic women's drive will be conducted by members of the Manchester Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. They will organize in each affiliated parish council and visit every neighborhood store to check the type of literature being sold. The council said it will maintain vigilance in its effort to protect youth against the harm done by indecent publications of all kinds.

Church Council Opposes Bingo

Albany, N. Y. — (RNS) — The Legislative Committee of the New York State Council of Churches (Protestant) has affirmed its opposition to any bill that would legalize bingo.

In a letter to NCCM, George Meany, A. F. of L. President, said that "the reading material of America's future citizens is and should be a matter for national concern."

The labor leader agreed with Council's position opposing government censorship of publications and called for elimination of the objectionable literature by the publishers themselves.

"The basis of our system is freedom," Mr. Meany said, "but freedom that recognizes that with every right goes an accompanying responsibility."

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS of Parents and Teachers expressed "disinterest" in the obscene books problem and referred the NCCM plan to its committees on legislation and on comics, motion pictures, radio and television.

For the Boy Scouts of America, Chief Scout Executive Arthur A. Schuck gave hearty approval to NCCM's alert plan.

"The future of our country is dependent on our youth and their training and for this reason I am heartily in favor of your proposals . . ."

THE KIWANIS International has taken the anti-pornography drive under official consideration as have the Congress of Industrial Organizations and the Girl Scouts of America.

Reaction to the drive by other groups including the American Legion and the Lions and Rotary Clubs has not yet been registered with NCCM.

Steel Boom Towns Launch Parishes

Philadelphia — (RNS) — The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has moved into the boom towns of Fairless Hills and Levittown that are springing up to serve the new United States Steel plant and related industries in lower Bucks County.

Organization of parishes will start immediately with temporary quarters used for services until churches can be constructed. The parish at Fairless Hills will be named after St. Frances Cabrini, first American citizen to be canonized. St. Michael of the Archangel's church will be built in Levittown.



REV. EDMUND O'BRIEN



FORMER CHAPLAINS of Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus, present at testimonial Sunday night in Columbus Civic Center hold plaques given them in gratitude by the knights. In photo (from left) Rev. Arthur E. Ratigan, Rev. Raymond G. Hessel, Rev. Matthew Tobin, C.S.S.R., present chaplain; Joseph P. Flynn, past grand knight who made presentation and Rev. William J. Schifferli. (Courier Staff Photo)

Plaques Awarded To Ex-Chaplains In KC Ceremony

Gratitude for the spiritual guidance and counsel given by former chaplains during their terms of office with Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus, was expressed for the members at a testimonial in the K. of C. Clubroom, Columbus Civic Center, Sunday night.

Four of the chaplains, the Rev. Raymond G. Hessel, the Rev. William J. Schifferli, the Rev. Arthur E. Ratigan and the present chaplain, the Rev. Matthew Tobin, C.S.S.R., were presented with plaques commemorating their services by Past Grand Knight Joseph P. Flynn.

THE PLAQUES in the form of a shield, suitably inscribed and bearing the K. of C. emblem in color will also be sent to the Rev. Msgr. William E. Coven of Auburn, the Very Rev. Gerald C. Lambert, of Rochester, and the Rev. John V. Loughlin of Geneva all former chaplains who were unable to attend.

Life of Bishop McQuaid," by Daniel G. Kennedy, prominent attorney and council member who explained why the first Bishop of Rochester was known widely as the "Champion of the Parochial School."

Father Tobin spoke for the chaplains expressing their appreciation of the recognition of services. Grand Knight George F. Vick Jr., opened the meeting which was in charge of Lecturer Daniel F. Fitzgerald, Jr. Past Grand Knight Daniel F. Fitzgerald, Sr., presented Kennedy.

Priests Seek Aid For Chicago Slums

Chicago — (RNS) — Catholic priests have launched a drive to strengthen parishes in blighted slum areas of Chicago.

The campaign is directed by His Eminence Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago. Assisting the Cardinal is Mr. Thomas J. Keefe, secretary to Auxiliary Bishop William David O'Brien.

Members of the Chicago Council of Priests, including Rev. William J. Schifferli, Rev. Matthew Tobin, C.S.S.R., and Rev. William J. Schifferli, will be in charge of the drive.