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Rev. J. E. O'Brien, Chaplain To Elmira Monastery, Dies

(Continued from Page 1) bert V. Ryan, Raymond G. Heisel, Robert F. Lacy, M.M., Robert C. McNamara, G. C. Maccauley, S.J., Daniel V. Hogan, Hugh F. Brady, Charles E. McCarthy.

The Reverend Fathers Earl M. Tobin, Alexander Beaton, S.A., Urban Gillis, S.A., Francis W. Luddy, John Kleintjes, Raymond T. Moore, John S. Hayes, John W. LeVeque, Albert H. Schnacky, William J. Schifferli.

The Reverend Fathers G. Leslie Whalen, L. J. Hedges, John F. Duffy, Eugene H. McFarland, Joseph M. McDonnell, Laurence Gannon, Leo Lanch, William B. Dowhovich.

Also the Reverend Fathers Arthur F. Florack, Thomas J. Toole, Michael L. Hynes, Irvin C. Sullivan, William Tobin, Bernard Burns, Thomas Fitzgerald, M. A. McMahon, John L. Drury.

Liberal Immigration Policy Favored

Rome — (NC) — Public opinion in the United States in general favors more liberal and constructive legislation on immigration, but at the same time wants to have careful checks against communist infiltration.

Funeral Mass Sermon Father Edmund O'Brien

(This is the text of the sermon delivered by the Rev. Ignatius X. Cameron at the Funeral Mass for Father J. Edmund O'Brien in St. Cecilia's Church, Elmira, Wednesday, January 28, 1953.)

Forty two years ago last September, a young boy, J. Edmund O'Brien, left this St. Cecilia's parish here in Elmira, and accompanied by his mother, went to Rochester to begin his studies for the Priesthood in old St. Andrew's Seminary. There he went to live with a fine Irish lady, Mrs. Mary McGlynn, on Little Arklow St. not far from the Bull's Head. On arrival, he was greeted by another young boy who also had come to enter the Seminary. I was that other boy.

And so these two rather young "students" as we were called, began a friendship which has endured from boyhood, through Seminary days, and through many happy years in the glorious fraternity of the priesthood.

Now, Father O'Brien has come back to St. Cecilia's for the last time, and I must pray Mary, the Queen of the Clergy, to help me pronounce some fitting words over the remains of my brother priest and lifelong friend.

THE FUNERAL of another priest! On this third successive Wednesday, the Diocese of Rochester mourns the loss of another of its priests. Priests of the diocese, the Sisters, devoted friends in the laity and members of Father O'Brien's family, to whom we all extend our sincere and heartfelt sympathy, join here in offering Holy Mass for the repose of his soul.

All who are numbered in the great brotherhood of priests make every effort and sacrifice to attend the funeral of a brother priest. With the Requiem Aeternam sounding in our ears, we gather around the coffin and try to make this act a little hour of recollection, a brief, somber retreat, as we pray God's mercy on the soul of the departed, and beg God's Grace that we may carry on in the years that remain, good and faithful priests.

IN LIFE, Father O'Brien had a singular personality. A big man, he was hale and hearty in greeting, ready with a smile, and, sometimes, a little brusque. These characteristics cloaked in him, as many times they do, a rather shy and sensitive soul.

A man of simple faith, he knew the words of St. Paul, "very high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in the things that appertain to God." He knew this and was conscious of the gravity of his office. But, most of all, he lived the meaning of the words which the Apostle, "who can show compassion to those who are ignorant and err, because he himself also is compassed with infirmity."

Father O'Brien had that compassion. In his years as a parish priest he 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 him. He had a special touch when he gave Masses for those who were afflicted, the pitiful patients of Craig Colony, Seneca.

Possessed of a good mind and scholarly attainments, he taught in the Extension School at Niagara University in Rochester, and later exercised his priestly in-

East Germans Urged To Offset Atheism In Soviet Schools

Berlin — (NC) — The parents of Soviet-controlled East Germany were called on by their Bishops to offset the "misguided, confused, twisted and contaminating influences" forced on their children in the state-run schools.

The call came in a pastoral letter issued by Bishop William Weakamm of Berlin and read in Catholic churches in the Soviet zone of Germany.

"IT IS WITH deep sorrow that we observe that our schools are without religion; have no room for religion in their curriculum," the Bishop said. "We have not even the possibility of establishing Christian schools."

The state schools not only ignore religion but teach materialism, the Bishop declared. "Text books are written in the spirit of materialism, a doctrine which denies Christ, denies the Grace-conferring power of the Sacraments, denies the immortality of the soul, scorns Heaven and hell, boasts of its scorn and eulogizes this scorn as the result of science."

Red Zone Curbs Church Youth Work

Berlin — (NC) — Russia's East German satellite is seen here as stepping up its anti-religious program. That's the indication of a recent edition of "Young World" (Young World), the organ of the central council of the Federation of German Youth.

In an article entitled "Down with the Religious Campaign," the paper demands stern measures prohibiting churches in the Eastern Zone to engage in youth work.

Alleging the existence of "anti forces" in the Soviet zone, the paper charges efforts are being made "to mislead the youth under the magic cloak of religion and drive them into the fangs of Adenauer." (Konrad Adenauer is chancellor of the West German Republic.)

The Bishop's pastoral stated he feels obliged to take up the question of the schools because article 41 of the East German Constitution "assures the Church the right to take a position on problems affecting the nation in the light of its doctrine."

"Instruct your children in God, religion and the Church," Bishop Weakamm told parents. "Instruct them in creation and salvation and in all the other religious truths."

"YOU WILL KNOW how to choose the proper approach. Do not indulge in attacks on persons . . . You will serve truth best if you present it to your children in simple, sober words. Truth is like the sun. It does not argue. It shines."

"Teach your children not to engage in arguments, but to know how to keep their religious convictions and remain true to themselves in their hearts even though external circumstances may force them to listen silently to the preaching of different doctrines."

"PARENTS AND priests must jointly deliberate on the best method of assuring and defending the Christian lives of our children and how to improve and deepen them by instruction. No one person can raise this protective dike alone."

"Pray for your children. . . Pray with your children. . . Send your children to school with prayer and a blessing. . . The weapon of prayer is only effective when children and parents use it together. . . Children for whom common prayer with their parents is not a holiday exception, but a matter of course just like daily bread, are best protected against all irreligious and anti-religious influences."

Red Terror Hits Church In Indo-China

Paris — (NC) — A new wave of persecution has hit Indo-Chinese Catholics living in areas controlled by the communist-led Viet-Minh forces, according to reports from the Saigon correspondent of La Croix, Paris Catholic daily.

TWO INDO-CHINESE priests have been condemned to death, three have been sentenced to prison and nine others have been tried and are awaiting sentence. A French priest, Father Van, who was stationed in the Vinh region, was killed because, in the words of the Reds' indictment, he has "tried to establish contact with the French pirates."

The two priests condemned to death are Father Nghiem, pastor at Nghlo, and Father Duong, pastor at Trong-Canh. The communists accused them of being responsible for the resistance of their parishioners to Viet-Minh rule.

New Papal Nuncio To Italy Named

Vatican City — (NC) — Archbishop Giuseppe Pletta, 69-year-old Italian-born prelate, has been named to succeed His Eminence Francesco Cardinal Borgognini Duca, newly created Prince of the Church, as Papal Nuncio to Italy. It was announced here.

Forster Leader

Charles E. Byrnes, 76, leader in the Catholic Order of Foresters, died a few moments after he had finished an address at a Foresters meeting at the Montrose Hotel here.

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Booklet Aids Pre-Induction Training In High Schools

Washington — (NC) — The Education Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference, has stepped in to help combat one of the most serious problems facing today's high school graduates — preparing them for induction into the nation's armed forces.

A letter sent out by Father William E. McManus, the department's assistant director, to the principals of the Catholic high schools, stated:

"I'D LIKE TO see you, the N.C.W.C. Department of Education, advised by a committee of high school experts, has prepared an 80-page 'Teacher's Handbook For Pre-Induction Training.' It is a condensed, readable and miniature encyclopedia of essential information all in one well-organized series of units."

The Handbook's program is designed to be a full semester course or to be a more condensed series of talks or discussions.

The letter reminded the principals that most of "your senior boys will be inducted into military service soon after graduation." It recalls that Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Selective Service Director, has said he is "hoping the bottom of the military pool" and soon into "MART" (Military Training) and "10-year-olds" are being inducted into the "new" military service.

FATHER McMANUS suggested to the principals "some pre-induction training, some hard-hitting, down-to-earth, frank and honest instruction about the military environment." He advised the principals "to stick the whole thing" rather than to "minimize its importance by giving it superficial treatment."

Father McManus expressed the belief that the Handbook will go a long way to helping the teacher and student with the pre-induction training problem. His letter advised that the "Teacher's Handbook For Pre-Induction Training" had been developed as a 1952-53 project of the N.C.W.C. Publications Office, 1212 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D. C.

Catholic Doctrine

New York — (NC) — The Catholic doctrine on the equality of all men is the basis of the harmonious race relations in Brazil, Dr. Thales de Azavedo, professor of anthropology at the University of Bahia, Brazil, told a forum of the Catholic Interracial Council.

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