

Colored Catholics Hold Convention In Rochester



Courier-Journal Staff Photo

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS: National convention of the Knights of St. Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary held this week in Rochester was highlighted with celebration of Pontifical Mass in St. Joseph's Church (photo, top left) by HIS EXCELLENCY AUXILIARY BISHOP CASEY, and (photo, top right) with downtown parade. In lower photo, BISHOP CASEY greets convention leaders (left to right): HARRISON J. CHASTANG, SR., K.S.G., of Mobile, Ala.; MRS. E. B. Jones, Supreme Lady of the St. Peter Claver Auxiliary, of Galveston, Texas; DR. BEVERLY V. BARANCO, JR., Supreme Knight, of Baton Rouge, La., who presided over the convention; and the REV. FRANCIS G. WADE, S.V.D., National Chaplain, of Maurice, La.

Bishop Casey Offers Mass For Peter Claver Convention

By ROBERT SMETT

Spiritual keynote of the 38th National Convention of the Knights of St. Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary was a Pontifical Mass offered Monday morning in St. Joseph's Church by His Excellency, Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey for 400 delegates, representing the largest gathering of Colored Catholics ever seen in Rochester.

The knights smartly dressed in their uniforms and chapeaus topped by plumes of white and gold, took places on the gospel side of the church. They were accompanied by Rochester members of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus and the Knights of St. John.

On the epistle side sat the various Ladies Auxiliaries of the Claverites, all dressed in white. Also present were the blue and gold uniformed members of Nazareth Academy's Fontbonne Band.

Representatives of the local Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliaries were also in attendance.

Religious communities were represented by Rev. Mother Rose Miriam, Assistant Mother General of the Sisters of St. Joseph, accompanied by Sisters Pauline, principal of Nazareth Academy; Sister Clarissa, of Nazareth Motherhouse; and Sister Agnes Louise, moderator of the Fontbonne Band.

Delegations were also present from the Sisters of Mercy and the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

THE FOLLOWING priests, supporters of the Knights of St. Peter Claver, were in attendance: The Rev. Francis Wade, S.V.D., Maurice, La., national chaplain of the Claverites; the Rev. Anthony Bourges, S.V.D., St. Martinville, La.; Rev. Leander Martin, S.V.D., Lafayette, La.; the Rev. Max Williams, S. V. D., Washington, S.V.D. and the Rev. Harold Perry, S.V.D. Broussard, La.

Assisting Bishop Casey at the Mass were the Very Rev. Msgr. John S. Randall, chaplain of Rochester Court, Knights of St. Peter Claver, Assistant Priest; the Rev. George S. Wood, Dea-

con, and the Rev. Robert Kress, Sub-deacon.

The Rev. Edward J. McAniff was Master of Ceremonies and students of St. Andrew's Seminary filled the minor office. St. Joseph's Choir sang the Mass. In the sanctuary was Harrison J. Chastang Sr., K.S.G., of Mobile, Alabama, the first colored man to be honored by the Pope as a Knight of St. Gregory.

AT THE CLOSE of the services, Bishop Casey addressed the delegates which had come from all parts of the country, and welcomed them to Rochester, wishing them a pleasant stay, a successful convention and a safe journey home.

After Mass a street parade was formed, led by the Fontbonne Band, followed by the Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, Knights of St. Joseph, Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliaries. The parade proceeded from the church up Franklin St. to North, to Main, west on Main to Clinton and south to the Hotel Seneca, convention headquarters, where the Communion Breakfast was held.

Arrangements for the parade were made by Deputy Grand Knight Leon France and General Chairman Maxie Maxwell.

THE ANNUAL banquet was held at the Hotel Seneca on Tuesday evening, when the Hon. Samuel B. Dicker, mayor of Rochester, welcomed the delegates to the city.

James J. Dwyer of Buffalo, assistant state parole director for the Western New York district, addressed over 400 delegates on the present parole system and the problems of the parole.

Archibald T. LeCense, of Chicago, national advocate of the Claverites and former assistant district attorney of Cook County, Ill., explained the purpose and plans of the Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver to the large assembly.

The Townsend Children's Band,

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Chaplains Aid Freed Allied PW's

By REV. PATRICK O'CONNOR

Seoul, Korea — (NC) — United States and other Allied prisoners of war returning from Communist captivity will find chaplains meeting them and at their service all the way home.

The first group of freed men arrived Wednesday at Panmunjom, from where they were brought by road to "Freedom Village," the Munsan reception camp used in April for the sick and wounded repatriates. Marine chaplains are stationed there. Father (Lt. Cmdr.) Leo Rice, a Redemptorist of the Eastern Province, is the senior Marine Catholic chaplain.

THE MEN then went next door to the Eleventh Evacuation Hospital of which Father (Lieut.) Robert C. O'Neil of Spokane is chaplain. Father (Capt.) Leonard Paznoskas of Scranton is in the area too as the Catholic chaplain of UNCMAC camp. (United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission).

By midafternoon helicopters arriving there at minute intervals landed the U.S. former prisoners at a replacement depot at Incheon, a port town 25 miles from Seoul. There the men were officially designated as "returnees." They are housed in the 509th Replacement Company school building and yard. Father (Msgr.) Felix N. Myalwicz, a Franciscan Conventual from Buffalo, assisted by Father (Capt.) William A. Zorichak of Duluth, heads the team of Catholic chaplains meeting the men here.

There are enough religious supplies on hand for the needs of 5,000 men," Father Myalwicz said. "We have New Testaments, Missals, Rosaries and prayer books."

THE MEN will stay two or three days in the 509th company compound called "Little Golden Gate" and then sail from Incheon for the U.S. Each ship will carry 400 "returnees" with 1,000 "rotatoes" — servicemen leaving Korea in the normal course after completing their tour of duty. One Catholic and one Protestant chaplain will sail with each ship. Every day Little Golden Gate at Incheon will witness religious services, both Catholic and Protestant, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Priests will offer Mass on the platform in the auditorium which later every day will be used for entertainments. Authorities at the 509th replacement depot, of which this installation is part, could not find space for a chapel here. The post exchange has one room, the Red Cross has two. Two tents have been set aside for the press.

It is unfortunate that after up to three years as prisoners of atheistic Communism and deprived of all normal religious surroundings, the returning men find nothing resembling a church or chapel during their first days back under the American flag.

EVERY MAN is given a chest X-ray taken on arrival at Freedom Village in Munsan. There he discards his prisoner's clothing and receives a set of fatigues. At Little Golden Gate he receives two sets of khaki uniforms. He can send a cablegram home free, but no overseas phone is available. He sleeps between sheets in a "states-side" barbershop and gets in an attractive mess hall at tables for four. There are accommodations for 514.

The returnees' mail address at Little Golden Gate is: APO 100, San Francisco.

Capt. John D. Williston of St. Joseph's parish, Kingwood, W. Va., commander of the 509th company and his staff have been busy for weeks preparing Little Golden Gate. He welcomes the men and briefs them for their stay. One of his aides is Sgt. John A. McDonald of St. Anne's parish, Rochester, N. Y.

There should be 12 or 13 hundred Catholics among the 4,577 non-Koreans returning. About 80 Catholics among the 9,000 Koreans. There should be about 1,100 Catholics among the 3,313 U.S. prisoners due back — a sadly small number compared to the total missing.

Famed Professor Becomes Catholic

Tokyo — (NC) — One of the oldest and most prominent professors of Tokyo's Catholic University has been received into the Catholic Church.

Takuzumi Chiba, 50-year-old professor of English literature and widely recognized authority in the field of literature, was baptized by Father Nicholas Kozmin, his old friend and colleague, and took the name Thomas.

According to church records, 33 out of 75 prominent lecturers at Tokyo's Catholic University are Catholics. The total number of 1,100 Catholics among the



Public High Students Need For Religion Cited

New York — (NC) — Bishop Edwin V. O'Hara of Kansas City, Mo., told Confraternity of Christian Doctrine leaders that "the most important and most difficult part" of their work was the religious education of their children.

Members of the episcopal committee who attended the meeting, in addition to Bishop O'Hara, included Bishops Charles P. Greco of Alexandria, La.; William P. O'Connor of Madison, Wis.; Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh, and James E. Kearney of Rochester. His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, was host at the four-day session.

ADDRESSING 35 Bishops and priests — most of them diocesan directors of the CCD — at their 17th annual meeting here, Bishop O'Hara pointed out that these students "enter high schools as children and leave as young adults." The Bishop, who is chairman of the Confraternity's episcopal committee, went on to say that "if all of them have obtained concerning their religion is what they have received as children. They are at a great disadvantage. They will be coming out into a world of adult knowledge with a lack of proper balance."

The problem is "most difficult," Bishop O'Hara said, "because the public schools absorb the whole life of the child through the curriculum and extra-curricular and social activities."

THE BISHOP said, however, that the granting of "released time" periods for religious education in some States is "a step

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Chancery Answers Queries On Clark Church Wedding

New Orleans — (NC) — Gen. Mark Clark, Supreme Allied Nations Commander in the Far East, and Mrs. Clark flew here from Tokyo to attend the marriage of their son in the Holy Name of Jesus Church here.

The son, Maj. William D. Clark, was married outside the sanctuary of the church Sunday to Miss Audrey Claire Loffin, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Carey, members of a prominent Catholic family. Gen. Clark and Mrs. Clark were guests of honor.

Major Clark, who is serving as an infantry lieutenant in the Louisiana State University as a fashion model, is the first of the "war bride" generation to marry in the Holy Name of Jesus Church.

A LARGE number of guests concerning Mrs. Loffin's marriage to Major Clark prompted Msgr. Charles J. Plauhe, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, to issue a public statement concerning it several days before the wedding. In it, the chancellor declared:

"In reply to various inquiries which have reached this office regarding the announced marriage of Mrs. Audrey Claire Loffin and Maj. William Clark may we state that the previous marriage of Miss Audrey Claire, a Catholic, to Mr. James Thomas Loffin has been declared null and void by the competent authorities of the Catholic Church on the grounds that said marriage was contracted only before a civil official.

"Under the laws of the Catholic Church the marriage of a Catholic before a representative of the civil authority is declared null and void."

"The marriage of Miss Audrey Claire to Maj. William Clark, a non-Catholic, will be celebrated in Holy Name of Jesus Church in virtue of a rule which went into effect in this archdiocese Oct. 15, 1949, whereby upon request of the parties to a 'mixed' marriage, permission may be obtained to have the ceremony within the Catholic church building, subject to certain very specific restrictions."

Last GI Killed In Korea Died With Rosary Around Neck

Seoul, Korea — The last American soldier killed in the Korean war died with a Rosary around his neck and after having received the Last Sacraments.

According to Eighth Army headquarters, the last U.S. soldier killed before the armistice halted the Korean war was Sgt. (1st class) Harold R. Cross, Jr., a Catholic from Junction City, Kans. His father, Harold R. Cross, Sr., lives in Detroit.

Sgt. Cross belonged to the 11th regimental combat team attached to the 45th division. He was fatally wounded when a shell hit his bunker on the east central front.

Admiral's Daughter Enters Convent

San Francisco — (NC) — Mary Manson Nimitz, youngest daughter of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Pacific Commander during World War II, entered the Dominican convent in San Rafael on Aug. 1 with the intention of becoming a nun.

Miss Nimitz became a Catholic shortly after entering Stanford University where she received a degree last June. Both her parents are Protestants.

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