

Marine Officer's Sermon In Prison During Korean War Recalled Here

A Christmas "sermon" given to American prisoners of war in Onul, Korea in December of 1952 and composed by Lt. Robert J. O'Shea, U.S.M.C., a friend of two Rochester marines is being circulated here on request of his friends.

The Virginia Lieutenant delivered the "Sermon" to his fellow prisoners-of-war in the Korean prison despite Communist orders against any talk of religion among the men.

(Lieutenant O'Shea came to Rochester to be best man at the wedding of Lt. Robert Erbland, son of Dr. and Mrs. Henry O. Erbland of 225 Trafalgar St. and then Miss Mary Carroll, graduate of St. Mary's School of Nursing at Blessed Sacrament Church. Both he and Lieutenant Erbland are now captives in the Marine Corps at Quantico, Va.)

(Another friend of Lieutenant O'Shea's whose home is here, is Lt. Donald A. Heberling of 1084 Genesee Pk. Blvd., a member of St. Augustine Parish.)

THE "SERMON" requested published follows:

"Today is the feast of the nativity; the anniversary of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

"Today, possibly for the first time in our lives we will celebrate Christmas properly because here, in this North Korean prison camp, apart from the tunnel and commercialism that we usually associate with Christmas, we can see the true meaning, the spiritual meaning of Christmas.

"Christmas is the beginning of an era. It marks the beginning of the Christian era on earth.

The birth of Christ was the fulfillment of the promise made to Moses by God. The Father when He said that He would send His son to earth to save the world. And Christmas is the living proof of the existence of God and of the divinity of Jesus Christ.

"I say the 'living proof' because Jesus Christ is living. He is alive today. He is with us today. He is with us right now.

"We, in this group, are more keenly aware of the presence of Jesus Christ on earth than ordinary men—because we have been alone with Him. At the time of our capture and during the events leading up to our capture, we were alone with Him. Our parents could not help us at that time, as much as they would have liked to. They were not present. Our friends in battle, our companions in action were too busy with their own fighting, their own dying if you please, to help us in our hour of need. But there was one friend who was there and could help us. That friend was Jesus Christ. He did not let us down; He came through for us.

"I felt his presence at that time. And I'm sure that all of us had much the same experience.

"Today let us not concern ourselves with the material presents that are lacking in this Christmas. Rather let us stop and think about the best Christmas present of all. The gift that we, and all mankind, received on that Christmas almost 2,000 years ago. The eternal gift of the infant Jesus, the gift of the perpetual help of Jesus Christ on earth.

75 Men Due For Retreat

Men from the Catholic parishes in Danville will attend the next retreat scheduled by the Catholic laymen's Retreat League to be held at the Notre Dame Retreat House, 246 Alexander St. from March 3 through March 7, according to the Rev. William Jamison, C.S.S.R., assistant director of the retreat house.

Enthusiasm for the coming retreat is so high in Danville, Father Jamison said, that accommodations for approximately 75 men are being made for that weekend.

During the weekend of Feb. 12 through Feb. 14, 37 men of eight parishes located in various places made the retreat. The places and number of retreatants are: Honey Falls, 10; Lima, 8; Genesee, 6; Canandaigua, 4; Caledonia, 4; Avon, 3; Rochester, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 1 and St. Ambrose, 1.

Award For Scouting Encouragement



BRONZE PELICAN award for outstanding contribution to Scouting is given by His Excellency Bishop Kearney to Monsignor George W. Eckl, pastor of St. Andrew's Church as another award winner, Donald J. Corbett, chairman looks on at annual Rally held Sunday in Columbus Civic Center.

Dress Rehearsals Set For Knights Minstrel Show

Danville — Dress rehearsals for the Danville Minstrel and Variety show will be held this Sunday afternoon at two o'clock at the High School auditorium. Performances will be given next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

The first half will consist of an old time minstrel show, the second half will comprise a series of specialty acts with J. Lloyd Mahoney as Master of Ceremonies.

Among the highlights of the varieties will be Dick Lamen doing musical tricks on the harmonica. The Royal, Neighbors and their Kitchen Band will demonstrate their music making abilities.

THE FLOADORA Sextette will make its first public appearance and Doris Pender and Clyde Seymour, accompanied by the chorus, will perform a duet.

The Harmonizers, a group of young singers under the direction of Margaret Hordellink, will give a short recital. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Elliott, local masters of the dance, will be seen in "The Venetian Waltz."

This, the seventh annual minstrel and variety show sponsored by the Danville Knights of Columbus under the direction of Braxton Middleton, promises to be the best of the series. As usual, all net receipts will be allotted to local charities.

Lenten Lectures Slated By IFCA

Mrs. John J. Mahoney, Regent of the Rochester Circle, International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, reports that because of unforeseen circumstances, the lecture scheduled for Feb. 24 has been cancelled.

However, an opportunity for additional Lenten activity for members and friends of the local Circle, has been arranged by Mrs. James Fahy, Program Chairman.

Two lectures on "The Vocation of the Modern Woman" will be given by the Group's Moderator, Rev. Edward J. Lintz — the first on March 8 and the second on March 22, at 8:00 p.m. at the Catholic Women's Club, 215 Alexander St. Members and friends are invited.

Munch, Germany — (NC) — Catholic institutions in Munich archdiocese are benefiting from a freight car load of food and clothing, totaling about 12 tons, sent on instructions of Pope Pius XII.

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By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

HOW would you like to be caught as we were this week in the midst of two dispatches, one from Rome, the other from China? The world office of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith in Rome asked us how much we could send to the persecuted missionaries in China? The same day a dispatch from China brought a typical story of what our missionaries suffer under the Communists. The priest was interrogated for sixty hours or two and one-half days, continuously. Refusing to deny his faith, during the day his eyes were turned to the sun, and at night he was forced to face a bright light. Communist judges sat behind him, each spending three hours harassing him with questions. During those sixty hours, he had to kneel upright. The first twenty hours were spent answering questions; fatigue made the faces of the judges swim before his eyes. The next twenty hours he was made to copy out every page of an anti-Catholic paper. After copying ten pages, he took a match and burned them. The Communists however kept one sheet and told him that he had "signed a confession against the Church."

The next twenty hours, he no longer had to answer or write, but merely repeat phrases after the judges. The priest began to lose his mind, and asked "Why has God abandoned me?" The Communists shouted and jumped with such diabolical glee that they brought the priest back to his senses. Memory then failed and all he could remember were the first words "Hail-Mary," but not the rest.

Danville KC To Honor 2 At Meeting

Danville — The Danville Council No. 78, Knights of Columbus will hold a "Past Grand Knights 'Bunk' and 'Brogan Night'" at the next council meeting, Thursday, Feb. 25 in the clubrooms, here.

This "Night" is being held in recognition of "the splendid work done by Edward Burke and Edward Brogan in making our Golden Jubilee the great success it was."

Grand Knight, Charles McLane announced that the Rev. Edward M. Scheid, chaplain will bless new colors for the council at this time.

Alhambra Meets At German Club

A Spargassbord Party will be held in connection with the monthly meeting of Musa Caravan, Order of the Alhambra on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. in the German Club, 315 Gregory St.

Members may bring prospective neophytes as guests according to Grand Commander Clifford B. Sargent.

Master of the Oasis John W. Degus is in charge of the entertainment program. Reservations are being made with John W. Degus, Glenwood 2089-M or Cliff Sargent, Baker 3963.

CYO Formed Of High School Students In Seneca Falls

Seneca Falls — Installation of all members of the newly formed St. Patrick's Catholic Youth Organization will take place in St. Patrick's Church, Seneca Falls, Sunday, Feb. 21 at 11 a.m. Mass.

The organization was formed of Catholic high school boys and girls under the guidance of the Rev. Thomas C. Kane, assistant pastor of St. Patrick's Church and held its first official meeting Sunday.

The members voted to pay one dollar a year dues and elected Donna Sabatini, temporary treasurer.

AT THE organization meeting, James Timmonia was elected temporary president and John Piscitelli, temporary secretary. These officers appointed the following committees:

Application — Ann Urquhart, chairman; Joan Piscitelli, Sharon Carnest; Nan Haus, Marguerite Giglio, Grace Cunninghamham.

Constitutional — James Timmonia, chairman; Joan Piscitelli, Bob Scheurman, Bill Corey, Gertrude Di Santo, Betty Baldassarre.

Installation — Ann Urquhart, chairman; Gertrude Di Santo, Patricia Lombardo, Joan Piscitelli, James Timmonia.

Eucharistic — Betty Andrea, chairman; Patricia Lombardo, Joyce Downen, Jerry Moulton, Bob Scheurman, Kenneth Haas, Ann Urquhart, Gertrude Di Santo, Peggy Kirker.

Publicity — Bill Corey, chairman; Karen Bove, Joan Piscitelli, Bill Reardon, Betty Baldassarre.

Scout Leaders Commended By Bishop At Annual Rally

The Boy Scouts of America is a character building agency which ties things close to God, His Excellency Bishop Kearney said at the fourth annual rally of the Catholic Lay Committee on Scouting, Sunday in Columbus Civic Center.

"And that character building gains a special emphasis when, by your unselfish work, you associate it with the altar before which the Scout bows his head to his God," the Bishop said.

His Excellency praised the grown-ups for their devotion to scouting and emphasized the effect on boys of listening to their leaders talk of religion and its value in after life. He said he was grateful to those men who give up their leisure time to devote to the work for boys.

Bishop Kearney presented the bronze Pelican awards to six men for their "outstanding contribution to Scouting among troops sponsored by the Catholic Church in cooperation with the national organization."

Cadets To Receive Awards At Dinner For Father-Sons

Annual Fathers and Sons banquet of Nazareth Hall Cadet School will be held Thursday, Feb. 25, in the school's auditorium.

A crowd of 300 is expected to attend.

The highlight of the dinner will be presentation of scholastic awards to the cadets by His Excellency Bishop Kearney, who also will deliver the main speech.

Also a guest of honor will be Lt. Col. Leo F. Mullen, United States Army.

Bishop Kearney will make the following awards: Scholastic achievement award, excellent bar, honor bar, service bar, department bar and courtesy bar.

Mr. and Mrs. Scollick, host and hostess, have arranged for an excellent program of entertainment. Tickets are \$2.75 each, and may be obtained from members of the Nazareth Hall Cadet School-Parents Club.

Men's Club Formed In Dryden Mission

Dryden — S. Russell was elected president of the Catholic Men's Club of Dryden organized at Dryden Catholic Mission of which the Rev. Thomas K. Cleary is pastor on Feb. 8.

Others named were: Lawrence McDermott, vice president; Norbert Schickel, secretary and James Lissaman, treasurer.

Meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of each month. The newly formed group will undertake various civic, social and parish activities, and is a counterpart of the Rosary Society which was organized by women of the parish, several months ago.

St. Theodore Group To Hear First Aid Talk

Members of the Rosary Society will meet at St. Theodore's Parish hall, Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 8 p.m. A guest speaker from the Red Cross will give an informative talk on a future first aid class.

Final plans will be made for a Day of Recollection, March 18 at the Cenacle Convent.

Coldwater Unit To Conduct Hobby Show

Sacred Heart Society of Holy Ghost Church will hold its Social Meeting Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall, Coldwater Rd. Feature of the evening will be a Hobby Show, with Mrs. Jane Parker as speaker.

A committee meeting was held last week at the home of the chairman Mrs. Herman Resch, Chestnut Ridge Rd. at which time plans were made to include a take-off of "This is Your Life" to follow the Hobby Show.

Tables will be arranged in the Parish Hall for display of hobbies. Everyone is invited to participate.

Lunch will be served for the small sum of one dime.

Assisting Mrs. Resch will be Maude Vogel, Nola Ryan, Edna Houser, Mary Breiner, Anna Miller, Pat Jacobs, Ellen Reidman, Rita LaRosa and Helen Kolb, according to the Society President, Ruth Kohlmeier.

Project "Moon"
Baltimore, Md. — (NC) — Showings of "The Moon is Blue" in a Baltimore theater has resulted in protests to theater operators and to the Catholic Review, archdiocesan newspaper.

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