

"THANK GOD, THANK GOD"

### Father Ward Worked Amid Worry, Tears In Disaster

Chaplain (Lieut.) Leo D. Ward of Rochester, stationed at the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Center, Davisville, R. I., aided the families of men aboard the ill-fated USS Bennington in the disaster which took 98 lives and injured 200 more.



FATHER WARD

The huge carrier was wracked by a series of explosions last week while cruising about 75 miles south of Newport, R.I. She was on her way north from Norfolk, Va., to Quonset Point Navy Base, R.I. where many of the crew's families awaited the ship's arrival when news of the disaster came.

WHILE SCORES of relatives gathered in the base theater at Quonset Point, Father Ward and the Catholic Chaplain aboard the Bennington, Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Bernard V. Cunningham, set up a unique telephone system for relaying news to the families of the Bennington crew who awaited word about their sons and husbands.

The first calls were scenes that brought tears to all—nurses, sailors, priests and ministers. Father Ward first manned the phone. He had to grip the arms of relatives as they talked to prevent them from falling.

The conversations to the men were short, simple, some disbelieving. "Is that you Jimmy? Jimmie, are you all right?"

Then Father Ward would gently take away the phone. Others were waiting.

SOME OF THE relatives refused to leave all night long, hoping against hope that they finally would be told, "You may speak to him now."

One by one relatives would be aided to the phone by Father Ward so that they might speak to their loved ones.

Then the words "Thank God, thank God" would echo through the high theater.

On the Feast of the Ascension, the day following the explosion, over 1,000 men of all faiths, some weeping openly, others expressing grief in quiet sobs, attended Mass on the deck of the carrier Bennington.

The Bennington survivors—Catholic and non-Catholic alike—shared their common grief in front of a blue-draped portable altar while pumps still poured water from the 45,000 ton carrier's lower decks.

Father Cunningham who figured heroically during the sea disaster, asked prayers for "all those killed and those who were pitifully injured, some of whom may die." He asked the crew members to pray "for the parents of these poor youngsters."

**Forty Hours**  
Devotions of the Forty Hours will be conducted in the following churches of the Diocese of Rochester as follows:  
Sunday, June 6—St. Patrick, Mt. Morris, Shortsville.  
Wednesday, June 9—Cenacle Convent, Rochester.

### K. of C. Leaders Call On Bishop



STATE CONVENTION program of the Knights of Columbus included a reception held by His Excellency Bishop Kearney at the episcopal residence, East Ave. The Bishop is a former state chaplain. At the reception (from left) State Deputy Denis A. Mansfield, Bishop Kearney, Supreme Secretary Joseph F. Lamb who is a Knight of St. Gregory, and Past State Deputy John V. Nabor.

### State KC Warn Of Red Plan To Conquer, Rename Staff At Convention Held Here

New York State Knights of Columbus in their 59th annual convention in Rochester by resolution warned that the Communist action in Indo-China and the Malayan peninsula was "pursuant to the Russian plan of conquest." Sessions were held in Seneca Hotel.

More than 3,000 persons attended the convention including 548 delegates from the Empire State jurisdiction. State membership chairman Fred Harrison of the Bronx reported 97,635 members of the K. of C. in New York State, an increase of 11 per cent over last year's total.

His Excellency Bishop Kearney presided at the opening Solemn Pontifical Mass in St. Joseph's Church, received state officers and delegates at his episcopal residence on East Ave. and spoke at the closing banquet in the Seneca.

John J. Kinney of Rochester, convention chairman, was elected one of eight delegates to the Supreme Convention in Louisville, Ky.

**DENIS A. MANSFIELD** of Saratoga Springs was re-elected State Deputy.

Also chosen to serve for another year were: John F. Symonds, of Manhattan, State Secretary; James G. Cunningham, of Springfield Gardens, Long Island, State Treasurer; Roland A. Crowe of Glen Cove, Long Island, State Advocate; Joseph V. Collopy, of Manhattan, State Warden.

The resolution on Indo-China said: "In every country or section coming under the control of Red China we have seen Christianity—and all religions—persecuted. Ministers, priests and all religions have been subjected to all types of cruel punishments, and nearly all of them driven from these areas."

**COMMUNIST RUSSIA** and its Red satellites are endeavoring to obtain recognition of Red China by the United Nations and the United States, the resolution continued, and it was declared that the Convention "opposes every action that would in any way permit Red China to be admitted to the United Nations and that we condemn the persecution by the Red China Government of all priests, ministers, and religions."

Catholics were challenged by State Deputy Mansfield, in his address at the Convention Banquet Saturday evening at the Hotel Seneca, to "vigorous, sincere, and courageous application of Catholic precept and example to the civic, social, and economic life of their respective communities."

"Our patriotism," he said "must be a shield for the protection of the inalienable rights of man to reach full stature through conscientious endeavor and to achieve true dignity in a government created for him, and to him."

REFERRING TO the responsibility of the Catholic parent youth, the State Deputy called upon the entire family "to become part and parcel of our vast program for all, to help our youngsters, to become the kind of people that we need to follow after us."

"The Knights of Columbus must be a positive force in community life," he said, "God's Holy laws must be the yardstick, for civic, social, and economic agencies, and we must see that this is so by becoming workers instead of watchers."

State Deputy Mansfield declared that it is not enough for a Catholic layman and a Knight of Columbus to "contribute" to the good of the Order. "He will only place in our hands the lamp that will lead the way upward, onward and outward toward the more abundant life."

**ANOTHER RESOLUTION** adopted by the convention endorsed the Ferguson Bill which seeks to add to the Pledge of Allegiance the words "Under God."

Coadjutor Bishop William A. Sully of Albany, state chaplain celebrated the Mass in St. Joseph's Church opening the convention.

Bishop Kearney who presided, welcomed the knights to Rochester and urged them to call

especially on the Blessed Virgin Mary for guidance during the great Marian Year that her intercession may make the members more Christlike in their Apostolate.

**IN THE SERMON**, the Rev. John J. Forman, rector of Immaculate Conception Church, Albany admonished the knights to influence the thinking of their members according to Catholic principles. "The Holy Father," he said, "has instructed all Catholic people to become a part of the Lay Apostolate," and declared that there are enough Christians in the world today to produce laws in conformity with the law of God.

"It is absolutely necessary," he said, "to do something about controlling men. We must reach man, reconduct him, and redevelop him. Knights of Columbus should be, and can be the leaders. Your minds are conditioned to the intelligence of a superior law. You are the people who must start this program."

"You must have personal sanctification, and increase your own virtue by associating yourself intimately with our Lord and Saviour. Make it clear that you have the desire to form and are moving toward a spiritual aristocracy."

State Deputy Mansfield, in closing the Convention, referred to Saint Pius X who was canonized on Saturday as the progenitor of "the participation of the laity in the Apostolate of the Hierarchy."

**SPECIAL FEATURES** of the Convention included a "Gay Nineties Party" at the Rochester K. of C. Club Rooms, a Convention Ball, special entertainment for the women who accompanied the delegates and a formal reception following the Convention Banquet on Saturday evening.

**Scouts, Mothers To Attend Communion**  
Girl Scouts and Brownies of St. Margaret Mary's Parish will be joined by their mothers at a Communion Breakfast Sunday, June 6.

Guests of honor include the Rev. Robert Dobbettin; Mrs. Robert Kelley and Mrs. Vincent Wels, president and president-elect of the Altar Society sponsoring group, and Miss Phyllis Mills-paugh, North Star District Director.

Expenses for the breakfast were realized in a recent bake sale held by the organization.

### \$85,000 Goal Set In Drive For New St. Rita's School

First step in the drive to raise an \$85,000 building fund for their new Parochial School will be taken Saturday by parishioners of St. Rita's Parish at a campaign workers dinner in the Parish Barn, West Webster.

His Excellency Auxiliary Bishop Casey will be speaker at the dinner.

The need of a Parish School has long been felt by the people of St. Rita's and their pastor, the Rev. Francis A. Kleehammer said. At the present time there are more than 200 children at St. Rita's Parish attending school at Holy Trinity in nearby Webster, and in addition, there are more than 150 in the Webster Public Schools.

Preliminary steps for the drive included naming Chairmen, and selection of Survey Committees and Division Leaders.

**THE DRIVE IS** set for two weeks, June 6 to June 19; classified as the Advance Gift Solicitation, June 6 to June 9, and the General Solicitation, June 13 to June 16. Campaign Headquarters are at the Rectory.

The General Solicitation Dinner, scheduled for Saturday, June 12, in the Parish Barn, will be addressed by His Excellency Bishop Kearney.

The new school building will contain nine classrooms with the possibility of two additional rooms and a cafeteria. It will be attached to the present barn by an open annex and will face the rear of the church at an angle to Maple Drive and Ridge Road.

**ARCHITECT'S PLANS** for the new building show a modern design one story structure, attractive as a school and as a new building of the community.

The Rev. Francis A. Kleehammer, pastor, is Honorary Chairman of the fund-raising campaign, with Thomas J. Kehoe of K.B.G. Associates, Inc., Campaign Director.

Parish Workers are headed by Thomas McNamee and William Smith O'Brien, general co-chairmen, and Leo Wesley and Harold Ryan, vice general co-chairmen.

**MEMBERS OF THE** Survey Committee are: William Yaeger, Charles Fraser, Elmer Merz, Henry Lazzaro, John Nadig, William Wheeler, Henry Hill, Albert Klem, Louis Reynolds, and David Quigley.

Division Leaders are: Charles Keegan, William Pinkerton, Herbert Kolb, George Crombach, Joseph Loughran, Thomas Moriarty, Gerald Curran, Anthony Poole, William Lewis, and Anthony Stump Jr.

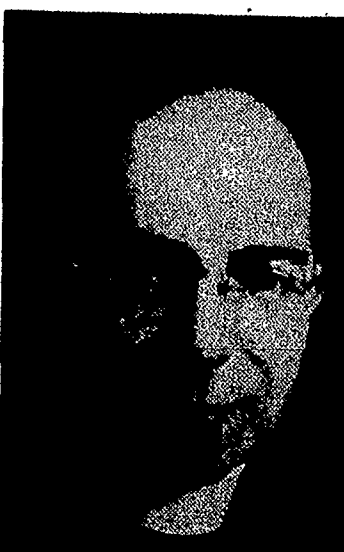
**Rosary Society Plans Annual Picnic June 10**  
Rosary Society of St. Anne's Church will hold its annual picnic on June 10 at St. Anne's Medical Guild.

Mrs. Theodore Strohmeier, Mrs. John McDonald and Mrs. John Legler are co-chairmen assisted by members of their bands.

There will be games followed by refreshments.



ARCHITECT'S SKETCH of proposed St. Rita's School, in West Webster, campaign for which is about to open.



REV. F. KLEEHAMMER

### PTA Raises \$1700 To Aid Nazareth

check for \$1700 was presented to Sister Agnes Cecilia, principal for school improvements at Nazareth Academy at the final meeting of Nazareth Academy Parent Teacher Group.

Presentation was made by Joseph O'Day, retiring president. Amount was realized from the annual card party held under the chairmanship of Mr. and Mrs. Burton Walker.

James Sciontelli was elected president to succeed O'Day. Named also were Mrs. Thomas P. Cullane, vice president; Mrs. William McCann, secretary and Mrs. Burton Walker, treasurer.

### Aquinas Mothers Schedule Meeting

Aquinas Mother's Club will end its year's activities with a meeting Tuesday, June 8 at 8 p.m. at the Dewey Ave. school. The Glee Club will entertain under the direction of Raymond J. Hasenauer.

Refreshments will be served under the direction of Mrs. John Flannery by the following parishes: St. Theodore's, Mother of Sorrows, St. John's of Greece, St. Andrew's, St. Helen's, St. Charles, St. John the Evangelist of Spencerport, St. Leo's, Holy Ghost of Coldwater, St. Lucy's, St. George and St. Joseph's.

### 10 Priests Schedule First Mass

First Solemn Masses to be celebrated Sunday, June 6 by the ten new priests of the Rochester Diocese who will be ordained Saturday, June 5, by His Excellency Bishop Kearney are as follows:

Rev. William J. Amann, St. Boniface Church at 11 a.m. Reception, St. Boniface School Hall, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Bruce F. Ammerding, St. Monica's Church at 11:30 a.m. Reception, St. Monica's Hall, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Rev. Paul I. Cloonan, St. Monica's Church at 10 a.m. Reception, 815 Seward St., 3 to 6 p.m.

Rev. Gerald T. Cosner, Sacred Heart Cathedral at 11 a.m. Reception, Sacred Heart Cathedral School Hall, 3 to 6 p.m.

Rev. Francis J. Erb, St. Ambrose Church at 11:15 a.m. Reception, St. Ambrose Hall, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Rev. John J. Mempel, St. Ambrose Church at 10 a.m. Reception, 2244 Manitowish Rd., 3 to 6 p.m.

Rev. Robert G. Kroschel, St. Boniface Church at 9 a.m. Reception, 48 Washburn Pl., 4 to 7 p.m.

Rev. Joseph J. Korman, St. Cecilia's Church at 11:15 a.m. Reception, St. Cecilia's Hall, 4 to 7 p.m.

Rev. John V. Rouse, St. Thomas Church at 10 a.m. Reception, 44 Erieville Rd., 3 to 6 p.m.

Rev. Frederick W. Bensch, Holy Rosary Church at 10:45 a.m. Reception, Holy Rosary Parish Hall, 3 to 5 p.m.

### LCBA Unit Sets Bus Tour Through Canada

Members of Branch 104, Ladies Catholic Benevolent Association is planning a four-day chartered bus trip from August 3 to 6 to Montreal, Cap de la Madeleine, St. Anne de Beaupre and other points of interest.

Mrs. William J. Fuehrer, Local 788 will supply information and take reservations.

### Mass Honoring Sacred Heart Set

Members of Rochester Circle International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, will assist at a Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart which will be offered by His Excellency Bishop Kearney on Thursday, June 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Our Lady of Mercy Convent Chapel, Blossom Rd. The Circle's Moderator, Rev. Edward J. Lintz, will deliver the sermon.

Immediately following, a short business meeting will be held in the auditorium of Our Lady of Mercy High School with Mrs. John J. Mahoney, Regent of the Rochester Circle, presiding.

A social hour and refreshments will conclude the evening's program. Arrangements are in charge of Mrs. Donald Greenfield who is being assisted by Mrs. James Fahy, Miss Frances Clancy, Miss Beverly McLaughlin and Miss Jeanne Schneider.

### Triduum Slated To St. Anthony

A Triduum in honor of St. Anthony will be held at Church of the Annunciation, 1754 Norton St. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 11, 12 and 13 according to the Rev. Albert L. Simoniotti, pastor.

Services will begin each evening at 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Gerard Orlando, Passionist missionary, will conduct the Triduum services which will include prayer to St. Anthony, sermon and Benediction.

A Novena in honor of Our Lady of Peace and St. Anthony is held each Tuesday of the year at 7:30 p.m. in Church of the Annunciation.



### Helping Hands

The rubber "hands" you see here are worn by R.G. & E. linemen to protect them while they are working on power lines carrying electricity to your home. Thomas H. Dady of the Rochester Gas and Electric's Electric Meter Testing Department tests the rubber gloves for electrical leakage, washes them and puts them on racks to dry. Careful inspection of all safety equipment makes it possible for R.G. & E.'s linemen to maintain the power lines which bring you dependable electric service for better living.

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