

TRAPPIST MOURNED



Photo by Vaden

THE RT. REV. DOM M. GERARD MGINLEY, O.C.S.O.

Abbot's Sudden Death Overseas Shocks Diocese

News this week of the sudden death in France of the Rt. Rev. Dom M. Gerard McGinley, O.C.S.O., Abbot of Our Lady of the Genesee Abbey near Piffard, shocked his host of friends among the clergy and laity of the Rochester Diocese. The cause of death was reportedly coronary thrombosis.

The 49-year-old Trappist Abbot died unexpectedly on Monday, September 19, 1955 at Citeaux Abbey near Dijon, France where he was attending a world meeting of Trappist superiors. He planned to return to his own abbey in October.

Following word of their superior's sudden death, monks of Our Lady of the Genesee Abbey assembled at Soloman Mass at Requiem for Abbot McGinley on Tuesday morning. The Mass was celebrated by Father Regis Tompkins, prior of the Abbey and acting superior during Abbot McGinley's absence.

News of the Abbot's death was received by cablegram by Father Regis at the Piffard Abbey, located four miles from Genesee, from the Most Rev. Dom M. Gabriel Sorialis, Abbot General of the Trappist Order.

A LETTER from the Rt. Rev. Dom M. Fox, O.C.S.O., Abbot of Gethsemani Abbey, dated Friday, Sept. 16 from France, told of Dom Gerard's fainting in chapel at Citeaux on Monday, Sept. 12, opening day of the Trappists' General Chapter.

The Piffard Abbot attended Tuesday's sessions, but was ordered to bed on Wednesday and then taken to a hospital in nearby Dijon. He was assisted by the Abbot General, assisted by Abbot Fox and Abbot M. Robert McGann, of Holy Ghost Abbey, Conyers, Ga.

A cablegram received early on Monday afternoon at Piffard reported that Dom Gerard died on Monday, Sept. 19, at 4:30 a.m. The monks were assembled, told of their abbot's death and Vespers of the Dead were chanted.

Abbot Fox, as immediate superior, will appoint an acting superior upon his return to America and will direct arrangements for the election of a new abbot for the Piffard monastery.

THE MONKS themselves at Our Lady of the Genesee will elect their new abbot. It is presumed he will be chosen from the Piffard community.

Founder and first Abbot of Our Lady of the Genesee Monastery, Abbot McGinley brought a small band of monks to Piffard in May, 1951, to establish a Trappist foundation at the invitation of His Excellency Bishop Kearney.

A quonset-type monastery and chapel was dedicated on May 30, 1953, and on Oct. 13, 1953, Father Gerard was unanimously elected Abbot of the newly appointed Trappist Abbey.

He was installed on Oct. 15 and was officially "blessed" in his new position by Bishop Kearney on Nov. 9 in Sacred Heart Cathedral.

As abbot he had power to ordain his own monks to Minor Orders; leading to the Holy Priesthood and the privilege of pontificating at High Mass.

Abbot McGinley was born on (Continued on Page 6)

Stop at Blanchard, Florist, 58 Lake, on the way to the cemetery for your flowers for the Blessing of the Graves this Sunday. Many specials — plenty of free parking on premises.—Adv.

Naples Miracle On Schedule

Naples, Italy—(NC)—If the miracle had not happened, this would have been a bigger story. The miraculous manifestation of St. Januarius' blood occurred last week as it usually does on September 19, the martyr's feast day. It happened at the cathedral where a vial containing the blood of the saint was exposed to public view.

This miracle has been recorded several times annually for hundreds of years. It takes place September 19, December 16, which is the anniversary of the eruption of the Vesuvius volcano in 1631 from which Naples was protected by the saint's intercession, and the first Sunday in May, the anniversary of the arrival of his relics in Naples.

St. Januarius was martyred in 305 during the persecution of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. He had been Bishop of Benevento.

Scenerama Asks Names Of Religious

Relatives are asked to send names of any members of the family who are religious — Priests, Sisters or Brothers — to the Very Rev. Msgr. John S. Randall, Mission Scenerama, 35 Scio St., Rochester 4, N. Y.

'Little Irish' Await 'Steel City' Team

Aquinas Institute of Rochester opens its eightgame gridiron season this Sunday at 2 p.m. in Memorial Stadium on Ridgeway Avenue, against North Catholic of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Head coach, Frank "Hunk" Vadas has spent four weeks of hard work looking for a starting lineup. The split-T formation will be employed at Aquinas for the first time this year and Vadas will rely heavily on speed and deception.

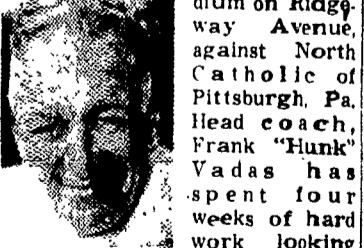
Vadas is known to thousands as the "Old Pro," has been tireless in his efforts to mold a great defensive team. His starting eleven was unknown until this week.

ONLY TWO of last year's starting lineup will start this Sunday for Aquinas. These are Jim Burke, left end, 180 lbs., 6'2", and Sam Rebis, right tackle, 175 lbs., 5'11".

Starting at right end is Lou DiFabio, 160 lbs., 5'11". The guard positions are assigned to George Schmeizer, vice president of the senior class, 160 lbs., 5'8", and Dick Tierney, Aquinas boxing champ, 170 lbs., 5'10".

as the biggest fullback at Aquinas since the days of Bob Neimeyer. Right halfback position will be held by Bob Landry, 155 lbs., 5'10". He is the first fullback to start at left tackle. At quarterback will be John Parrinello, 169 lbs., 5'11". School officials say he can pass and run and has proven himself a "good, cool field general."

TOM RILEY, 180 lbs., 6'1", right end last year has been converted to a fullback. He is rated as the biggest fullback at Aquinas since the days of Bob Neimeyer. Right halfback position will be held by Bob Landry, 155 lbs., 5'10". He is the first fullback to start at left tackle. At quarterback will be John Parrinello, 169 lbs., 5'11". School officials say he can pass and run and has proven himself a "good, cool field general."



COACH VADAS

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Freed Priest Explains 'Spy' Story Charge

Hong Kong — (RNS) — The Rev. Harold W. Rigney, S.V.D., of Chicago, the first American clergyman to be freed by Communist China under the Geneva agreements, said here the Chinese authorities labeled him a spy for "doing my work as a missionary."

The Roman Catholic priest was rector of Fu Jen Catholic University in Peiping until his arrest in July, 1951, on charges of being an intelligence agent. He was not tried until last September when he received a ten-year sentence.

Father Rigney said he had "confessed" to activities which the Chinese Communists considered to be spying but which he did not.

HE TOLD reporters at a news conference:

"I fought Communism, I fought sabotage, strikes, demoralization, and 'progressive' (pro-Communist) actions at my university."

Father Rigney said his trial actually "extended" over three years, from the time of his arrest until his conviction. He also was accused of "bringing government personnel, giving information to American, British, and Dutch embassies, and being a counter-revolutionary." Another charge was that he refused to keep five pro-Communist professors on the university staff.

The 54-year-old priest who spent four years and two months in a prison on the outskirts of Peiping still carried the scars of chains on his ankles. Father Rigney refused to elaborate on the treatment he had received at the hands of the Chinese Communists but his appearance showed the ordeal he had endured. He lost 50 pounds during his imprisonment, almost a foot around the waist.

THE MOST damaging evidence against him from the Communist viewpoint, Father Rigney said, was a report he wrote in 1947 in Peiping comparing conditions before and after Communist control of certain areas. The material had been gathered from Catholic priests who had come out of such areas, most of them Germans.

"They (the Communists) said only a trained agent could have organized some project like that," he said.

Father Rigney said he had "paid dearly" for that survey. He said that a woman in the Social Affairs Bureau who had given him information he needed as rector of Fu Jen University was arrested "and has never been heard from since."

"The Communists thought it a crime to inform high Church authorities on economic conditions in China," Father Rigney said. "But these reports had to be made in justifying funds drawn for the university and missions."

THE PRIEST said that he was arrested by guards armed with machine guns as a woman Communist officer charged him with being a big American spy. He was handcuffed behind the back

Father Rigney In Hong Kong



Hong Kong — The Rev. Harold W. Rigney, S.V.D., of Chicago, of Fu Jen Catholic University in Peiping until his arrest in July 1951, talks into a microphone on his arrival here following his release from Communist China. The priest, who was held in solitary confinement for the last six weeks, was one of the first two civilians to be freed by the Reds in accordance with agreements reached in recent negotiations at Geneva. (RNS Photo)

and marched to the police station. Brought before a judge, Father Rigney denied having committed any crime, but he was interrogated for two months day and night.

"I was shocked September last year, when a sentence of ten years was pronounced," he said. "I was thinking of going free."

The priest said that on the day of his arrest school children were organized and were supposed to applaud as he was led away in handcuffs.

"But most was crying," he said, "because they were doing something they didn't want to do. They loved me and I loved them."

Father Rigney said he spent most of the time since his arrest in prison, except for a short period when he was put to work at a match factory.

SIX WEEKS AGO, when the Communists had to accept the fact that he wouldn't take to brainwashing, he was placed in solitary confinement.

On Sunday, Sept. 11, he was sent to a good hotel in Peiping and was told that he was being "exchanged" as a result of the Geneva conference between Chinese and American representatives.

Father Rigney said he had received word from his superiors not to say much here.

However, he told the reporters interviewing him that he hoped "None of you newsmen would get the education I have had" and also told them that "Communist indoctrination to me is in vain."

Earlier, as he crossed the border into freedom here, Father Rigney sighed with relief and commented: "I have waited four years and two months for this moment."



Chicago — Mrs. Addie Rigney of Chicago, aged mother of American priest released by Communist China after four years of imprisonment, smiles happily as she points out her son in a radio photo showing him crossing the border at Hong Kong. Father Rigney was arrested by the Chinese Reds in July 1951. Mrs. Rigney never stopped working for her son's release. Her efforts included a trip to Washington, D. C., where she conferred with American officials. (RNS Photo)

Vatican Asks 'Where Is Cardinal Mindszenty?'

Vatican City — (NC) — "Where is Cardinal Mindszenty," asked a front page article in Osservatore Romano, Vatican City daily.

The paper recalled fact that two months have passed since the Primate's alleged liberation with out the slightest indication of his present whereabouts.

IN VIEW OF such circumstances, said Osservatore, the question arises whether the much publicized "suspension" of the Cardinal's sentence has really been carried out or whether it was merely a maneuver aimed to deceive public opinion abroad and to create the impression that communism's attitude toward the Church and religion has basically changed.

The Vatican City newspaper recalled that Yugoslavia, after Cardinal Stepan's release in 1950 announced the Cardinal was confined in his native village of Krasie and showed some Journal lists in see here.

"Nothing says the Vatican happened regarding Cardinal Mindszenty and one is forced to ask himself whether the Cardinal has really been transferred to an ecclesiastical building," said Osservatore.

It pointed out that certain Hungarian publications usually ready to praise the happy conditions of Hungarian Catholicism failed to mention one word of the Cardinal's alleged release.

THE PAPER said Cardinal Mindszenty's name has become a symbol for Church persecution.

None of his release it stated may have been inspired to show the ignorant there is full religious liberty in Hungary — that the Mindszenty case no longer exists.

Good, clear, penmanship adds to higher school grades. Choose from our large selection of Parker, Sheaffer and Paper Mate Pens at Wm. S. Thorne, Jeweler, 318 Main Street East, Hamilton 6081.—Adv.

2 New Diocesan High Schools List Dedication Rites

(Notre Dame High — See Supplement)
(McQuaid Jesuit High — See Pages 7, 8, 1-A)

Two new, ultramodern high schools will be solemnly dedicated at weekend rites in the Diocese of Rochester. His Excellency, Bishop James E. Kearney will officiate at both dedicatory ceremonies.

ELMIRA'S \$1,600,000 Notre Dame conduction high school will be blessed at noon Saturday, Sept. 24. Saturday is the Church's feast of Our Lady of Mercy, patroness of the Mercy Sisters who staff the school.

McQUAID JESUIT High School, Rochester, will be dedicated Sunday, Sept. 25, at 3 p.m. The \$2,300,000 school for boys is located on a 25 acre tract on Elmwood Ave.

Both schools were built following Bishop Kearney's Jubilee High School Campaign in 1952. Funds from the campaign were allocated for construction of four new high schools in the diocese. St. Agnes in Rochester was dedicated in Oct. 1954, and Mt. Carmel in Auburn last Sunday, Sept. 18.

Saturday's rites at Elmira will include Mass in the auditorium of the new Notre Dame school and sermon by Bishop Kearney.

The Rev. Robert I. Gannon, S.J., will deliver the keynote address at the Jesuit school's dedication program Sunday, in Rochester.

THE SISTERS of Mercy a diocesan community of nine now teach in 19 elementary schools and 3 high schools of the Rochester diocese.

Bishop Kearney, in a letter to the Rev. Mother Magdalene, diocesan superior of the Mercy nuns, termed Notre Dame "a new link in their chain of schools which encircles the diocese."

Notre Dame has a current enrollment of 341 pupils. It is located just south of the Elmira city limits on lower Maple Ave.

THE NEW JESUIT school in Rochester is presently staffed by thirteen Jesuit priests, nine scholastics, and four laymen. Only freshman and sophomore classes are now being conducted. Junior and senior classes will be taught next year and the following year, completing the full four year course. Over 400 pupils now attend the school. Ultimate capacity is 1,000.

Opening of the new Rochester high school was hailed by Bishop Kearney as an "outstanding event in the history of education in the diocese of Rochester." It enables the Rochester diocese to "share in the rich educational traditions of the Society of Jesus," the Bishop stated.

Notre Dame High School bears the title of Our Lady especially as she appeared at Lourdes, France. Patron Saint of McQuaid Jesuit High is St. Francis Xavier, Jesuit missionary to India and Japan.

Elsewhere in the diocese, according to the 1954 Seminary Report, Auburn's high parish was St. Francis-with-a collection of \$2,128; St. Alphonsus reported an even \$2,000 contribution.

Canandaigua's St. Mary parish gave \$1,156 for seminary support. In Elmira, St. Mary reported a total of \$1,700, followed by St. Patrick, \$1,600, and St. Casimir, \$1,046.

Both Geneva parishes reported: St. Francis de Sales, \$1,891; St. Stephen, \$1,604. France Patron Saint of McQuaid Jesuit High is St. Francis Xavier, Jesuit missionary to India and Japan.

St. Ann, Hornell, contributed \$1,548; Immaculate Conception, Ithaca, \$1,641; St. Patrick, Seneca Falls, \$1,447.

Bishop's Appeal For Seminaries

My Dear People: With the return of the students to our Seminaries and the beginning of a new school year, I appeal to you, once again, for the support of these very important institutions.

The education of our future priests is one of the serious responsibilities of your bishop. To keep our Seminaries up to date in the educational field and maintain the material equipment at proper efficiency become problems involving much expense as time begins to prey upon our equipment. Apart from the normal program of accommodations for students, faculty salaries, salaries of essential lay help, the maintenance of the convent and sisters, there is the ever increasing necessity for major repairs and major improvements. All these needs make imperative our Seminary Collection at this time of year.

The quota assigned to your church can easily be raised in one collection, if each wage earner will give me at least one dollar for St. Bernard's, and one dollar for St. Andrew's Seminary. I do not think that the request is unreasonable. I do know that on that basis every church can raise its quota, with little difficulty, in one collection.

Let me assure you that every donor shares in the daily prayers of these Seminarians. There is no group dearer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus than His future apostles. Who, then, will be nearer to His Sacred Heart than those who are generous in making that apostleship worthy of Him?

May God bless you for your kind help in this important matter.

With my blessing, I am

Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,
+ James E. Kearney
Bishop of Rochester

P. S. The collection for the Seminaries will be taken up on Sunday, September 25.