

# The Catholic COURIER

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Palm Sunday procession in Tanganyika

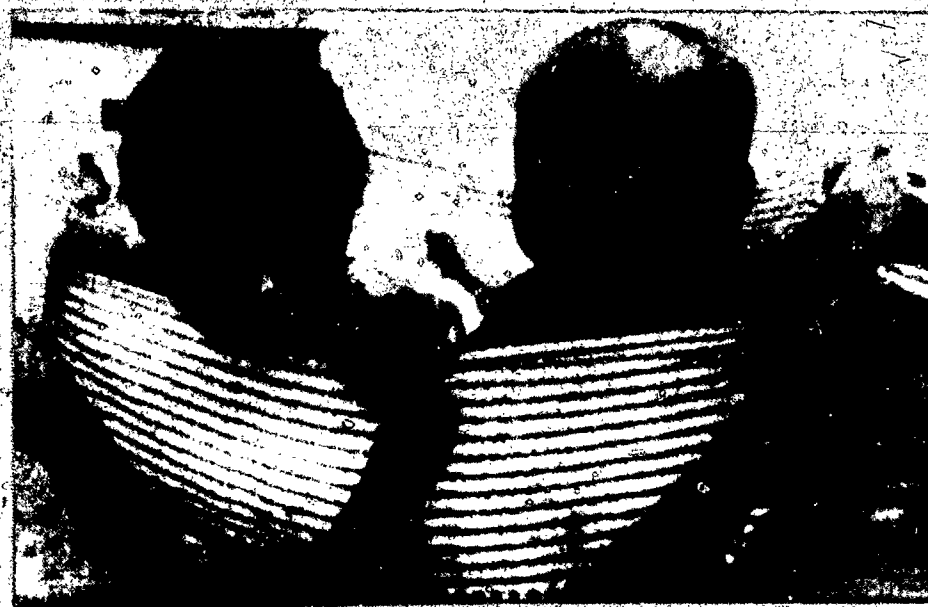
Mass in Swahili

Smallpox and Leopards

Sunday Collection—104



FATHER DAMIAN MILIKEN



Two young African parishioners

## Life in Africa — Never a Dull Moment

The liturgical renewal is more than just a phrase for the people of Namupa, Tanganyika, East Africa. Father Damian Miliken, O.S.B., native Elmira and missionary for the past four years in this area, writes:

"WE HAVE MASS facing the congregation and many parts of the Mass in Swahili. In my liturgical I also have an offertory procession, and offertory prayers with special petitions for everybody in Swahili. Some of the poor old lepers, burnt out castes, get so much joy out of being allowed to hobble up to the priest and put their hands on the paten."

More observations on Father's work at his mission outstation show how he spends his Sundays:

"Today is also something of an anniversary for me. Twelve years ago I started my novitiate. I don't know just how to evaluate the subsequent progress, but one thing can be taken for certain and that is, I had absolutely no idea then of the circumstances in which I presently find myself."

"This morning, for example, I was slated to say Mass at a station about twenty miles from here, through paths covered with five-inch deep sand. Nothing is worse for motorcycles. Anyway, it took me about an hour this morning to get the thing in running shape, mostly with wire and some fasteners. When I did get to the outstation the people were all lined up for confession. Heard them for two hours, trying to think between penitents what my sermon would be."

"The altar was nicely decorated with banana plants and reminded me of Christmas. For

some reason, my sermon turned out to be a Mother's Day affair. It is not a custom out here to celebrate Mother's Day, so we just made today an unofficial one. I just wanted to use today to remind the children to be a little more appreciative of what their mothers have done for them, and the husbands to show a little more consideration.

"The pastoral work is what I like best but of course who is there that has just what he likes. But I do find that I can't do it at the present rate. The work here at the seminary is such that every day is filled up and over with work. If I started full-scale pastoral work every Sunday I don't think I could keep it up for very long."

Back at St. Benedict's Seminary where Father is regularly occupied during the week, he adds a humorous touch showing that boys are the same all over the world:

"THIS WEEK I am back in the old seminary where I was three and a half years ago. We have 20 fifth, sixth and seventh graders here. The regular father is on sabbatical looking for more prospects for next year. I gave the boys a conference last night on what it means to be a seminarian. Some of the little guys fell asleep. During the religion part their neighbors let them sleep, but when I started stories, the sleepers were awakened rather rudely with the news that 'He's telling stories now!'"

Disease is an ever present reality on the missions, as Father brings out in a recent letter:

"We had a smallpox epidemic's about run out by now, but left many badly scarred and some dead. The health people

are coming around now to vaccinate."

Malaria is quite common. Father Damian himself has had several attacks since his arrival in Tanganyika. Last spring he was also afflicted with a severe case of hepatitis and spent several weeks in the hospital.

And then there are the animals:

"Last week one night about eleven we had another leopard scare. We thought we had wounded one with a bad shot and the animal was growling and thrashing about in very thick brush. Then I heard another animal come up to it, but it stayed out of reach of our lights. It turned out that the noisy visitor was a big hyena. We (I and one of our African teachers) followed it but it was too far ahead. Then we went back to the first animal of the evening. It was still making a commotion, and a wounded leopard is no teddy bear to deal with. We finally got up enough gumption to go in after it. To our pleasant surprise, it was a jungle (ungu in Swahili). I believe a serial cat in English.

It's smaller than a leopard but similarly marked and happily charged of the construction and not at all as ferocious. We shot it again for good this time."

FATHER DAMIAN often mentions the thoughtfulness and sincerity of the African people. This was brought out most poignantly in early June, when Father received news of the death of his young brother Bill in an accident near Rochester.

"The people of Namupa collected coins for Masses (which meant great sacrifice, since an average Sunday collection is ten cents), and offered chickens and whatever they had to show their sympathy. One local chief with great concern wanted to know if the accident was the result of a tribal feud back in America."

Father Damian, son of Mrs. Cornelius J. Miliken and the late Mr. Miliken of Elmira, has been stationed in Tanganyika since November, 1960. He is a member of the Benedictine community of St. Paul's Abbey,

Newton, New Jersey. He is in charge of the construction and maintenance work at the seminary in Namupa, and also teaches Latin.

Father would like to send his thanks to all his good friends in the Elmira and Rochester areas, who have assisted him so much with their prayers and donations. He asks special prayers for the Elmira and Rochester areas, that more of the boys in the seminary will persevere and join the ranks of the noble clergy, the hope of the Church in Africa.



BROTHERS AND SISTERS who attend Saint Patrick's School take a look at some of the new books of St. Patrick's School Library in Elmira (from left) Maureen Sheehan, Justin McInerney (a student of kindergarten), Susan Sheehan, Matthew McInerney, William Mc-

Inerney and (back row) Sandra Sheehan, Kevin McInerney, Mary Kay Sheehan, Roger Sheehan, Wendy McInerney, and Thomas McInerney. Each grade but one is represented by the children in this photo.

Elmira Council 229, Knights of Columbus, will honor its Honorary and Honorary-Life members at a dinner Wednesday night, Oct. 21 at Columbus Center.

The dinner will start at 8:30 p.m. with a social hour preceding.

Particular honor will be paid 17 new Honorary and Honorary-Life members.

THE NEW Honorary members, members who at age 65 have been a Knight of Columbus 25 years, are:

Dr. Louis J. Lodi and Thomas R. Burns, both past grand knights; Daniel F. O'Neill, David A. Dickinson and James E. Casey.

Francis A. Ryan, William H. McGill, Leo M. Norton, William A. Malcolm, John E. Murphy and James A. Mallon.

The new Honorary-Life members, members who reaching 75 have been a Knight 25 years, are:

John F. Johnson, Thomas Hotchiss, Joseph V. Cleary, Vincent A. Chisholm and William J. Dunne.

The speaker will be Peter Campton of Birmingham, a long-time Knight and well-known throughout the East for his patriotic addresses.

All past grand knights will also be honored on this occasion with particular honor for the immediate past grand knight, Clement J. Knuth, now a trustee.

### Elmira Knights Slate Honor Rites, Dinner

The \$38,078 project will allow for the addition of the seventh and eighth grades to the present school opened in 1961. Both grades are slated to be in session by the fall of 1965.

WAYNE SQUIRES, vice president of the General Construction Co., said the entire addition is enclosed and interior work is all that remains. He estimated the project would be finished between the middle and end of next month.

The new addition will have three classrooms, an audio-visual education room, library, principal's office and waiting room.

The new building program is financed through a two-year pledge program among parishioners. The present school and adjoining auditorium, kindergarten through sixth grades, were built at a cost of \$185,000.

### Addition For Bath School

Construction of the second-floor addition to St. Mary's School, started early in September, is expected to be completed by the end of next month.

### Parish Center Dedicated

BISHOP KEARNEY is shown placing the Crucifix on the wall of the lobby in the new parish center of St. Anthony's parish, Elmira, in a dedication ceremony attended by parishioners and friends held last week.



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### Forty Hours

Sunday, Oct. 18 — Carmelite Monastery, Our Lady of Mercy, St. Helen, St. Joseph, Rochester; St. John, Elmira; St. Mary, Genesee; St. Michael, Penn Yan; St. James, Waverly; Holy Trinity, Webster; Veterans' Administration, Bath.

### Charity Members Attend Meet

At the second Biennial Meeting of the Association of Ladies of Charity of the United States (ALCUS), the Elmira area group was represented by Mrs. John O'Leary, Jr., executive treasurer, and Mrs. Charles A. Smith, publicity director. These two voting delegates took part in the election of ten members to the National Board of ALCUS.

This meeting in St. Louis, Mo. October 2-6, ran concurrently with the meetings of the National Conference of Catholic Charities and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The census report which is not yet complete was given by Miss Mary E. FitzGerald, National Ladies of Charity Census Chairman and Executive Director of the Elmira Area Association of Ladies of Charity. Her report indicates a total United

States membership of more than 50,078.

Miss FitzGerald was one of the leaders in a workshop on the subject of "THE INVISIBLE POOR"—HOW TO FIND THEM—HOW TO SERVE THEM. Her topic was "Cooperating with the Department of Public Welfare."

This meeting was the golden jubilee of the National Catholic Charities. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Raymond J. Gallagher, who was the speaker at the 34th Catholic Family Service Dinner in Elmira, is the executive secretary of the Conference and was in charge of arrangements. He is also the National Spiritual Advisor of the Ladies of Charity.

Miss Irene Dunne of Los Angeles, well-known actress and member of the Los Angeles Ladies of Charity was the featured speaker at a Sunday brunch. Her subject was "The Image of the Contemporary Woman." About 1,000 attended.

At the banquet on Monday, Oct. 5, greetings were received from Cardinal Amleto Giovanni Cardinal Protettore of the Ladies of Charity. Also from Cardinal Francis Spellman, Cardinal Joseph Ritter, Cardinal Albert Meyer, Cardinal Richard Cushing and Cardinal Francis McIntyre. About 2,000 attended representing the three organizations.

A new Ladies of Charity Constitution was adopted by the Ladies of Charity membership. The 1968 Conference is planned for New Orleans, La.

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