

Gen. Abrams Now a Catholic



GEN. ABRAMS

Los Angeles — (RNS)—Gen. Creighton Abrams, the top U.S. military commander in Vietnam, was admitted to Catholic Church membership in early December.

According to a Los Angeles Times report on Dec. 16, Catholic chaplains in the field made the disclosure, but Father Adam Bydlon, Catholic chaplain at Gen. Abrams' headquarters, refused to confirm the report.

Reportedly, the general became a Catholic in a quiet, unpublicized ceremony of baptism at which he wanted "no fuss at all."

A military spokesman at Gen. Abrams' headquarters refused to comment, adding that the

57-year-old military commander felt that his religious affiliation was strictly a personal matter.

According to the Los Angeles Times, his baptism was a strictly private service and even staff officers at headquarters who worked with him daily were unaware that he had been receiving instruction in the Catholic faith.

Gen. Abrams' official military biography does not list any religious affiliation. In Vietnam, as elsewhere, he attended both Protestant and Catholic services on an irregular basis.

Colin Kelly III Ordained

Moorestown, N.J. — (RNS) — The son of America's first World War II hero, an Army officer himself, was ordained to the Episcopal ministry here, marking the culmination of a desire that pre-dated his training at West Point.

The Rev. Colin P. Kelly III, who hopes to return to active duty with the Army as a chaplain, was raised to the Episcopal priesthood in an unusual evening ceremony at Trinity Episcopal church, Moorestown, where he had served as deacon since May 1.

A public figure since he was 19 months old, when his father, Capt. Colin P. Kelly Jr., died in the flaming crash of his B-17 bomber in the Philippines, Father Kelly entered the Philadelphia Divinity School of the Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, in 1967. He graduated last May.



REV. MR. KELLY

The 30-year-old former army tank captain's move to the priesthood was described as "something entirely on his own." Heretofore, he had always done what was expected of him as the son of a war hero.

Mother Seton Death To Be Recalled

Emmitsburg, Md. — (RNS) — Lawrence Cardinal Shehan, archbishop of Baltimore, and the Daughters of Charity will lead more than a thousand people here in commemorating the 150th anniversary of the death of Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Blessed Mother Elizabeth Seton, the first native American Catholic to be beatified, was the founder of five branches of the Sisters of Charity in the U.S., and was a pioneer in establishing the parochial school system.

Cardinal Shehan will be the principal celebrant in the noon Mass, Jan. 3, in the Chapel of St. Joseph's Provincial House of the Daughters of Charity.



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