

Guadalcanal Priest To Lead Novena

Auburn — From the mission field of China, through the battle of Guadalcanal, to the set of a Hollywood movie, the biography of Father Frederic P. Gehring sounds more like a television series than the true life experience of this Vincentian Father who is with the Miraculous Medal Novena Band.

Hollywood as consultant for the film, "The Gallant Hours," a story depicting Guadalcanal, and a priest's devotion to his faith and country.

Versatile in his talents, he is the author of the book, "A Child Of Miracle," about an orphan girl cared for by Marines.

Released from service, he has served as Director of Vincentian China Missions, eastern province, Student Counselor at St. John's University in Jamaica, New York, and pastor and religious superior at St. Vincent's Church in Philadelphia.

After this last appointment, he joined the Miraculous Medal Novena Band. The intention of the novena is for all people, peace in our world, and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

The novena will be held in connection with the four daily masses at Holy Family Church, plus a special 8 p.m. Mass in the evening. Daily masses are at 7 and 8:15 a.m., 12:15 and 5:30 p.m.

Father Gehring will conduct the novena in honor of the Mother of God, at Holy Family Church beginning May 23, and continuing daily until its culmination on May 31st, the Feast of the Queenship of our Lady.

Ordained in 1930, Father Gehring's first assignment was to China. Communist activity there prevented his arrival until 1933, and he spent six years in Kiangsi Province.

A Marine chaplain, he gained recognition for zeal and devotion to his boys. The first Navy chaplain to receive the Legion of Merit from the President of the United States, he also received the Presidential Unit Citation for heroic rescue work behind enemy lines. He accompanied Admiral Halsey to

Sr. St. Benedict's Apostles:

8th Graders Help the Sick

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Seneca Falls — "Taking out the garbage and running errands for the Lord's sake," could be the motto of 7th and 8th graders in the apostolic program at St. Patrick's School. The boys and girls volunteer their enthusiasm and practical help, doing chores for the sick and elderly, in the undertaking led by the 8th grade teacher, Sister St. Benedict.

"The idea for the group occurred last October during preparation of our confirmation class, as we were emphasizing concern and awareness of the needs of people," explained Sister St. Benedict. "When thinking of the needy, we tend to think of people, missions far away or times of disaster. This apostolic activity was a way to carry out the concern students had gained and right here in Seneca Falls."

Mrs. Haley Heads CDA Court

Hornell — Mrs. Margaret Haley has been elected grand regent of Court St. Ann No. 194, Catholic Daughters of America. She succeeds Mrs. Daisy Sherman.

Other officers for the 1971-72 term are: Mrs. Carolyn Kelly, first vice regent; Mrs. Cynthia Green, second vice regent; Mrs. Lucy Daniels, financial secretary; Mrs. Betty McKinley, treasurer; Mrs. Mary Cartella, recording secretary; Mrs. Jane Cronin, Monitor; Mrs. Sherman, lecturer. Father Joseph P. Hafey, pastor of St. Ignatius Loyola Church, is court chaplain.

"Apostolic work is also an attitude," reflected Sister. "It is a way of thinking, becoming aware of real needs of others, which is being highlighted and will follow the children throughout their lives. Few people have the opportunity to perform great acts of charity, but it can be the simple, everyday acts of kindness which reflect charity and love."

"Youngsters today are enthusiastic about getting involved," she continued, "the peer group is influential at this age but the experience of reaching out, recognizing people as individuals, brings out the best. Some overcome their reluctance to offer help in spite of what friends might say. Others work in group undertakings like cleaning someone's yard."

In some instances, Sister feels the fact someone showed concern can be more important than the practical help. Students have found a new appreciation of the elderly, often stopping by just to say hello.

Participation in this informal group which meets every other week is voluntary. There are no officers, but a chairman and treasurer. Participation has been limited somewhat as the people assisted live near the school, and some students have transportation difficulties or home commitments after school. Nevertheless, 39 students showed up at the initial meeting, and now over one-third of the 7th and 8th graders are involved. Sister anticipates the program will be expanded even more next year.

In addition to person-to-person help, the group works on projects such as making the prayer books for the special education class and sponsoring movies to raise money to purchase gifts for distribution at Christmas.

"It's a spirit of cooperation which binds the group together, not formal structure," Sister observed. "The people helped have been most appreciative of the children's generosity, but the marvel of it is to see the children live their religion."

St. Patrick's Sets Election

Seneca Falls — Election of members to serve on St. Patrick's Church Parish Council will be held in June. The nominating committee includes: Father Leo Lynch, pastor, Nicholas V. Midey, Adolph Capacci, Mrs. Clifford Prayne, and Mrs. Edward Zmuda.

The council has adopted a constitution and by-laws, and will assist the pastor to make decisions regarding overall parish needs, and help set priorities in the parish.

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