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# COURIER-JOURNAL

## Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

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### After 30 Years, Missionary Recalls China

By MARTIN TOOMBS  
Southern Tier Editor

Watkins Glen—One resident of Watkins Glen had a special perspective on the recognition of mainland China by President Carter last month.

Brother Casimir Orleanski, OFM, who has spent the last 30 years at St. Anthony of Padua here, worked in China from 1932 until 1947.

A native of Poland, Brother Casimir joined the Franciscans in 1928. Now a citizen of the United States, the 78-year old's English is that of someone who knows other languages better.

"My humble opinion" on the recognition of mainland China, Brother Casimir said, is that "we lose face" by the recognition, in the sense of the Oriental "loss of face." The move meant that the United States gave "away their friend," he noted.

But, he added, the

United States probably had to recognize mainland China for economic reasons, which he understands.

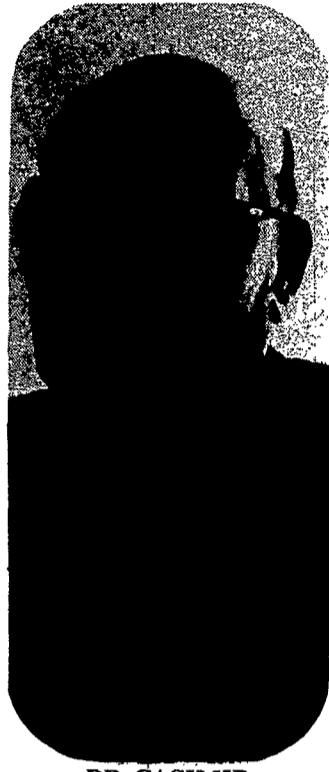
"Another thing," he added, the move is "a punch in the nose for the Russians."

While in China, Brother Casimir worked in the city of Hankow, for an Italian bishop there. For the first two years, he recounted, he studied Chinese and worked in a college.

In the seminary, he served as disciplinarian and as a nurse in the hospital. He assisted in operations and did other nursing duties there. He also taught the Franciscan prayers, in Latin, to the seminarians.

He liked working with the Chinese, he said, pointing out that they are a "humble people."

During the Japanese invasion of China, Brother Casimir said, each day he went through the Japanese lines and brought refugees



BR. CASIMIR

back to the college. The Japanese soldiers, he explained, were taking the Chinese people's homes so they could live in them. The religious were issued identifying armbands, he said, and the soldiers

respected them. But they often terrorized the refugees, he recalled.

During the entire time, the bombing was severe, he said, so that "you no care for your life you so exhaust."

After the war, when American soldiers came to Hankow, Brother Casimir said, one saw the work he was doing with the refugees and told him "I would not do for a million dollars." I said neither would I. But for God, I would do."

After the war his health was bad, he said, and he was sent to San Francisco to recover. He planned to return to China after his convalescence.

But "in the meantime, Mao Tse Tung closed the curtain, the bamboo curtain," he recounted, and he couldn't go back.

His superiors offered him a post in Japan, he said, but he had lived with the Japanese occupation for seven years, and he had

no wish to go to that country.

So in 1949, he came to Watkins Glen to run the infirmary in the newly opening St. Anthony of Padua High School. The school operated for 22 years, closing in 1970. A private boarding school rented the facilities, and employed Brother Casimir for their infirmary, for two years.

Presently, Brother Casimir and two other Franciscans live in the friary attached to the school overlooking the village of Watkins Glen. He also helps out in St. Mary of the Lake Parish downtown.

In 1969, during a visit to Warsaw, he met a diplomat in the Chinese embassy there, he said. The diplomat invited him to go to China, he said, and he had to tell him that as an American, he couldn't go to the mainland. They also talked about the threat of an atomic war, Brother Casimir said, and he said he was surprised by the

man's reactions.

The diplomat told him that he was not afraid of an atomic war, Brother Casimir said. An atomic attack on Europe would kill its 200 million people, the diplomat said, and such an attack on China might kill 300 million.

That would leave 300 million Chinese survivors, the diplomat reasoned, and so there was no need to fear nuclear war.

"And that's an educated man," Brother Casimir exclaimed.

Asked if he would like to visit China now that Americans are able to, Brother Casimir isn't so sure. The archbishop was killed in the bombing, he explained, and a few years ago he learned that many of the seminarians he knew are either dead or have disappeared.

China is a "different world," he said, and now China probably is very different from the China he knew.

### Prison Chaplain

## Building a Community Behind Prison Walls

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn—"The confines of a prison where there are only men may seem like a desert island, but there can still be community and an opportunity to find Christ as one's Savior and to pray," said Father James C. Enright, newest member of the Auburn Correctional Facility's chaplaincy team.

"The resident's personal problems, his fears, frustrations, loneliness and isolation from all he has known does become the inescapable concern of religious interest. Under these stresses our words often do not penetrate unless we accept him where he is at and encourage him to become the fuller person we know he has the potential to become. Helping to bring the word of Christ to him in these times is what the chaplaincy is about," he said.

Father Enright has been chaplain at ACF since June, 1978. He took over for Father Clarence Gardner, now pastor of St. Alphonsus Parish here.

Father Enright defined the chaplain's role as ministering to the spiritual needs of the residents, conducting services, marriage preparation, counseling, religious education and meeting the social needs of family contacts. He finds about half his time is spent in family counseling and trying to keep up family

ties through letters, and phone calls in crisis situations.

The chaplain fills a coordinating role between the administration and the residents. He said that what seems simple on the outside, like arranging a religious celebration attended by families, becomes very difficult as the first priority at a prison is always security.

"There is need for church in prison. The Church recognizes that men fail. Christ gave us a very direct command that we should forgive one another and reach out to heal. It means helping each Christian to grow in faith."

"Sometimes this means confrontation. I could sit in my office all day, listening to why a man is there and why his appeal should go through. I point blank say I am not interested in that. The reality of the situation is the man is here. He may have 20-25 years to serve. The reality is he is likely to do a lot of his life here. The important thing is not why or how, but what is he going to do while he is here to grow as a Christian. I want to see these men move in their Christian lives. Sometimes the first step is accepting themselves," he said.

Father Enright said he has encountered extremely good cooperation from residents, the administration and officers. When he took over as chaplain, he found a group of 100 men who formed



Father Enright at Auburn Correctional Facility.

the core of the Catholic community. He said they identified with that fact, and took pride in belonging to the Legion of Mary.

The Legion meets Saturday mornings with readings from traditional Legion prayers and discussions. Part of each member's income from working in the shops is given to support a foster child.

One group of residents works together with the Rochester Presidium of the Legion on drug addiction among the young.

The residents have prepared tapes to be sent to families where young people are in trouble with drugs as a way to clue them into the pains of drug

addiction, and what it is like to be behind bars.

"I am sure there are 1,600 men who would like to see the prison walls come tumbling down, but that is not the Christian function. The walls of the prison, the guards are not what freedom is really about. The freedom we are talking about is within ourselves. It is a spiritual freedom. It is knowing we are doing the work of Christ. Once this is discovered, then many of the problems and causes which bring men back to prison are eliminated. Men become more secure as they know the love of Christ. Hope is born," Father Enright said.

## CCGEB Hears Committee Reports

By MARTIN TOOMBS  
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—The Chemung County General Education Board (CCGEB) heard preliminary reports on Catholic Schools Week activities at its meeting Jan. 11 at St. Anthony's School.

The board will be meeting at St. Anthony's for 1979; the location marks the first time there have been regular board meetings in a school not used by the system. The CCGEB has seven member parishes, and operates four schools.

Jerald Meeker, Registration and Public Relations Com-

mittee chairman, said that his committee is working on a thanksgiving Mass for Sunday, Feb. 4, to begin Catholic Schools Week.

Sister Davidica, Our Lady of Lourdes principal, stated that the principals also were preparing a Mass for that day, and are seeking a bishop to be the main concelebrant. The two board members said that they would get together and coordinate their plans.

Sister Davidica also reported that the schools are planning open houses and other events for Catholic Schools Week, which is Feb. 4-9.

## Diabetic Eye Screenings Continue

Elmira—St. Joseph's Hospital is continuing to offer free screenings for detection of diabetic retinopathy. A serious manifestation of diabetes, it is a common cause of blindness. A person who has had diabetes for ten or more years may suffer from the condition.

Testing takes no more than a half hour, and is done by eye specialists on the first four Tuesdays of each month from 1:30 to 4 p.m. in Room 107 of the Elmira Medical Arts Building, by appointment only.

Any person having diabetes who does not visit an ophthalmologist regularly may make an appointment by calling St. Joseph's Hospital's Ambulatory Care Services at 733-6541, extension 539.

Martin Tracy, Finance Committee chairman, reported on his meeting with the St. Peter and Paul Parish Council. He said that the council was "not receptive to the concept" of the capital expense plan which the CCGEB approved at its December meeting. He cited a "lack of understanding" of the plan as the central problem. He added that the parish council fears that their assessment will go up next year.

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