



Father Elmer Heindl receives the ceremonial key to Cagayan Valley from province governor Justiniano P. Cortez.

Area Priest Leads Vets On Philippine Tour

By Terrance J. Brennan

A group of 70 veterans of the 37th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army revisited the Philippine Island of Luzon this year to celebrate the 37th anniversary of liberation from the Japanese.

Led by Father Elmer Heindl of Rochester, the group was feted at each city they visited during their 15-day trip last February.

According to Father Heindl, the group totaled more than 130, including spouses and other traveling guests. The trip itinerary coincided with the path the 37th Division followed in 1945 in liberating the island.

The group arrived in Manila first, spending five days there. Then moved up the coast some 100 miles to the spot where they landed, Dagupan, on the Lingayan Gulf.

From there, the group traveled to Baggio, Cagayan Valley, and then back to

Manila. At each stop, the visitors were lauded by thankful Filipinos, according to Father Heindl.

Because their visit coincided with the island's annual Liberation Day festivities, Father Heindl and Methodist chaplain Rev. Clyde Thomas were invited to participate in national ceremonies laying the wreath at the foot of the MacArthur Monument in Manila, and all monuments during their visit.

"Our biggest surprise was that they were still treating us as liberators, these second- and third-generation Filipinos, even after 37 years," Father Heindl said.

"There were very few occasions when we met the actual people whose lives we touched (in 1945)."

A highlight of the visit, according to Father Heindl, was seeing the monument constructed in Tuguegarao, Cagayan Valley, to the memory of the 37th Infantry Division.

Also, while in Manila, the

group were proclaimed honorary citizens of the city, and Father Heindl was presented the ceremonial Key to Manila.

The purpose of the trip was for the group to relive its experiences of 37 years ago. For Father Heindl, this was a chance to make amends for the spoils of war.

"During combat, I couldn't give our boys that died the honors of the Church or the military," Father Heindl lamented. "Not to be able to give them the rich liturgies of our religion that they deserved hurt me."

St. James Hospital Graduates Six Nurses

Hornell — The six members of the 72nd graduating class of St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing received diplomas Dec. 19 in St. Ann's Church.

Three students received awards. M. Eileen White won two of them. She won the Medical Staff Award for attaining the highest cumulative average. She also received the Faculty Award for being the student who "best exemplifies the philosophy of the school through demonstrated leadership, professionalism, self-direction and contribution to the health of the community."

The Women's Board Award for the second highest average went to Sharon Jones.

Michael Iven won two awards: The Sister Mary Aid Award given by the hospital to the student who "best exemplifies the profession of nursing," and the St. James Alumni Achievement Award, which is given to "the most improved student who has displayed the greatest progress from the beginning to the end of nursing studies."

Father Eugene Emo, former hospital chaplain, delivered the commencement address. Father Jeremiah Moynihan, hospital chaplain, gave the invocation and benediction and introduced speakers.

Joseph Beaver was senior student speaker. He expressed his thanks and those of his classmates for the support

they had received during their education.

The six graduates are Joseph Beaver and M. Eileen White of Hornell; Audrey Anne Goddard of Wayland; Sharon Jones and Michael Iven of Wellsville, and Catherine Cummings of Syracuse.

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GEM Receives \$3,000 Grant

Genesee Ecumenical Ministries announced recently that it had been given a \$3,000 grant by the Rochester Area Foundation for the Neighborhood Action Project.

The project is aimed at involving and supporting the people of the Lewis Street area in conflict resolution and crime reduction in order to

make the neighborhood a safer place to live, a GEM news release stated.

In awarding the grant, the Rochester Area Foundation stated it "welcomed the opportunity to provide venture capital for new approaches for existing problems."

Chemung-Schuyler Group Supports Nestle Boycott

The Chemung-Schuyler Region Social Ministry Committee has invoked a call on the local community to join in a consumer boycott of Nestle products.

The statement states that the committee "endorses and supports a consumer boycott of all Nestle products until such time that the Nestle Corporation shows good faith

in adopting and implementing the World Health Organization Code."

The committee members are Sally Langstine, Sister Mary Garrozzo, Betty Maloney, Bea Norton, Genevieve Mezur, Kathy Dubel, Roy Farr, Sister Mary Carmella, Nick Savino and Marilyn Zazzarra.

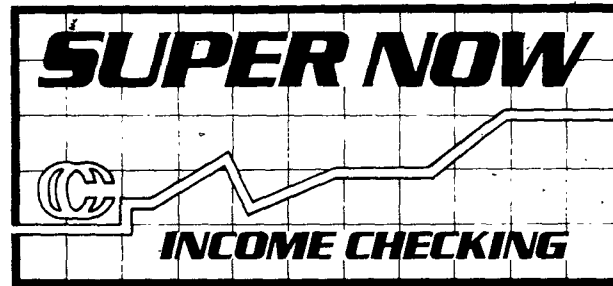
Community Forum Sponsored by OBM

The first in a series of bi-monthly community forums sponsored by the diocesan Office of Black Ministries will take place at 7:15 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 5 (tonight), in the auditorium of the Phyllis Wheatley Memorial Library, 13 Bronson Ave.

"Responsibilities for Families in Changing Times," will feature panel presentations from Dorothy Dobson of the Monroe County Social Services, Rev. Jefferson Lewis of the St. Simon Episcopal Church, and Heleema Ashford of the Urban League of Rochester.

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