

Province of The Most Holy Name Franciscan Fathers

135 WEST 31ST STREET

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL

NEW YORK CITY 1

March, 1954

My dear Confrere:

I am happy to announce that the Most Reverend Father General, Fr. Augustine Sepinski, O. F. M., has booked passage on the "Saturnia" and will arrive in the United States on March 17. Due to the fact that Father General wishes to have a quick look-see at all Provinces in the United States and Canada, he will spend approximately five days in each Province and will visit houses of studies only. This is the instruction we have received through channels. Among these instructions is another one, and it is important. Here it is: "As the visit of the Most Reverend General is not in any sense a canonical visitation, there will be no opportunity for individual Friars to make private visits to Father General or to make special requests. Any problems or requests that cannot be taken care of by the Very Reverend Ministers Provincial or Visitors General will have to be forwarded to the Curia in writing."

Congressus Information. The following changes were made: Fr. Adrian McGonnell will be Praeses at the religious house at Umbrian Farms; Fr. John Forest Loviner and Fr. Venard Crawford will be his Discreets. Fr. Remigius Fleishell will go to St. Bonaventure University as Maintenance Director. Fr. Jerome Gallagher--to Little Falls (Singac) as Pastor. Fr. Francis Anthony Gorman--to Winston-Salem as Pastor. Fr. Columba Murphy--to live in Greenville, S. C., with the appointment of Pastor in Anderson, S. C. Fr. Camillus Lillis will be on temporary duty at Winston-Salem. Fr. Mathias Manly will take over the work started by Fr. Gerard Fitzsimmons in Jamaica, British West Indies. His tour of duty will be for about four months. Frs. Henry Sharp, Christian Sell and Bernardine Ward, who have been working in Mexico, have been recalled to the Province. Also, Fr. Augustine Lazanski has been recalled from Ceylon.

At the request of Fr. Julius Dillon, a recently ordained young Chinese priest will enter our novitiate. He is the Rev. John Baptist Liu.

It was decided that we would accept an invitation from Bishop James Davis to open a mission in Puerto Rico.

Southern States. Recently, five chapels were dedicated in the South: two in Georgia--Tifton and Albany; and three in Virginia--South Hill, South Boston and Lawrenceville. All chapels are in white work except Albany. It was quite noticeable at these dedications that whites attended the dedication of the colored chapel and colored attended the dedications of the white chapels. I think this shows the effect of the work being done by the Friars.

Thomasville, Georgia, is a nice situation. The Fathers are able to support themselves and to ease the chaplain situation in that area by acting as auxiliary chaplains at two air bases and one veterans' facility. Each of these Fathers trinitates every Sunday.

The new Thomas More Catholic Information Centre in Columbia, S. C., will be dedicated on the afternoon of Sunday, March 7. I will be the celebrant and Fr. Rudolph Harvey will preach.

During the week after Easter there will be a combination of conference and day of recollection for the men in the South. There will be two groups, one composed of men in colored work and one of the men in white work. These meetings will be at the Thomas More Centre in Columbia.

The Monastery of St. Clare in Greenville, S. C., is still in the planning stage. Property has been purchased.

Building Projects. The new novitiate, which is built around a courtyard, has five distinct sections--the novitiate proper, a chapel with an auditorium beneath it, sections for the Fathers and administration, for the professed Brothers, and a dining hall and kitchen. There is a basement under the entire building. The structure will cost approximately \$1 3/4 million. Of this amount, it is estimated that St. Anthony's Guild, which has already contributed well over a million, will contribute about \$1 1/4 million. The rest will be borrowed money.

With the exception of the chapel, the building will be dedicated during the early summer. It is expected that the next class of novices will be received in this novitiate. Arrangements are in progress for the Apostolic Delegate to solemnly bless the chapel on October 4. The name of the monastery at Umbria will be St. Raphael's.

The new St. Anthony's Shrine at Arch Street has progressed to the extent that one can visualize the various appointments as he climbs the stairs and walks around the building. It is expected that this project will be completed in just about one year, perhaps less. It is also expected that it will cost approximately \$3 3/4 million.

Work on the Father Jerome Dawson Library at Siena has been halted because of weather and delay in the delivery of steel. The building is rectangular and of functional design. It will cost approximately \$500,000.

Work has been started at Clason Point on a new combination school, auditorium and convent. The approximate cost of the project will be \$1 1/4 million.

Ground has been broken and work started on the new dormitory at St. Bonaventure University. This building will consist of two wings, of three stories each, connected by a one-story lounge and recreational facility. It will contain 250 double rooms. There will be room for six prefects. This building will cost \$1 1/4 million.

Personnel. Fr. Mathias Faust has progressed to the extent that he has been moved from St. Clare's Hospital, New York City, to St. Francis Sanatorium in Denville, New Jersey. Fr. Donald Hoag has returned from retreats in Jamaica, B.W.I., and Brazil, with many

stories of the work done and the zeal shown by our men in Brazil. Fr. Matthew Miller is going to give retreats for the Fathers of Santa Barbara Province. Fr. Sebastian Rabin finds that things have quieted down a bit in his area. The M. A. thesis of Fr. Zachary O'Friel will be published in the March issue of "Physical Review." Fr. Joseph Vann has edited a new "Lives of the Saints." Fr. Paul Oigny and Fr. Conall O'Leary have translated "Holiness for Everyone" and "Under Angel Wings," respectively. Fr. Aurelian Scharf, who works at the General Curia in Rome, had a one-day visit to the States a couple of weeks ago. He had an opportunity to come over on the "Constitution" as a substitute chaplain and found, upon arriving, that the ship was going back the next day.

New Constitutions. Sets of the new Constitutions are on their way to us and will be distributed to each house as soon as they arrive. These are in Latin and will have to be used until a translation is authorized and published. It will be the obligation of the Superiors to give information to their subjects concerning these Constitutions. This office will help where it can. The Constitutions will be effective on April 16 of this year. We wrote to the Most Reverend General, requesting permission for Fr. Callistus Smith to translate these new Constitutions. Father General replied that a Board will be set up at his meeting with the American Provincials in May; this Board will consist of a Commission to oversee the translation of the Constitutions. After the translation is complete, it will be submitted to the General Definitorium for approval. This means that it will be a good year before we will have the Constitutions in the vernacular.

Brothers for Japan. There is hope that a permanent central house will be set up in Japan some time during 1954. We need three or four Brothers to work at this house: a cook, a Brother who is mechanically inclined, a Brother who can keep books and, if necessary, supervise purchasing, and a Brother for general housework. It is hoped that this central house will be a little bit of home in Japan. Volunteers for the above-mentioned positions are requested. This is an example of our real need for Brothers in the missions at the present time.

Providence. We take over a piece of property in Weybosset Street, Providence, Rhode Island, on Monday, May 3. The cost of this property will be \$225,000. It is a loft building, of three floors and basement. We will set up a temporary chapel, two confessionals and an office. This will put us in business. We will probably rent a house for living quarters, and the temporary set-up will continue until we are sure the site is a good one and the project is able to pay for itself.

Vacation Spots. For anyone who wishes to spend his vacation at some location in the Province, places are available at Rye Beach, Cape Cod, Kiwassa, Umbrian Farms and Point Lookout. Arrangements should be made through the Provincial Office.

Chaplains. We have 19 Fathers from Holy Name Province now commissioned as chaplains in the Armed Services. We have four auxiliary chaplains: Frs. Peter Sheridan, Rayner Dray and Hilary Deck from Thomasville, and Justin McCarthy, who is in the process of being appointed to

Otis Air Force Base at Cape Cod. We have one chaplain in the National Guard, Fr. Ronald King. We have two Civil Air Patrol chaplains, Fr. Charles Adams and Fr. William Major.

There is not too much news on our commissioned chaplains this time. Fr. Gervase McMillen is being sent by the taxpayers to visit the shrines in Europe; he will live on the USS "Albany." He sends letters concerning these visits. I hope he is praying for those of us who have to work. Fr. Giles Webster accompanied Cardinal Spellman during his trip to Korea, representing the Navy chaplains. Fr. Raymond Beane is sweating out a transfer from sea duty to the Marines at Camp Lejeune. Fr. Urban Cain is on his way back to the United States.

FRIAR.

You will be happy to know that there are some 8,500 paid subscriptions to FRIAR. In January, 3,200 copies were sold through various outlets in the Province. Now that we are in the neighborhood of the 10,000 mark, a much greater profit is made on each copy. The above totals were made possible by a relatively small percentage of the members of Holy Name Province.

HOW ABOUT HUSTLING SOME MORE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO "FRIAR"?

Sincerely and fraternally,

Celsus E. Whelan, of m.

Minister Provincial