

Province of The Most Holy Name Franciscan Fathers

135 WEST 31ST STREET
NEW YORK 1, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL

September, 1958

My dear Confreres:

This letter was started at Christ the King Seminary during the period between the Reception and Profession ceremonies at St. Elizabeth's Convent and our own ceremonies for Solemn Profession. The first and most important item of news is that the Minister General will visit the United States in October and November. He will arrive October 16 and stay with us for two nights, then leave for Cincinnati. On November 6 Fr. General will dedicate the new dormitory at Callicoon.

The Sisters received 26 novices; 32 made first profession and 22 perpetual profession. On September 8, 26 postulants will enter. This last group will begin a new program of formation, i. e., they will be in the Motherhouse as postulants, then as novices and finally as junior professed having their hearts and minds prepared for the various apostolates. Our Solemn Profession class numbered 20 clerics and 5 Brothers.

On August 19 I was privileged to offer and preach at the Mass which opened the Third Order Youth Congress. There were approximately 600 in attendance. It is felt that the lack of employment is responsible for the falling off in members.

The Provincial Congregation and the Congressus which followed it are over. The changes have been announced and very few adjustments have been found necessary. It is hoped that the new Provincial Ordinances, now being prepared will be ready to be sent to the General Definitorium for temporary approval within a few months. The Ordinances must be rediscussed at the Chapter in 1961. Approval and distribution will probably take the better part of the coming year. However, many of the necessary changes can be effected by the Provincial Definitorium, and this will be done soon.

The assignment of non-teaching personnel to manage the affairs of the Sullivan County missions is thought to be in line with good educational policy. It relieves the Fathers teaching at Callicoon of the time-consuming responsibilities connected with parish work. It also gives more efficient coverage of the parishes. The Fathers who teach will give help on week ends. The project has been planned for a few years. It is in line with the policy of expending our best efforts in our Provincial program of formation. Thank God we were able to get it done.

A new project is being undertaken in connection with our mission and retreat bands. This year during the week of September 14 they will attend a basic workshop in Franciscan Spirituality in lieu of the usual Retreat. This will be conducted at Paterson by Fathers of the Province

who studied at the Franciscan Institute under the direction of and with the help of Fr. Eligius Buytaert. Fr. Eligius left for Europe before I had an opportunity to consult him on the final arrangements, but the general plan is as follows:

1. A full schedule of spiritual exercises in chapel daily.
2. Morning and afternoon sessions each day, Monday through Friday.
3. Evenings will be free for small-group discussions.

The topics will come under the following general headings:

A. God the Father in Franciscan Spirituality; B. God the Son in Franciscan Spirituality; C. God the Holy Ghost in Franciscan Spirituality; D. Our Blessed Mother in Franciscan Spirituality; E. Creatures in Franciscan Spirituality.

The purpose is to review our Franciscan Theology and to freshen the Franciscan flavor of our Missions and Retreats. The project will be continued each year until the topic is exhausted--a long time.

Another project that is getting under way has to do with perfecting our techniques in the matter of doing more efficient work as confessors in the Spiritual Direction of Sisters. In the beginning it is planned to assign men who are mature, interested in, and enthusiastic for this work. Once under way, we can plan means of helping those concerned to increase their efficiency.

The Conference of Male Major Superiors will hold its annual meetings in Washington beginning on Sunday, September 21, with a meeting of the Executive Committee that evening. On Monday, there will be meetings in the morning, afternoon and evening. On Tuesday the agenda ends at noon. But those interested will participate that afternoon in additional agenda planned by the Mission Secretariat. These sessions will continue until Wednesday evening.

The Franciscan Provincials plan to meet at Mount St. Sepulchre on Thursday and Friday, September 25 and 26. High on this agenda will be a co-ordinated approach to the application of the Norms on Television, Radio and Movies.

Two more objectives of our planning are reaching or have reached fruition: Atlanta and Jamaica. There are four Fathers assigned to the Immaculate Conception Parish in downtown Atlanta. This is a parish with church, school, rectory and convent. The school has an auditorium which can well be used in connection with Newman Club work. It is our understanding that one of the Fathers at the parish will be offered the chaplaincy at the federal prison. This would be a very worth-while apostolate.

The three Fathers assigned to Jamaica will live temporarily in a house owned by the Allegany Sisters. They will start from scratch in a parish. Their labors will include: Third Order work, Sisters' conferences and confessions, and the teaching of some Christian Doctrine in the schools. Fr. Donald Hoag will go with them to direct the beginnings. It is hoped that we can send two more priests next year.

Several sets of circumstances have contrived to bring the parish of St. Stephen of Hungary into focus. In 1934 His Eminence Cardinal Hayes

requested that the Province take over St. Stephen's from the Hungarian friars. It was hopelessly in debt (\$604,000). Fr. Terence McNally was appointed Guardian and pastor in 1934. He had as helpers, the late Fr. Gilbert Monroe and Fr. Julian Finley. This spelled eventual success because the ideas of the St. Jude Novena and the Mass League were born to and nurtured by Frs. Gilbert and Julian. When Fr. Gilbert was transferred Fr. Julian continued the work. Under Frs. Terence, Julian and Patrick, the objective was to get out of debt. By the time of Fr. Felician's appointment, the debt was well in hand. He began to direct a goodly part of the monastery income to the Provincial Office as support. Now with a new change in administration, the debt is reduced to \$22,000. There are two genuine needs: a new monastery and a convent for the Sisters. It is felt that these will be accomplished during the tenure of Fr. Benedict Joseph Dudley.

Another project in the planning stage is the setting up of a place or places in which we can take care of the chronically ill. Needed will be one, two or three infirmary set-ups and the same number of trained infirmarians. The training would be that of a practical nurse. The latest drawing of the new monastery at St. Bonaventure University includes a 12-room infirmary. Butler is being considered as a second possible location for such an infirmary. If any Brother is interested in dedicating himself to the care of the sick, I would be happy to hear from him.

There have been 35 conventions at St. Bonaventure University in connection with the centenary. There will be two more. All connected with the working out of the details are to be congratulated on the smoothness and dispatch with which they were arranged and conducted.

The new church at Brant Beach was dedicated on Sunday, August 10. There are buildings in various stages of development and planning at Garfield (church and rectory); Rochelle Park (church); Fair Lawn (church); Wyckoff (rectory); Greenwood Lake (school); Bainbridge, Ga. (church); San Juan (school); Fujioka (new plant); Lawrenceville, Va. (hall); Anapolis (monastery); Goiana (church and rectory); Cristolandia and Porangtu (rectory and school); Catalao (church); Americus, Georgia (rectory).

At Siena a new dormitory and a new dining hall are under construction. At St. Bonaventure the classroom building has been started and the monastery is in the planning stage. The dormitory at Callicoon is nearing completion. Plans are just about finished for the new high school and faculty house in Olean.

Fr. Ralph Reilly is on temporary assignment with Monsignor Dillon on Formosa. Fr. John Lambert Rowan has returned to Beirut. Fr. Bonaventure Brown has arrived from Brazil to take over the Third Order assignment from Fr. Mathias Manly. Fr. Seraphim Priestly will come home to the States for a vacation this Fall. Fr. Zachary O'Friel will return from his European studies in time for the Fall semester. Fr. Augustine Lazanski keeps busy as spiritual director and as temporal adviser to the Brothers in Ceylon. Fr. Hilary Scott will return late in 1959. Fr. Cassian Corcoran will spend the coming year at the Franciscan Biblical School in Jerusalem. Fr. Demetrius O'Friel will return with his degree in early 1959. Fr. George Flanagan will intern in Clinical Psychology at St. Vincent's

Hospital in New York. Fr. Augustine McDevitt is back with a degree from St. Anthony's and will study one year at the Franciscan Institute.

A list of chaplains and their new addresses follows:

- Lt. Mark Breen, Office of Catholic Chaplain, 316th Air Division (DEF.)
APO 118, New York.
- Lt. Alban Carney, Office of Catholic Chaplain, 2750th Air Base Wing, AMC,
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.
- Capt. Barnabas Daniels, Office of Wing Chaplain, 3700th M. T. Wing (ATC)
Box 17, Lackland AFB, Texas.
- 1st Lt. Victor Dougherty, Office of Catholic Chaplain, George AFB, Vic-
torville, California.
- 1st Lt. Louis Foley, Office of Division Chaplain, Catholic Chaplain, 97th
Sign. Bn. (Spt.) APO 46, New York.
- Chaplain Hugh King, Office of Catholic Chaplain, Hq. Fort Greely APO 733,
Seattle, Washington.
- Lt. j/g Alan Lyman, Office of Catholic Chaplain, Quarters 15 Marine Corps
Recruit Depot 2, Parris Island, South Carolina.
- Lt. Eugene Malek, Office of Catholic Chaplain, 3550th Combat Crew Train-
ing Wing (I), Moody AFB, Valdosta, Georgia.
- 1st Lt. Jeremias Milner, Office of Catholic Chaplain, Hq. 4080th ABG (SAC)
Laughlin AFB, Del Rio, Texas.
- Lt. j/g Roger McQuarrie, Office of Catholic Chaplain, 12th Marines, 3rd
Marine Division, FMF, FPO San Francisco, California.
- 1st Lt. Donald Mooney, Office of Catholic Chaplain, Hqs. 5040th Air Base
Wing, APO 942, Seattle, Washington.
- Lt. j/g Emmet Mulligan, Office of Catholic Chaplain 2nd Marine Division
FMF, 2nd Bn. 6th Marines, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.
- 1st Lt. Flavian Tobin, Office of Catholic Chaplain, Hq. 25 Missile Bn.,
APO 227, New York, New York.
- Fathers Mario DiLella and Roch Coogan are waiting to be called into
Service.

After six years of editing and preparing these newsletters for printing, Fr. Damien Wenzel is leaving St. Anthony's Guild for work in the Cura Animarum. This will acknowledge my grateful appreciation for his help.

Sincerely and fraternally,

James Wheeler, of.m.

Minister Provincial