

Province of The Most Holy Name

Franciscan Fathers

135 WEST 31ST STREET
NEW YORK 1, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL

October, 1956

My dear Confreres:

This letter is being written in the Pickwick Hotel, San Francisco, on Sunday, October 7. I have just taken leave of a pilgrimage sponsored by the Franciscan Tours, and am departing from San Francisco to attend the Provincials' Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio. Fr. Francis Sullivan will take my place as Pilgrimage Chaplain. He and I accompanied 80 others on the pilgrimage which left New York on Saturday, September 29, crossing the country by bus. The pilgrims are now beginning to accomplish the purpose of their trip by visiting the Mission Dolores; their guide is Fr. Brendan Bradley. Tomorrow they will start south to visit the majority of the California Missions. On Friday, October 12, they will return to New York from Los Angeles by plane. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Fr. Salvator Phillips and his former assistant, Fr. Arthur Butler, who, within a few years time, have developed the Franciscan Tours into an organization which contributes about \$50,000 a year towards defraying the expenses of the Seminary at Callicoon. The Franciscan Tours conduct pilgrimages to Callicoon, Washington, Canada, the California Missions, and, next spring, will attempt the first pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico.

* * * *

The new downtown chapels at Providence and New Bedford apparently are satisfying the needs of the Catholics in those cities. Both shrines are busy. Fr. James Keenan will augment the staff at Providence in late October. He will be there mainly to hear priests' confessions. At New Bedford we are in the process of purchasing a three-story building, two floors of which will be remodeled to provide living quarters for the Friars who now live in a home about one mile from the chapel. When the building is completed there will be no necessity for the daily trips back and forth from the present temporary friary.

Those interested in the lay retreat movement will be happy to hear we have purchased a new plant for this purpose. It is called Sunset Lodge and is located on Lake Massapoag in Sharon, Mass. The new retreat house will supplant the former one at Brookline which has been inadequate for some time. Sunset Lodge boasts 18 acres of ground and two or three thousand feet of lake front. The lodge is of brick construction with 29 double rooms for retreatants. Each room has its own bath and toilet facilities. The property contains a few cottages but only one gives evidence of being serviceable. The purchase price for this property and building is \$185,000. By the time you receive this newsletter the first group, God willing, will have made a retreat at the Sharon house--the new St. Francis Retreat Lodge.

Fr. Bernard Tobin, Guardian at Paterson, has converted the monastery garden there into a place of pilgrimage. This gives Paterson its second project, the growing retreat movement there being the first.

The following priests have returned from service in the Armed Forces: Frs. Gervase McMillen and Marcian Doyle. The following priests are scheduled to return before the end of 1956: Frs. Gordian Ehrlacher, Justin Eeles, Patrick Adams and Urban Cain.

In 1957, the following are scheduled to return: Frs. Gabriel Naughten, Raymond Govern, Raymond Beane, Giles Webster, Brendan Bradley, Finbar Dowd, Lawrence Pafchik and Cormac Walsh.

We need about six or eight volunteers for military service. Those interested in volunteering must be at least three years ordained. Further, it must be understood by all the Fathers that the five-year enlistment is the maximum period permitted our Friars in Service.

The following addresses are now used by our Fathers in Service:

Capt. Denis Anderson, ChC.-- Office of Catholic Chaplain, Fort Hancock, N. J.

Lcdr. Raymond Beane, ChC.-- Headquarters Support Activity, Navy 3923, Box 9, FPO San Francisco, Calif.

Lt. Brendan J. Bradley, ChC.-- San Francisco Naval Shipyard, Code 814, San Francisco, Calif.

1st Lt. Mark Breen, ChC.-- USAF Ch. Tng. Schl. O. M. S., P. O. Box 1544, Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Tex.

Capt. Urban Cain, ChC.-- Hdqs. 10th Tac. Rec. Wg. APO 123, New York, N. Y.

Lt. Barnabas Daniels, ChC.-- Office of the Catholic Chaplain, 7425 A.B.G.R.U. APO 109, New York, N. Y.

Lt. Finbar Dowd, ChC.-- Office of Catholic Chaplain, U. S. Naval Base, Norfolk 11, Va.

Major Justin A. Eeles, ChC.-- Office of Catholic Chaplain, APO 124, New York, N. Y.

Cmdr. Gordian V. Ehrlacher, ChC.-- USS Shangri La (CVA-38) FPO San Francisco, Calif.

Lt. Louis A. Foley, ChC.-- Office of Division Chaplain, 5th Armored Division, Fort Chaffee, Ark.

Lt. Cmdr. Raymond F. Govern, ChC.-- Office of Catholic Chaplain, MAG-12 FMAW FMF FPO, San Francisco, Calif.

Lt. Roger McQuarrie, ChC.-- Chaplain's Office, MAG 32, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N. C.

Cmdr. Gabriel Naughten, ChC.-- Office of Senior Catholic Chaplain, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.

Lt. Lawrence Pafchik, ChC.-- Office of Catholic Chaplain, U. S. Naval Hospital, St. Albans, Long Island, N. Y.

Chaplain Flavian Tobin-- Office of Catholic Chaplain, Hqs 2nd Bn. 31st Regt. APO, San Francisco, Calif.

Capt. Cormac Walsh, ChC.--Office of Catholic Chaplain, Hq. A.S.A.T.C. 86
22 D U Chapel # 10, Camp Devens, Mass.

Lcdr. Giles Webster, ChC.--U. S. Marine Corps Supply Depot, Barstow, Calif.

Frs. Aloysius Reilly, Sebastian McKenna and Callistus Sweeney are presently studying in the Language School at St. Joseph's Friary, 28-4 Mikawadai Machi, Azabu, Minato Ku, Tokyo, Japan.

The five Fathers assigned for Brazil sailed October 1. They will be joined later on by Brother Alexius Harrington who will fly down the week end of October 20.

The eight Fathers assigned to the new mission in Bolivia will sail December 28 on board a Grace Liner out of New York. The three Brothers assigned to this mission will leave about March 1, 1957. At the present time the Bolivian missionaries are attending school here at Thirty-first St. We believe this is the first time in the Province a school of this nature has been organized. It offers courses in Spanish by Berlitz; Bolivian Church History and Franciscan History by Fr. Michael McCloskey; Missiology by Fr. Stephen Janto; and Homiletics and Pastoral Theology by Fr. Henry Sharp. The Fathers are engaged in their studies five mornings each week. A more detailed article concerning this matter will appear in the next issue of the "Annals."

The Departure Ceremony for the Bolivian proto-missionaries will be held at St. Anthony's Shrine, Arch Street, on the evening of November 4. Archbishop Cushing will preside and preach. Because Archbishop Cushing has done so much for the Order we feel we would like to start this new missionary venture with his blessing.

At the firm suggestion of the Sacred Congregation for Religious, a conference for major superiors is being organized in the United States. The conference eventually will have a permanent secretariat which will serve as a clearing house for information and advice. At the first organizational meeting of the conference 95 major superiors were present. Franciscan Provincials across the country will join this conference. The purpose of the conference is to tap the resources of each member to the advantage of all. The meetings will be held in conjunction with those of the mission secretariat in Washington each fall. The Franciscan Provincials will also hold their meetings in Washington at the same time.

Fr. Donald Hoag is presently in Japan giving the retreats and conducting Visitation. Fr. Salvator Fink will give the retreats in Brazil this winter and on his journeyings will take pictures in Brazil, Bolivia and Puerto Rico. Brother Anselm Donohue will remain in the United States for at least one year for reasons of health. He is now stationed in East Rutherford. Brother Alexius Harrington will replace him. Fr. Ronan Giehl will remain in the United States. He has already assumed the directorship of the cottage at Cape Cod.

The new school in Greenville and the new school and friary in Puerto Rico are nearing completion. I have informed Bishop Hyland of the new Diocese of Atlanta that the Friars would be happy to receive an invitation to conduct a downtown church in Atlanta which is described as one of America's fastest growing cities.

I have received permission from the General Definitorium to experiment with an on-the-job training program in lieu of the Fifth Year Theology. This experiment will be permitted for two years. The permission was conditioned on the approval of my Definitorium, which is still pending. An outline of the suggested courses is being prepared. The idea would be to put 20 of the class receiving faculties next May, at Arch Street. They would be responsible for a schedule that would normally take 12 men. On the first three mornings of the first four weeks of any month there would be a lecture and discussion on pastoral topics as follows: the first week, Canonical Pastoral Problems; the second week, Psychological Pastoral Problems; the third week, Homiletics Applied; the fourth week, Applied Spiritual Life.

"FRIAR" makes the following request: if you have any back issues of the magazine will you kindly send them to "FRIAR," 244 Rochelle Ave., Rochelle Park, N. J. There is constant demand for back issues.

A new dormitory building for the Seraphic Seminary at Callicoon is now in the planning stage. If all goes well, the building should be completed next year. It will house 236 students and also provide study hall and storage facilities.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Elmer E. Wheeler, ofm

Minister Provincial