

Province of The Most Holy Name
Franciscan Fathers

135 WEST 31ST STREET
NEW YORK CITY 1

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL

Let 4721
1000-53
2-11-53

February, 1953

My dear Confrere:

This is the story of beginnings in Denver. St. Elizabeth's was a secular parish until 1887, when Fr. Matz (later Coadjutor Bishop Matz) enters the picture. Seeking friars for St. Elizabeth's, Fr. Matz first wrote to Fr. Maurice Klostermann, Provincial of the St. Louis Province. When Fr. Maurice answered in the negative, Fr. Matz, who knew Fr. Albert Stroeble, Guardian at Paterson, requested friars from that city, headquarters of the Custody of St. Elizabeth. The result was that Fr. Francis Koch was sent to Denver in 1887 by the Commissary, Fr. Denis Schuler.

In 1901, when Holy Name Province was formed, the original decision in Rome was that Denver be given to the Cincinnati Province and that Holy Name take Chatham, Ontario. This latter was manned by friars of the Cincinnati Province and the Bishop concerned in Ontario was unwilling to relinquish them. So the shifts were not made, and Denver stayed with Holy Name.

The church in Denver, St. Elizabeth's, has had a varied history. The first structure, built by a Fr. Wagner, soon became too small. The new church, started by Fr. Francis Koch, was completed in 1898 and dedicated by Bishop Matz. The next year vandals broke into the Tabernacle, emptied ciboria on the floor, and spat upon the Blessed Sacrament. Re-dedicated that same year, the building was consecrated in 1902. It was the outstanding church in the city and was used for pontifical ceremonies by Bishop Matz.

It was here, in 1908, that Fr. Leo Heinrichs was shot while distributing Communion. Down through the years this church, scene of his martyrdom, has served God and men well. Unhappily, the parish is now declining. People are moving away, and industry is moving in.

The church itself, however, is in fine repair. It was redecorated in the pastorate of Fr. Angelus Tittle, and is a credit to Denver's Catholic community. There is a parochial school conducted by eight Stella Niagara Sisters and one lay teacher. There are about 320 children; half of them Mexicans. (The school is supported by Bingo!)

The monastery in Denver is fairly large and houses the Western Mission Band. It was completed in 1937 by Fr. Angelus, and was made possible by the generosity of Miss May Bonfil, who built it in memory of her father. This monastery serves as a gathering place for the clergy of the area. They come for a rest, for confession, for recreation -- and they like the real hospitality they find.

The Mission Band does the most important work being done by our Fathers in this part of the West at the present time. Seven of the Fathers are assigned to that work. During 1952 they gave 55 missions; 24 retreats; and filled 40 other preaching assignments. Missions have been given to groups ranging from eight people in a small town to congregations of large city parishes. Travel is sometimes difficult; it is mostly by bus or train. Fathers have traveled up to 1400 miles to give a mission; up to 900 miles to give a retreat.

The Third Order in Denver is a going concern, with a total membership of 692, of which 124 are men, 568 women. Up to 375 come out for the monthly meetings. They will commence this year to send \$500 a year to Callicoon for the education of a student to the Priesthood in the Order.

Buried in Denver are the following friars: Frater Hugoline Dombrosky (1914); Brothers Julian Buechel (1919), Mark Ritzel (1920), Didacus Herz (1934); Fathers Anthony Berghoff (1922), Pius Manz (1926), Solanus Dowling (1935), Severin Benkert (1936), Eusebius Schlingmann (1937), Athanasius Kunfeld (1940), Claude Kellerman (1947), Angelus Tintle (1951). May they rest in peace.

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The Fathers in Japan are: Louis Joyce, Ralph Reilly, Harold Finn, Robert Frawley, Solanus Gallagher and Stanislaus Blackowski. All but Fr. Louis are in school and, with the exception of Fr. Harold Finn, all will remain there until June, after which it is hoped that we will take over the Mission officially. Even at present they find time to combine some work of spiritual ministrations with their studies. Places which are now being supervised by the Fathers are: Maebashi, Takasaki, Tatebayashi, Hanyu and Kiryu. There are installations of the U. S. Army in the area, so the Fathers meet many Americans and give service to many with Mass and the Sacraments. I hope to get to Japan for the official opening of the Mission, and will write a more complete report at that time.

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Still in the combat zone in Korea are: Fathers Patrick Adams, Timothy Quinn and Cormac Walsh. Keep them in your prayers.

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Congratulations to Brother Albert Aldrich on the occasion of his Solemn Profession. Also to Father Hubert Woods on the occasion of his Ordination.

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The meeting at Singac on February 2 was interesting and fruitful, thanks to the initiative of the men in parish work and to the hospitality of Father Theophane Leary.

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Mr. Gerald Dissing of Omaha, president of the Sacred Heart Foundation, may contact you re the free distribution of literature. There is a tax angle here. Please have no part of this project.

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May I call your attention to the fact that Father Thomas Plassmann has a rescript allowing a stipend to be taken for a second Mass on Sundays and Holydays, provided the stipend is sent to the Seminary. He will be happy to receive such stipends.

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Assignment Changes from Chapter to January 31, 1953

<u>Father</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>
Louis A. Foley	Callicoon	Brazil
Bernard F. Sharpe	Arch Street	31st Street
James J. McKee	Brookline	St. Bonaventure
Flavian A. Tobin	Arch Street	Brazil
Conald Boland	Arch Street	Brazil
Conradin Rellinger	Mission Band	
Paul F. Feichter	Mission Band	
Theophilus McNulty	Lenoir, N. C.	Arch Street
Peter C. Sheridan	Thomasville	Lenoir
Rayner A. Dray	Thomasville	Americus
Brian A. Boyle	Fair Lawn	Arch Street
Alcuin Shields	Rye Beach	Oxford
Roderick Wheeler	St. Bonaventure	Academy
Xavier A. Cox	Clason Point	Siena
Wilfrid A. Hept	Croghan	Denver
Gerard R. McDonald	31st Street	Croghan
<u>Brother</u>		
Mark Forry	Callicoon	Croghan
Amadeus Schiffhauer	Croghan	Callicoon
Angelus Dobrowolski	82nd Street	Brookline
Christopher Cleary	Brookline	82nd Street
Mathias Will	Umbrian Farms	Listing in Brazil
Capistran Polldavid	Callicoon	Butler
Ive Gorman	Washington	Buffalo
Martin Dowling	Callicoon	Rye Beach
Ignatius Ferree	Buffalo	Callicoon
John Boseo Rubino	East Rutherford	Buffalo
Timothy McNamara	St. Bonaventure U.	E. Rutherford
Kieran Connelly	Callicoon	Buffalo
Stephen Blankemeyer	31st Street	Paterson
Paul Carnicelli	Buffalo	E. Rutherford
Victor Lynch	Buffalo	31st Street
Peter R. Butler	Callicoon	St. Bonaventure U.
Charles Gilmartin	31st Street	Callicoon
John Vianney Krieg	Christ the King	31st Street
Eugene Deutsch	St. Bonaventure U.	Rye Beach

CONGRESSUS DECISIONS

We will seek authorization from New York State to set up St. Francis College of the Holy Gospel as an extension of St. Bonaventure's University for the purpose of giving degrees to our clerics. If this can be done, then the Philosophy Clericcate will be established at Rye Beach and Simplicis will go to Butler.

Fr. Callistus Smith, Custos of the Province, was appointed Prefect of Studies.

Fr. Hubert Woods, recently ordained, was assigned to Paterson. He will work at the Guild.

Changes in Assignments:

Fr. Louis Hamm from Statesville, N. C., to Americus, Ga.

Fr. Raphael A. Ward from Wyckoff to Croghan.

Fr. Thomas A. McLaughlin from Clason Point to Statesville as Pastor.

Fr. Hugh A. King from Croghan to Fair Lawn.

Fr. Declan Bailey from the Provincial Office to Clason Point as Vicar.

Fr. Henry Vincent Lawler from the Provincial Office to 31st Street.

Fr. Joel Munzing from Fair Lawn to Wyckoff.

Fr. Matthew L. Gaskin from 31st Street to the Provincial Office.

The green light has been given to the following volunteers with the understanding that no one of them is released from full-time duty in his present assignment until this release is given in writing from the Provincial Office:

TO BRAZIL:

Fr. Bernard J. Trainor

Fr. Christopher Mayland

Fr. Ignatius Donoghue

TO JAPAN:

Fr. Cormac Dungan

Fr. Conrad Schomske

Fr. Lucian Mulhern

Fr. Anthony Moore

Fr. Ambrose Donehue

TO MILITARY SERVICE:

Fr. Dennis Anderson

Fr. Barnabas Daniels

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I wish to take this means and this occasion to express publicly my thanks to Fr. Declan Bailey and Fr. Henry Vincent Lawler for the long years of splendid service they have rendered to the Provincial Office.

With kind regards to all the Friars, and asking continued prayers for the Definitorium and myself for the successful administration of the Province, I remain

Sincerely and fraternally,

Richard E. Whelan, OFM

Minister Provincial