

## Province of The Most Holy Name

Franciscan Fathers

135 WEST 31ST STREET

NEW YORK CITY 1

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL

February, 1955

My dear Confrere:

The one snag in my whole South American trip occurred out of Rio on my return to New York via Jamaica and Puerto Rico. This delay meant that I was able to spend only 18 hours instead of the three days planned, in Jamaica. This was long enough, however, to hear of the fine work done by the Fathers working there during the past 15 months. The Bishop, too, is happy about this work started by Fr. Gerard Fitzsimmons in November, 1953. His Excellency would like to have, as soon as possible, one more Father to teach some subjects at the Sisters' Normal School and to help with the Third Order work. I would like this also. It would mean two full-time men to live at the Immaculate Conception High School. One would act as chaplain there and carry on the work outlined below for the school; the other would be chaplain at the Normal School, teach some classes there, and help with the present program. Fr. James Michael Linehan is now engaged in the three-fold program of the Jamaica work: with the Franciscan Religious on the Island (95 Sisters--49 Allegany and 46 native Blue Sisters); with the students at Immaculate Conception High School (a boarding school, grammar and high); and finally, the Third Order work.

## Franciscan Religious:

Mass is said each morning at the High School at Constant Spring. Sisters and pupils attend. Novice instructions are given every Monday for the Blue Sisters at Stella Maris. The Franciscan Chaplain gives two conferences each month to Sisters at Halfway Tree, Nuns' Pen, and Constant Spring. He hears confessions weekly in each of these places.

## Immaculate Conception High School:

Each Tuesday the Friar teaches six classes of catechism to the children and conducts the St. Anthony Devotions as well. On Wednesday, he makes visitation of the sick. Every Thursday he gives a spiritual conference to the Prep School students, and every month hears students' confessions. (The Boarding School children are heard weekly.) For non-Catholics, there are convert classes twice a week. Just before Christmas, eight young ladies who began their instructions under Fr. Mathias Manly were baptized by Fr. Alexander Wyse.

## Third Order work:

Each Monday the Youth Group of about 100 meet. At this meeting there is some assigned activity, e. g., first aid, choral work, sewing, dramatics, carpentry, sports, and so forth. These youngsters also make rosaries with the skill of experts. At present there are about 75 Novices. Tuesday, the Adult Group of about 150 members meet. An active group, the men do charitable work through the St. Vincent De Paul Society, and the women have been doing Nursery work since last August at Cockburn Pen, a home for poor and

abandoned children. Every second Thursday the Council and Promoters of these Fraternities meet. Sometimes there is a Tertiary dance on Friday night, and the first Sunday of each month the Tertiaries attend the regular monthly meeting. The Third Order work, as can be imagined, has won the admiration of the Bishop. It certainly is a tribute to the hard-working Friars who have been down in Jamaica and organized and developed it. It is a tribute, too, to Sr. Daniel of the Allegany Sisters, who for many years before our Fathers came, kept an active Fraternity going on the Island and laid the groundwork for their later labors.

These are the major interests of the Franciscan Chaplain in Jamaica, but not by any means his only ones. Naturally, he is in constant demand for speeches, conferences, special-occasion sermons, etc. If a man likes to keep busy, Jamaica is a good place to keep busy in.

I left Jamaica at 1:00 p.m. and arrived in San Juan, Puerto Rico, at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 21. Frs. Henry and Bernardine met me. We had dinner and talked for a couple of hours. We are assigned in Puerto Rico to a large parish of approximately 30,000 souls called Our Lady of the Angels. The parish includes a few good-sized housing projects. The area is so extensive that it will eventually be served by a mother church and three chapels. We have finally located 10 acres of elevated level land, near the geographical center of the parish, which we can develop as a central plant of monastery, convent, school and church. We now operate one chapel (Mother Cabrini) which sits on a half-acre of land. The Bishop has promised to deed this land and chapel to us. At one end of the parish are the very poor. This area will be served immediately upon securing land for the central house. While there is room for much expansion in Puerto Rico, land is prohibitively expensive. It costs \$6,000 per acre. The people whom we are now serving have been most receptive and co-operative and are responding enthusiastically to the work of Frs. Henry and Bernardine.

Mission Notes: The following address changes have been effected in Japan with the completion of the course at the language school in Tokyo:

Fr. Cormac Dungan, O.F.M.  
Catholic Church  
300 Nichome, Ota City  
Gumma-ken, Japan

Fr. Solanus Gallagher, O.F.M.  
Catholic Church  
1704 Sakanamachi, Tatebayashi  
Gumma-ken, Japan

Fr. Anthony Moore, O.F.M.  
Catholic Church  
22 Minami Kurawacho, Maebashi City  
Gumma-ken, Japan

Fr. Robert Frawley, O.F.M.  
Fr. Lucian Mulhern, O.F.M.  
Catholic Church  
1 Takamatsu cho, Takasaki City  
Gumma-ken, Japan

Fr. Stanislaus Blackowski, O.F.M.  
Fr. Ambrose Donehue, O.F.M.  
Catholic Church  
45 Saiwai cho, Isesaki City  
Gumma-ken, Japan

Fr. Harold Finn, O.F.M.  
Fr. Conrad Schomske, O.F.M.  
Catholic Church  
736 Imaizumi cho, Kiryu City  
Gumma-ken, Japan

Fr. Ralph Reilly, O.F.M.  
Catholic Church  
1734 Tatsumi cho, Shibukawa City  
Gumma-ken, Japan

Fr. Louis Joyce, O.F.M.  
Catholic Church  
1453 Rokuchome, Omama machi  
Gumma-ken, Japan

In the last General Conspectus of the Mission Personnel of the Order of Friars Minor (Acta Ordinis Fratrum Minorum, June, 1954) 2,059 Friars

were listed as Missionaries, or approximately one out of every 12 Friars. Of the 907 men in Holy Name Province, 58 are active on the Missions and nine are in Provincia ad tempus. This represents a total of 67 men, or about one in every 14 Friars in the Province. Our Missions are now being steadily supplied with men, and according to present plans will continue to be.

Voting in the next Chapter: You will do well to read thoroughly Articles 459 and 460 of the new General Constitutions. These two Articles are concerned with a Provincial Chapter such as we are having this year. The majority of the Fathers of the Province will have an opportunity to vote for six (6) delegates to this Chapter. These delegates, designated in the Constitutions as Deputed Fathers, have an active voice in the Chapter, as described in Article 459, p. 1. Those eligible to be chosen as Deputed Fathers are described in Article 460, p. 4, and those who may vote to elect them, in Article 460, p. 3. Article 459 and 460 should be studied thoroughly. YOU CAN WASTE YOUR VOTE by giving it to some Father who already has a vote, or by giving it to some Father who does not meet the requirements of Article 460, p. 4. YOU CAN VOID YOUR VOTE by putting more than six names on the ballot or by failing to sign the ballot. The last Father listed in the 1952 Catalogus who meets the requirements of both paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 460 is Fr. Arnold Brown, number 485 in the 1952 Catalogus. Those listed after him are not eligible.

As you know now, Very Rev. Victor Bucher, O. F. M., a Definitior of the Santa Barbara Province, has been appointed Visitor to Holy Name Province. He will begin Visitation in Pensacola about March 1; during March he will make Visitation in Brazil and then return to this country to conclude.

School News: Our school population continues to show a healthy increase. At the present time there are 1,127 undergraduate students at St. Bonaventure University. Of this number, the largest single group is the Freshman class of 313. The graduate school at Bona's numbers 175. Christ the King has 70 Philosophers and 165 Theologians: a total of 235 Seminary students. Siena registered a total of 1,285 undergraduates, with a Freshman class of 468; 150 graduate students now attend Siena. Timon High School numbers 760 students, and again, as at Bona's and Siena, the largest class is the Freshman, with 277 students. Incidentally, Timon has 22 alumni at Callicoon, three in the Novitiate, three in the Clericatus (Rye Beach), and one in the Brotherhood, four studying for the priesthood in other O. F. M. Provinces, four in other Religious Orders, and four studying for the Secular Clergy. The Seraphic Seminary at Callicoon now numbers 178 students, with 74 in the High School Department, 35 in the Postgraduate, and 69 in the College Department. Our Clericatus numbers 196, with 58 Philosophers at Rye Beach, 43 Theologians at Butler, and 95 Theologians at Washington. The Novitiate at Paterson now houses 23 Cleric and four Brother Novices.

To meet the needs of our expanding Clericatus, the new Novitiate will be in operation for the next Novitiate Class. The new building was constructed at a total cost of \$2,239,579. Of this amount, St. Anthony's Guild has already supplied \$1,489,579 and is now carrying the remaining debt of \$750,000. This certainly represents a substantial contribution to the work of the Province. Parishes in the Jersey area and other organizations in the Province also made valuable contributions to the new building. A 20-minute film (sound) depicting the ceremonies of Dedication of the new Novitiate may be obtained by writing Fr. Felician Foy, St. Anthony's Guild.

National Catholic Almanac: The 1955 edition, now on sale, features 16 pages of news pictures. The Almanac was released earlier this year than ever before. Circulation has increased steadily. In '54, it ran to 20,000,

and the editors hope to distribute 25,000 of the 1955 edition. This has 808 pages, and sells for \$2.50 paperbound and \$3.00 cloth.

Friar: Circulation is now at 16,000 and steadily rising. Promotion averages 300 subscriptions per Sunday or about 15-18% of the total Sunday Mass congregation. So far, appeals have been mainly limited to our own parishes, organizations, etc. Beginning in January, appeals were made in secular parishes, and anyone who can make a contact in a secular parish is asked to notify this office. Subscription renewals in December and January exceeded all expectations of the magazine-publishing service that forecasts for Friar. The Art Staff has been augmented by a Professor of Art from a famous New England University and the Art Director of a large New England Art Agency. Both men work in co-operation with Fr. Justin McCarthy.

New Feast of the Queenship of Mary: From Fr. Aurelian Scharf, in Rome, comes important information: In regard to the Queenship of Mary, the only thing definitely established is the date. So far, neither the Mass, nor the Office, nor the entry for the Martyrology has been printed. Fr. Tosan, head of the Liturgical Commission, states that on May 31, 1955, the Order will observe the feast of the Mediatrix of All Grace. The transfer of this feast and the insertion of the new feast will be made in 1956. As for the feast of St. Pius X, this will not be inserted into the breviary until we get around to publishing a new edition. That time has not yet been set.

Chaplains: Fr. Sebastian McKenna, after a two-year tour in the Far East, is now stationed at Dow Air Force Base, Bangor, Me. Fr. Barnabas Daniels is now stationed in Germany with a Fighter-Bomber Group. Fr. Finbar Dowd returned from the Far East and is now stationed at Norfolk, Va., with Fr. Patrick Adams. Frs. Gervase McMillen and Gabriel Naughten were made full Commanders, and Fr. Urban Cain was promoted to Captain. Fr. Patrick Adams will move from the Naval Hospital at Norfolk to sea duty with the USS Randolph, a carrier of the Essex class. Exact date of the transfer has not yet been set. Fr. Gordian Ehrlacher is returning to sea duty on the USS Shangri-La. The 1954 Annual Report of the Military Ordinariate shows that the Order of Friars Minor has 40 Commissioned Chaplains, more than any other Religious order in the country. Jesuits are next, with 38 and the Redemptorists have 30. Holy Name Province has supplied 18 of the above-mentioned 40 men.

Mid-year Congressus: Fr. Flavian Tobin was released for Military Service. It will probably take five to six months for him to finish processing and enter the Service. Two more Chaplains will be appointed this summer, raising the total to 20. It is our hope to maintain this number; hence, as each of the present Chaplains finishes his tour of duty, we will send a replacement. Frs. Alexander Wyse and Conall O'Leary will sail for Brazil in early March. Fr. Joseph Montalverne of the Portugese Province will come to Holy Name Province in the capacity of Theology Professor. Fr. Henry Madden was appointed Praeses of the house in Americus and Pastor of the attached parishes in place of Fr. Philip Kennedy, who has been ill. Fr. Bernard Sharpe is now stationed in Fair Lawn, N. J.

Sincerely and fraternally,

*Jesus Wheeler, O.F.M.*

Minister Provincial