

# Province of The Most Holy Name

## Franciscan Fathers

135 WEST 31ST STREET  
NEW YORK 1, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL

June 1960

My dear Confreres:

May I take this opportunity to congratulate Father Denis Robinson on the occasion of his golden jubilee of simple profession (Oct. 15th), and the following Fathers of the Province who are celebrating the silver jubilee of their ordination to the Holy Priesthood.

Reverend Pius Noonan	Reverend Roman Pfeiffer
Reverend Amadeus Burke	Reverend Jerome Gallagher
Reverend Wendelin Heath	Reverend Aurelius Loop
Reverend Paulinus Cody	Reverend Barnabas Abele
Reverend Cecil Goff	Reverend Juniper Carol
Reverend Colman Dunne	Reverend Aurelian Sweeney
Reverend Cosmas Girard	Reverend Bernard Tobin
Reverend Vianney McGrath	Reverend George Whitmire

I wish likewise to felicitate the following Brothers on the occasion of their silver jubilee of simple profession: Brothers Ernest Guerrero (Jan. 26th), Benedict Brown (Oct. 4th), Victor Lynch, Sylvester Gagnon and John Reeder (Nov. 23rd).

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

The Friars staffing our parish of Our Lady of the Angels and its chapels of ease (viz. Mother Cabrini, San Luis Rey and St. Jude) are busy expanding this project's physical facilities and the fields of labor for souls. Three parochial schools are now functioning and a boys' and girls' high school is being planned for 1961 or 1962. A parish auditorium and monastery capable of accommodating eighteen Friars will soon be completed.

The Friars, devoting much of their effort to catechetical instruction, are organizing their people into the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Many lay groups, especially the Legion of Mary, assist the Fathers in the work of instruction.

Father Conor Mullally has inaugurated a new device for promoting the devotion of the Stations of the Cross and interest amongst his people in their parish life. Father has constructed a frame containing pictures portraying the Stations. The frame is carried in public procession. Fourteen homes in the parish are selected as stopping places and at each home, the proper Station is drawn from the frame, and prayers recited. This device has proved most effective. It draws many people, and families vie with one another to have their homes selected as stopping places for the procession.

It is interesting to note that the parishioners most constant at Sunday Mass attendance are those whose poverty renders them unable to pay tuition at our Catholic schools. The Fathers performed 800 baptisms and witnessed 200 marriages last year.

This summer, five priests of the Province will begin studies at the Institute of Cultural Relations of the University of Puerto Rico in Ponce. Four, Fathers Marian Shuk, Damian Mann, Cyril Knapp and Russell Wilson will prepare for work in Bolivia. The fifth, Father William Fitzgerald, will prepare himself for serving the Spanish-speaking who come to St. Francis, New York City.

Fathers Marian and Damian will spend the summer and fall at the University and leave for Bolivia in early 1961. Fathers Cyril and Russell, after completing this summer session will return here until next year. In the summer of 1961 they will resume studies at Ponce and then in late 1961 leave for Bolivia.

#### KINGSTON, JAMAICA, B.W.I.

Construction continues on the new church at Kingston. A house and property are being purchased near the new church to serve as residence for the three Fathers assigned to Kingston. We plan to dedicate the new church and the San Juan Monastery next October.

#### NOTES

The new monastery at St. Bonaventure University, scheduled to be completed in August, 1961, will be able to accommodate ninety-two Friars. The new downtown shrine in New Bedford to be completed in January, 1961, will feature two chapels with a total capacity of 800 (450 upper, 350 lower) and with rooms for twenty Friars.

The Seraphic Seminary is preparing for an enrollment of some sixty boys in next year's freshman high school class. The increase in enrollment is due in no small measure to the efforts of Fathers Salvator Fink and Norbert Lehr, our Vocation Directors. The Seminary is preparing for next September's larger student body by revising its refectory arrangements and expanding its facilities for instruction. Father Finbar Dowd is presently in Callicoon to explore and advise about means of feeding the increased enrollment. In June new laboratories, classrooms, and offices will be constructed in the wing of the monastery building that runs parallel to the Church. Dormitory accommodations are adequate.

There has been much conjecture regarding the Syracuse High School project. Negotiations were already in progress when in 1959 the Ordinary, Most Reverend Walter A. Foery, wrote to advise us that it would be impossible to be ready with a high school before September 1963. After consultation with the Definitorium, I informed the Bishop we were not in a position to make a firm commitment for four years in the future and two years into a new Provincial Administration. We agreed to place the Syracuse project before the new Definitorium following the 1961 Chapter. Twice we have made known to the Ordinary our readiness to open a downtown chapel in Syracuse, but Diocesan authorities do not seem prepared at this time to accept this proposition.

The Men's Conference for Major Religious Superiors will meet early this year, i. e. June 27th-July 1st, at St. John's College, Collegeville, Minnesota. On the first three days of the gathering a Mental Health Workshop sponsored and financed by Cardinal Cushing and conducted by some of the nation's leading doctors in this field will examine the notions of maturity and immaturity.

A very interesting and encouraging event happened last Saturday. I went to Warwick to consult with the General Superior of the Warwick Sisters, who is over here from Rome, and they are interested in making arrangements to send seven Sisters to help in some social work in connection with our mission in Brazil at Pires do Rio. This is good news. Three American Franciscan Communities have undertaken their first mission within the last few years, and all three of them will be working with us. The first were the Williamsville Sisters, who are in Puerto Rico; second, the Peekskill Sisters who will go to Bolivia, and now finally the Warwick Sisters who will go to Brazil.

## BRIEFS

Dan Gallery of Navy fame works with Father Eugene Shea directing Little League baseball in San Juan. We will renovate the Newman Center at Georgia Tech to provide living quarters for another Friar who will join Father Giles Webster. One of the Fathers of the Province will be assigned to Atlanta, Georgia, to serve Spanish speaking Catholics.

Most Reverend Paul J. Hallinan, Bishop of Charleston, South Carolina, would like us to staff his new high school in Greenville. The school would accept pupils from Anderson, Greenville, and Spartansburg.

Six Fathers from St. Francis, New York, have been participating in counseling seminars during this past winter. Doctor Joyce, a New York psychiatrist, has conducted monthly sessions dealing with pastoral problems. We plan to expand this project next year by making these seminars more readily available to other Fathers. St. Bonaventure University, Siena College and St. Joseph's Seminary will have Middle States accrediting inspections in 1962. By Fall, 1961, we hope to have established an Institute of Latin-American Formation to serve United States priests and religious who will labor in Brazil. The Provincial celebration for this year's Silver Jubilee Class will be held at St. Bonaventure Monastery, Paterson, June 15th.

A new church is being planned for Americus, Georgia, and a new mission will soon be added to that parish. The new residences at Wyckoff and Narrowsburg are ready for occupancy. The Poor Clares from Bordentown will soon establish a monastery in Miami.

## Personnel

Father John L. Rowan, requested by the Bishop of Buffalo as Rector of the new diocesan seminary, has returned from Beirut. We are committed to supply a Vice-Rector, Disciplinarian and Procurator for the seminary which will open under the patronage of St. John Vianney, in the Fall of 1961.

Father Francis Muller will assist Bishop Smith in Beirut this summer. We have made no further plans for Beirut at this time. Fathers Flavian Tobin and Roger McQuarrie have been separated from the Armed Forces. As yet we have appointed no replacements for them. Father Eugene Honan has been placed in charge of education in the Prelacy of Coroico. Last January the Bolivian authorities turned over some forty rural schools to the Prelacy. Father Eugene is now administering and directing this chain of schools. Father Damian Blaher has returned recently from Bolivia. He assisted Bishop Manning in organizing the new Coroico Chancery. Father Dominic Devas of the English Province has earned the sincere praise of all members of the Province who have heard his retreat.

We need volunteers for the missions. Our present list of available volunteers is dwindling. We wish to advise the Clerics that with the inception of the policy of sending newly ordained men to Puerto Rico for two summers to prepare for Bolivia we will welcome volunteers from the Clericate.

Sincerely and fraternally,

*Jesus Whaley, O.F.M.*

Minister Provincial