

Province of The Most Holy Name

Franciscan Fathers

135 WEST 31ST STREET

NEW YORK CITY 1

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL

July, 1954

My dear Confrere:

This is a further attempt to channel to you information of interest to all and to keep you in touch with other houses and projects of the Province.

First, our sincerest thanks must be expressed to the Most Reverend Father General for his visit to Holy Name Province.

Congratulations to those Fathers who received the title of Lector Jubilatus during the past year; to all Jubilarians; to the Ordinati; to Fr. Mathias Faust on his return to 31st Street; to Fr. Aloysius Moran, the new Commissary of the Slav-Byzantine Commissariat; to Fr. Adrian Donachie on being chosen Guardian of the monastery at New Canaan; to Fr. Stephen Janto on having successfully completed his studies for a Ph.D.

I would like to take this occasion to welcome back to the Province the following Friars: Fr. Alexander Wyse, who will do a tour of duty in Jamaica, British West Indies, and then return to Brazil; Fr. Henry Sharp, who has returned from Mexico, has had his vacation, and is now conducting a chapel in part of the territory given to us in Puerto Rico; Fr. Bernardine Ward, who has returned from Mexico and will help at Beach Haven for the summer; Fr. Malachy Wall, who has returned from the Slav-Byzantine Commissariat, and will help at Arch Street for the summer and probably go on the Mission Band in the fall; and Fr. Augustine Lazanski, who has returned from Ceylon and will help at Asheville, N. C., for the summer.

Some assignments concerning which you may not yet have heard, are as follows: Fr. Lambert Zaleha is now pastor at St. Anthony's in Pensacola; Fr. Boniface McConville is stationed in Wanaque; Fr. Pancratius Halstrom will be in Callicoon for the summer; Frs. Raphael Ward and Hugoline Ruby are stationed in Paterson; Fr. Gordon Krahe is Pastor at Greenville, S. C.; Fr. David Fleming is Vicar at Arch Street; Fr. Nicholas Tinney will give the weekend retreats at Christ the King Seminary for the summer; Fr. Clarence Groff is Pastor at Clarksville, Va.; Fr. Neal O'Brien will be stationed with Fr. Gordon Krahe at Greenville; Fr. Ralph Cullen is stationed at Brookline; Brother Philip Egan is stationed with Fr. Theophilus McNulty in Columbia, S. C.

Thanks to Frs. Bonaventure McIntyre and Juniper Carol for preparing the Marian Year novena outlines and sermons.

Thanks to Fr. Maurice Scheier and his staff at St. Bonaventure for the great celebration given the Silver Jubilee class. Concerning the invi-

tations to this affair, my face is red. I promised Frs. Callistus and Donald I would take care of their invitations, then promptly forgot.

Mexican Visitation. Fr. Thomas Plassmann is making the Visitation of the three Mexican Provinces. He is accompanied by Fr. Francis Muller. At last report, Fr. Thomas had finished with two Provinces.

The General's Visit. The Most Reverend Augustine Sepinski, Minister General of the Order, arrived on the "Saturnia" on the afternoon of Thursday, March 18. The next day a formal reception was held at 31st Street, his temporary headquarters, and was followed by preprandium and dinner. Most of the Guardians, Praeses and Vicars were present. The chief purpose of Father General's visit was to attend the Marian Congress in California. However, he also visited the Order's clericates and novitiates throughout the country.

Friday afternoon, March 19, I drove Father General to Denville, N. J., to visit Fr. Mathias Faust, and then on to Butler, where we spent the night. On Saturday morning Father General was given a quick look at the parishes in the vicinity of Butler--then on to Umbria and the new novitiate. By night we had visited Paterson and returned to New York. That night (Saturday) we traveled to Washington by train. Sunday Father General spent at Mt. St. Sepulchre. At 8 p.m. that night he arrived at Holy Name College and was received officially by the community there. Monday was a busy day, with a visit to the Apostolic Delegate, dinner, a visit to the Academy of American Franciscan History, and finally the return to New York by train.

Tuesday, March 23, was another full day, during which Father General visited the Poor Clares in the Bronx, and the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary; had lunch with Cardinal Spellman; and finally visited St. Anthony's Guild, in Paterson. On Wednesday, after a visit to St. Clare's Hospital, we drove to Rye Beach, stopping en route at New Canaan, Conn. On the trip through Connecticut the State Police acted as escort. We arrived in Rye Beach at 5 p.m. On Thursday we drove to Arch Street, changed cars, and made brief visits to the Poor Clares at Jamaica Plain, two convents of Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, St. Elizabeth's Hospital, and Archbishop Cushing--all in two hours. The Archbishop extolled the work of the Friars at length; then came a dinner at Arch Street, and parting. Fr. Charles Tallarico took over, and Father General began his visit of the Italian Province. He later saw Siena, St. Patrick's, Timon High, St. Bonaventure University, and Christ the King Seminary.

The only real visits were at the novitiate and the clericates. On these visits the General sat down to talk with the Brothers, clerics, novices and priests (bull session fashion). He can understand and make himself understood in English.

Marian Congress. The Marian celebrations were spaced over a week, within an area of some five hundred miles. My trip out and back was made on the new DC-7, which combines real speed and comfort. Seeing the old missions for the first time was a truly thrilling part of the experience. The Friars at Santa Barbara did themselves proud with their arrangements and especially their hospitality. Fr. Timothy Quinn drove us up the Coast from Los Angeles to San Francisco, with stops at various missions and places of particular

significance. Of special interest at St. Boniface Church in San Francisco is St. Anthony's Dining Hall, where an average of 1,700 poor are fed each day, between the hours of 11 and 1. We were privileged to watch the Dining Hall in operation. Men and some women and children are fed, cafeteria style, a full, warm meal each day.

The Providence Project. On May 5 Father Paul Power represented the Province in taking over the Scattergood Building on the corner of Weybosset and Page Streets in Providence. This structure, three stories, basement and loft, is almost in the center of the business district, next to the Crown Hotel and one building removed from the Outlet, the largest department store in Providence. Forecast is for opening a downtown chapel this fall. It will probably be manned by eight or ten Fathers, whose living quarters may be the hotel next door. Brother Cajetan is readying plans.

The San Juan Project. During the last week in April, Bishop James Peter Davis of San Juan celebrated his Silver Jubilee. Fr. Henry Sharp and I were in attendance. Next day Fr. Henry moved in with a pastor and began arrangements to conduct a small chapel in the housing project within the territory we will take over. The chapel, dedicated to Mother Cabrini, seats about 300. While Fr. Henry is getting organized in this section, he is also furnishing a small rented house in which he and Father Bernardine Ward, soon to join him, will live. It is my hope that Fr. Bernardine will be able to organize and operate another section of the project. There is an acre of land on which a second chapel can be built. I visualize eventually serving a large area from a central house, by using chapels spotted about the area. We do not yet have property--ten acres are needed--on which to locate our central plant, which will bear the name of Our Lady of the Angels.

Southern Missions. We are trying an experiment in the Southern States, in the effort to get a Catholic high school education for children from parochial schools in our parishes. These children now graduate from parochial schools and go into public high schools; we lose them, and they lose a great deal. The attempted solution will be, to take two girls and two boys a year from each school and to help with partial scholarships to finance a Catholic high school education for them. It is hoped that after four or five years we will have a steady flow of boys and girls coming back to each of these parishes with a good Catholic high school education. The Fathers in the South find it is much easier to get a boy into a Catholic college or a girl into nursing or a Catholic college than to get them into a Catholic high school. So we hope this will help to solve the problem.

The New Constitutions. At the Provincials' meeting in Santa Barbara on May 4 it was decided that Fr. Callistus would do the basic translation of the new Constitutions. This first draft will be corrected. Then we will mimeograph this translation and distribute it among the English-speaking Provinces. Each American Province will have its canonists go over the translation, and when they are ready, one canonist from each Province will confer with Fr. Callistus in New York, to put the Constitutions in their final form. When this is done, we will probably have the Constitutions set up in book form and then send the corrected galley sheets to Rome for the approval of the General Definitorium. I would not care to forecast just how long the whole operation will take, but I can say that as I write this letter, on June 17, the first typing of the translation is completed.

Brazil. The Visitation was completed on Friday, June 4. In all, I was in Brazil from Tuesday, May 25, to Sunday, June 6. Transportation is such that one can get around quite speedily. Flying time, New York to Sao Paulo, is now about 20 hours; Sao Paulo to Anapolis, about 4 1/2 hours. Then there is transportation by air from Anapolis to Ceres, Catalao, and Pires do Rio. This adds up to very little jeep riding. I am glad to report real progress in Brazil in every phase of our work. All schools are bursting at the seams from overcrowding. The problem now is to consolidate our gains before moving further afield. The new Seraphic Seminary has 20 boys. There is one young man in the novitiate of Sao Paulo Province who will be professed in December for our Province. The Fathers are all well except Fr. Kenan Morris, who is now in the States. Others in the States are: Fr. John A. Jansen; Fr. Celsus F. Hayes; Brother Celsus Gansen; Brother Maurice Swarthout.

Japan. This is certainly a land of hustle. The Fathers are opening new places faster than I can memorize the names of the towns. Very interesting to me is the fact that land has been purchased on which to build a central house. This will be the next building project. It is hoped to make it an American monastery in Japan. At the present moment I have sufficient volunteers among the Brothers to staff it. Six of the Fathers there are in the field, five in language school. I understand the course has been stepped up to two years instead of one. This probably means that the Fathers in the language school will do even more weekend work next year.

St. Raphael Novitiate. It is expected that the new novitiate will be ready in September. The Apostolic Delegate will dedicate it on October 4, after which the novices will move in. This, of course, means that the new class of novices will report to Paterson.

Concerning the Chaplains. Fr. De Sales Nolan is awaiting separation and return to the Province. Fr. Gervase McMillen is still on the "Albany" doing short trips out of Norfolk. Fr. Gabriel Naughten is now at the U. S. Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Md. Fr. Marcian Doyle is in the transport service working out of Brooklyn. Fr. Raymond Beane is at Lejeune. Fr. Giles Webster is back in the States at Barstow, Calif. Fr. Urban Cain is now at Pope Air Force Base, Fort Bragg, N. C. That brings you up to date.

Cincinnati Province. The results of the recent election are: Very Rev. Vincent Kroeger, Minister Provincial; Fr. Sylvan Decker, Custos; Definitors: Frs. Andrew Fox, Adolph Kirst, Conradin Stark and Roger Huser.

Beatification Cause. Evidence is being sought that will further the Cause for Beatification of Fr. Domingo Alonso de Frutos, who lived at Holy Name College in Washington 1931-1933. Anyone possessing relevant information will kindly contact me.

Please continue to pray for the Definitorium and myself.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Celsus E. Whelan, of.m.

Minister Provincial