

Province of The Most Holy Name Franciscan Fathers

135 WEST 31ST STREET

NEW YORK CITY 1

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL

April, 1953

My dear Confreere:

It is my pleasure to begin this letter by informing you that I have a letter dated March 28, 1953, in which the Most Reverend Father General sends his Easter greetings and imparts his blessing to all members of the Province.

I have information to the effect that the Most Reverend Father General has accepted an invitation to attend the Marian Conference on the West Coast in May, 1954. This means that he will be in this country next year.

I wish to take this occasion to thank you all sincerely for your Easter and Feast Day greetings. Please know that my Mass on Easter was offered for all the members of Holy Name Province.

This is an attempt to give you a brief account of the missionary efforts of Father Sebastian Rabin. With two other Friars from the United States and one from Canada, Father Sebastian went to Bolivia in 1946 in answer to a call for volunteers by the late Father Valentine Schaaf, then General of the Order. The Vicariate of Chiquito was badly in need of priests because the Tyrolese Friars could not supply the men during and after the war. So, the call for volunteers was issued, and Sebastian went to Bolivia. The usual period of waiting and sweating out the language being completed, he was assigned to a small parish among the Guarays Indians. From his letters over a period of years we glean the information that he is in every way a complete pastor. He is all things to the Indians in this little village; for them he is the head man, doctor, friend, counsellor, protector. He is a genuine Father. The white man, here as everywhere, is quick to exploit the Indian. The missionary finds it necessary to protect, to defend and to advise his charges as well as to minister to their spiritual needs. The priest alone has the confidence of the Indians. Father Sebastian, from all reports, including the yearly statement of the Commissary Provincial of the Province in which he is working, is doing a bang-up job. He writes that it does get lonesome there. He could use the company of another Friar. He explains that another priest is not necessary in his Mission, but that work is available among the many Indians in outlying districts who have no contact with a priest. These Indians could be served from Father Sebastian's Mission. Is anyone interested?

A Committee for Education has been appointed. It is the duty of this Committee to discuss the problems arising at or concerning the schools,

and to recommend to the Definitorium a solution to these problems. It will be the further business of this Committee to discuss the allotment of professors and to make recommendations to the Definitorium. This Committee consists of Fathers Callistus Smith, Bertrand Campbell, Cassian Kirk, Gerald McMinn and Juvenal Lalor.

On April 7, Holy Name Province went all out to pay its debt of gratitude to Archbishop Cushing. On that day, I represented the Most Reverend Father General in a ceremony affiliating the Archbishop of Boston with the First Order. This was done with appropriate ceremony at John Hancock Hall in Boston. Affiliation is a fine means of practical gratitude. It makes the one affiliated a participant in all the good works of the First Order, and in the works of the nuns subject to the jurisdiction of the First Order.

Some months ago, Father Thomas contacted all eligible personnel and requested that they make application for the Lector Jubilatus. Five of these applications have been received and have been forwarded to Father General for consideration by himself and his Definitorium. We will be happy to process applications from any who qualify. The applications must list qualifications under the following headings: 1) the possession of an academic degree; 2) the completion of twenty years of teaching--not necessarily continuous; 3) books or articles published, or some other work or task of a scientific or educational nature.

We have been informed by Father Juvenal that the New York State Department of Education will allow the new clericatate at Rye Beach to be set up as an extension of St. Bonaventure University. This means that two years of Philosophy will be taught at Rye Beach. Preparations are now being made to ready the building for occupancy by about eighty clerics. Permission will be sought to make Rye Beach a Domus Formata.

It is beginning to look as if I am going to be forced to relax in my insistence on stationing the Simplicies at Butler. This will be a temporary deviation from my purpose. Because the required professors are lacking to staff a new house of Theology, it looks as if it will be necessary to have Fundamental Theology at Butler instead of one of the courses in the cycle. The decision has not yet been made. At this time, it seems that Croghan will be the home of the Tertiary Brothers.

Librarians are requested to co-operate with the attempt of Father Irenaeus to complete the file of Marian books.

There is being planned a six-weeks' course in Pastoral Psychiatry at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington. It will deal with the practical pastoral problems that occur when working with the mentally ill. Those interested in taking this course may contact the Provincial office.

The departure ceremony for the Fathers going to Japan and to Brazil will be on Sunday, June 28. The Fathers for Brazil will leave at the regular time, viz., in the early fall. Reservations have been made for the missionaries who will go to Japan. They are scheduled to sail on July 10 and will arrive in Japan in late August.

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Arrangements are under way for the Friars to establish a center at the University of South Carolina. We are co-operating with Bishop Russell in the procurement of a house which will be used as headquarters for the Provincial Delegate in the South, and as living quarters and operational headquarters for the Father who will conduct the Newman Club and Information Center at the University of South Carolina. Are you interested?

Bishop Davis, of San Juan, was in on Saturday, April 11. He will be very happy to have Friars in his diocese. It may be a project for 1954.

A cottage has been engaged for the summer at Point Lookout, Long Island. It is less than one hour and fifteen minutes from 31st Street. It will sleep six conveniently. There are two possibilities for celebrating Mass daily: the Sisters' place about a block and a half from our cottage; and a parish church (at which we have been told we will be very welcome) about three blocks away. The cottage is less than a block from the beach. Breakfast and lunch can be cooked there. As many as desire can be accommodated for a day at the beach. Groups or individuals, interested in taking some vacation at the cottage, should contact the Provincial office, as the setup will be co-ordinated from this office. Be sure to give dates, etc., when you apply.

This is to announce the beginning of a project which we hope will be an outlet for the great and varied talents possessed by the members of Holy Name Province. We will begin in January of 1954 to publish a magazine. It will be called "Friar." Father Rudolph Harvey will be its Editor; Father Philip Nielsen will be his assistant. They are now making preparations for this venture. The headquarters for the magazine after July 1 will be at our Sacred Heart Parish in Rochelle Park, N. J. More about it in the next newsletter.

Chaplains are now situated as follows: Gordian Ehrlacher -- the battleship "New Jersey"; De Sales Nolan -- Navy Hospital, Norfolk, Va.; Gervase McMillen -- the cruiser "Albany"; Gabriel Naughten -- Subic Bay, P. I.; Raymond Govern -- in combat on the "Philippine Sea"; Justin Eeles -- George Air Force Base in the California Desert; Marcian Doyle -- Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Tex.; Raymond Beane -- Atlantic Transport Service; Giles Webster -- Pacific Transport Service, Yokohama; Patrick Adams -- Norfolk, Va.; Brendan Bradley -- Naval Air Station, Kingsville, Tex.; Sebastian McKenna -- Griffis Air Force Base, Rome, N. Y.; Finbar Dowd -- Marines, Camp Lejeune, N. C.; Lawrence Pafchik -- Bremerton, Wash.; Timothy Quinn -- combat, Korea; Urban Cain -- an Air Force base in Japan; Cormac Walsh -- combat, Korea.

Recent assignments: Edgar Barrett -- on temporary duty as Chaplain at St. Francis Hospital, Miami Beach, Fla.; Malachy Kain -- as full-time Chaplain at St. Anthony's Hospital, St. Petersburg, Fla.; Albert Martin -- on temporary duty at St. Joseph's Villa, Catskill, N. Y.; and Fulgence Buonanno -- on temporary duty at St. Francis Hospital, Jersey City, N. J.

The following appointments will be full time and will go into effect at the end of the school year: Rudolph Harvey -- Editor of "Friar"; Philip Nielsen -- Assistant Editor of "Friar"; John Forest Faddish -- Secretary to the Very Reverend Mathias Faust, Delegate General.

His Eminence has been so kind as to honor my request to release Father Damian Blaher. He will start a teaching career.

Fathers Leonard Kelly and Aurelian Scharf will very probably transfer back to the Province from the Slav-Byzantine Commissariat. Donatus Doino will return to the Province. If our plans materialize, Aurelian Scharf will replace Donatus Doino in Rome.

We are now in the process of converting the third floor of the Loft Building at 31st Street into six rooms for the Provincial, the Custos and the four Definitors, respectively; and the second floor of the same building into an office. A private office for the Provincial will divide the large narrow room that now exists. Behind this office will be a good-sized Conference Room; in front of it, on the 31st Street side, a large open office.

We have received word from Bishop McEleney, S. J., of Kingston, Jamaica, that he will be very happy to have one of our Fathers there as Chaplain to the Franciscan Sisters and as Moderator of the Third Order.

When you receive this, the Visitation will be finished except for the three New York houses, the Jersey parishes, East Rutherford and Wilkes-Barre. The Congressus will open on the Feast of St. Bonaventure at Siena College.

It is my intention to leave Idlewild at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 29, to visit the Mission in Japan, and, if possible, Hong Kong and Korea as well. I will arrive in Tokyo on May 1, at 2:20 p.m. You lose a day on this trip when you cross the International Date Line. Flying time is approximately thirty-eight hours. The trip will be made via Northwest Airlines.

I take this occasion to thank you once more for the fine work you are doing, and to beg you to continue it in the same spirit. May I also ask that you pray, to the end that the Definitorium and myself may successfully administer the affairs of Holy Name Province.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Celsus Whelan, ofm

Minister Provincial