

Province of The Most Holy Name

Franciscan Fathers

135 WEST 31ST STREET
NEW YORK 1, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL

February, 1957

My dear Confreres:

Eastern Airlines flight 565 leaves Idlewild at 12:15 p.m. and is due to arrive at Greenville, S. C., at 5:44 p.m. As I write the first draft of this newsletter, I am en route to Greenville for the dedication of a new school, the auditorium of which will serve as a parish church. The trip brings back memories of a vacation I took in the thirties during which I went to Asheville to take pictures for a project being promoted by Fr. Ronald Scott. At that time the Fathers in Asheville were also doing some work in Greenville. The late Fr. Joseph Michael McGrath, then at Asheville, was appointed as pastor in Greenville in 1939.

In 1951 a school was begun in Greenville with the Sisters from Stella Niagara as the teachers. As the school registration grew, it became increasingly difficult to find classroom space. The Sisters have suffered many inconveniences. Now, with the new school and the work which has been done on their convent, we feel that they have the privacy, conveniences, and at least the modicum of comfort they so well deserve. The school has four classrooms and a kindergarten. What may eventually be an auditorium is presently being used as the parish church. Up to now, a room set aside in the basement of the house has been the parish church. This will be divided and become a friary chapel and conference room. I dedicated the building on Sunday, February 3.

Statesville. Another inconvenient situation has been remedied in Statesville, N. C. There each Saturday found some 30-50 children in various rooms of the rectory for catechism. Now with the purchase and renovation of a Lutheran church, there is a church adequate for parish needs and a basement with sufficient classroom space for the children. Two unusual Sunday projects at Statesville are in effect. Many of those who attend the 10 a.m. Mass travel up to 20 or 25 miles and bring their children. Marion Robertson, sister of Fr. Alexis, with the help of high school girls, conducts a sort of nursery and takes care of children while parents are at Mass. Project #2 is coffee and doughnuts for all after Mass.

The South. The Visitation of the South is finished. At Pensacola, Fr. Arthur has initiated a lunch program. He is also collecting information concerning the possibilities for a manual training setup. Thomasville is bustling with activity. A piece of property is being purchased for a new church in Bainbridge. Camilla has been added to the list of missions.

About the time you receive this, another priest will go there for six weeks because of need for an extra Mass for Catholics who are trying out for the Baltimore Orioles baseball club. Americus is planning a vocation school to be conducted by the Allegany Sisters from St. Ann's in Winston-Salem. The new chapel at Montezuma is about completed. At Winston-Salem Fr. Francis Gorman has arranged for some of the boys graduating from the parish school to attend St. Ann's Academy. In Asheville the church, auditorium and rectory have a new look. It has been decided to handle South Hill, Virginia, from Clarksville instead of from Emporia. The new parish at Triangle is being organized. Fr. Gervase is to rent a house in the area and within a few weeks will move to Triangle. The plant there will be a school, convent and rectory; the school auditorium will be used for Mass until a parish church can be financed and built. This parish will serve an area which includes the Quantico Marine Base.

Late in December I went to Miami to present documents of affiliation with the Order to Fr. Edward Hogan and his sisters, the Misses Ann and Hannah. The presentation was made on Sunday, December 30. On New Year's morning I left by plane for Kingston, Jamaica, to give the annual retreat to the Allegany Sisters there. The retreat finished, I went to San Juan for Visitation and then back to Kingston for a Day of Recollection to the Third Order there on Sunday, January 13. Then I left for Miami and home.

At San Juan the progress is speedy. This mission will continue to make progress as fast as we can supply the manpower. One of the best pieces of news for the year comes in connection with this mission. We have been promised four Williamsville Sisters for San Juan in the fall of 1958. The Sisters will manage the present school, and perhaps by then a second school in another area of our sprawling parish. The three Fathers in San Juan are hustling to keep up with the many facets of this complex situation. The new building, which includes an auditorium, church, five classrooms, and friary to house six Friars, was dedicated last fall. Brother Charles Gilmartin has been given permission to prepare to go to San Juan.

Fr. Salvator Fink has recently finished the two retreats in Brazil. He has begun the second part of his assigned project, namely, to take pictures in Brazil, Bolivia and Puerto Rico. Our objective is to have an adequate file of pictures of the missions for any possible future need.

Fr. Bertrand Campbell has completed the Visitation and Chapter in Australia. Fr. Sebastian Day is Provincial and Fr. Stephen Pearson is a definator. Both were patres deputati; both studied in the United States. Fr. Donald Hoag will make the Visitation and conduct the Congressus for the Slav-Byzantine Commissariat. Fr. Patrick Howard will do the same for the Poor Clares in Lowell. Fr. Francis Mueller is now conducting the Visitation of the Province of the Most Holy Gospel in Mexico and will later preside at its Chapter. Fr. Anselm Robinson, now chaplain at St. Francis Hospital (Warwick Sisters) in the Bronx, is learning a new phase of the apostolate. Frs. Henry Sharp and Nicholas Tinney will work as a team in an apostolate among the Spanish-speaking in Holy Cross Parish and St. Joseph's Hospital (Warwick Sisters) in the Bronx. Fr. Nicholas will not

leave the retreat band but will do this work with the Spanish-speaking during periods of inactivity in retreat work.

Fr. Justin McCarthy has been authorized to contract with Doubleday to do a book of cartoons. About half of the one hundred have been approved in the rough. He has also been authorized to contract with the Publishers Syndicate in Chicago to do a daily cartoon to be syndicated in newspapers, etc. The authorizations were given with the understanding that this would be considered an apostolate and that Fr. Justin would use it as such.

In Japan the Fathers studying in Tokyo now have a new home as the new Language School is completed and operating. In Kiryu the monastery continues to serve priests of all Orders for spiritual exercises. There are also Days of Recollection for the people. Fr. Robert Frawley, praeses at Kiryu (whom I would call an "idea man"), is making the grounds at Kiryu into a shrine. Among the other ideas is the outdoor Stations. Most of these were donated by Fr. Judge, a pastor at Huntington, L. I., who died recently. The contact with Fr. Judge had been made by Fr. Matthew Miller.

The Fathers have arrived in Bolivia and are becoming acclimated. The Superior is Fr. Sebastian Rabin. His Counselors are: Frs. Thomas Manning, Joachim Mahler and Boniface Hanley. Fr. Thomas Manning is praeses at St. Peter's in Coroico; Fr. Joachim is praeses at St. Mary Magdalene in Sorata; Fr. Boniface Hanley is praeses at Our Lady of the Angels in the Alto at La Paz. Frs. Donald Stellpflug and Pius Abrahams will be stationed at Our Lady of the Angels in the Alto in La Paz. Frs. Norman Moynihan and Venant Lalonde will be stationed at St. Mary Magdalene in Sorata. Frs. Gordon Schneider and Dermot McMahon will be stationed at St. Peter's in Coroico. Brothers Peter R. Butler, Hilary Lalor and Mark Forry leave for Bolivia on March 1. We are sweating it out waiting for information concerning freedom from customs on the materials sent to Bolivia. At one time it was all set, then some government officials had a change of heart. We are pinning our hopes on the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Mozzoni. More about this later.

Information concerning personnel in the Province and Brazil has been sent to your Superior and should be on the monastery bulletin board.

WE ARE NOW IN THE PLANNING STAGE FOR APPOINTMENT OF NEW MISSIONARIES TO BRAZIL, BOLIVIA, JAPAN AND PUERTO RICO FOR 1957, AND WE ARE FURTHER PLANNING OUR APPOINTMENTS TO THE BRITISH WEST INDIES FOR 1958. THE PRESENT LIST OF THOSE SEEKING THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING ALLOWED TO GO TO THE MISSIONS IS ABOUT DEPLETED. WE ARE EXPECTING THE LORD TO PUT THE DESIRE FOR THE MISSIONS IN OTHER HEARTS. KEEP YOUR HEART OPEN.

THERE IS A SIMILAR SITUATION IN THE APOSTOLATE TO THE AMERICAN BOYS IN THE SERVICE.

When the SS. "Saturnia" leaves for Naples on this May 2, she will carry the six Provincials en route to the General Chapter. She arrives

May 15, giving time for a visit to Bishop Eustace Smith and Fr. John Lambert Rowan and the Holy Places under their guidance. Those returning by boat, including myself, leave July 5 on the "Giulio Cesare" and will arrive in New York on July 15.

Visitation will be completed before I leave. The Congressus is planned for the third week in July.

Brazil. Some months ago the new Prelacy of Cristolandia was described geographically and was designated as a prelate to be cared for by the Franciscan Fathers of Holy Name Province. To date, no prelate has been appointed. It will be very interesting to see whether an American can be appointed in Brazil. You will note from the list of changes made in the Commissariat that two new friaries are to be erected: Cristolandia and Porangatu. From Cristolandia both Pium and Araguacema will be served. Most of the travel in the new area is by plane. This is the beginning of a project that will double our size and the sphere of our influence in Brazil.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Celsus E. Whelan, OFM

Minister Provincial