

# Province of The Most Holy Name Franciscan Fathers

135 WEST 31ST STREET  
NEW YORK 1, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL

May 12, 1959

My Dear Confreres:

The Most Rev. Fr. General arrived in New York today aboard the Cristoforo Colombo. He is to begin a three-week visit of the Provinces and Commissariates of the Holy Land in the United States and Canada. Immediately after debarkation Fr. General, accompanied by the Very Rev. Antonine DeGuglielmo, Definitor General, attended a reception in his honor at St. Francis' Monastery, New York. His crowded schedule will permit him to visit only two houses of our province, St. Raphael's Novitiate and Holy Name College.

Bishop Eustace Smith of Lebanon, and his secretary, Fr. John Lambert Rowan, are currently visiting the province. Bishop Smith has returned to the U. S. to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. While here, he plans to confirm in some parishes of the Buffalo Diocese.

On the ninth of May, nine days after Bishop Schuck had sailed for Brazil, Msgr. Thomas Manning, the newly appointed Bishop of the Prelacy of Coroico, Bolivia, arrived in New York to prepare for his Consecration. The dates and details of his Consecration will be announced as soon as they are settled.

The appointment of these two prelates brings into focus the amount, and the high caliber of the missionary activity of the province in Brazil, Bolivia, Japan, Puerto Rico and Jamaica. The original Brazilian foundation continues to expand with the establishment of two new parishes in Goiania, capital of the State of Goiaz, and Brazilia, the capital city of Brazil. Each of these gives promise of developing into a center of missionary activity comparable to our present center in Anapolis.

In the new Prelacy of Cristalandia the Allegany Sisters have opened schools in the parishes of Cristalandia and Porangatu.

In Bolivia, Fr. Gordon Schneider has been appointed Praeses of the Alto Friary, Fr. Norman Moynihan, Praeses of the Sorata Friary, and Fr. Donald Stellpflug, Procurator of the Mission. Fr. Donald will live at the recently purchased central house, our headquarters in La Paz. We have, in three years, fulfilled approximately two-thirds of our commitment to Bolivia. The work in Guanay, the latest project in Bolivia, is well under way. Apollo will be the next center to be established. Those Fathers who have visited Apollo feel that its magnificent natural setting will make it the Queen of the Mission. Located on a lush Andean plain about 4000 feet above sea level, it has an ideal climate. At present the mission is staffed by the Cistercian Fathers who are anxious to return to their cloister. When

the Friars assume the duties of the mission, the Cistercians will remain in the area, and form a spiritual powerhouse of prayer to back up the work. The Sisters who are now working in Apollo plan to remain.

Sisters are presently teaching in the newly established schools in Coroico and Alto. The parish in Sorata has the assistance of a group of Bolivian Sisters when the occasion demands, and hopes to have a community of Brothers to work in that mission in the near future.

On April 16, during my last visit to Bolivia, the New York Franciscans were the luncheon guests of the Bolivian Provincial at St. Francis' Monastery, La Paz. In the evening we renewed our Vows in the monastery's magnificent church. The new Papal Nuncio to Bolivia, and eight Bishops, six of whom are Friars, were present.

Fr. Venant Lalonde, with much co-operation from others, is promoting an airplane for use in the mission. His efforts in Guanay are spurred on by such facts as: The distance from Guanay to Mapiri, one of the main towns of the mission is thirty-five miles; by walking fifteen hours a day, the distance can be covered in three days; by boat, the first part of the trip takes five and one-half hours, and one and three-quarter hours to return. By air, the trip is fifteen minutes each way.

Our six Fathers in Puerto Rico are anxious to begin construction of their new monastery. The new residence, planned for a staff of twelve, and to include six guest rooms, will help to alleviate the limited physical facilities of the Puerto Rican mission. Despite this lack, the mission is constantly growing and expanding. Late this summer, two more Williamsville Sisters will join the four now working there.

With our primary aims in Japan now accomplished (i.e., the staffing of the parishes committed to our care), we plan to turn to the field of education. Four Fathers have completed three full years at the language school. These will provide the basic trained manpower necessary for secondary school work.

The almost incomprehensible ticket arrangements of International Airlines have made it less expensive for missionaries returning from Japan to come home on a round-the-world basis, rather than directly. The men returning this year, after their six-year tour of duty in Japan, will be able to visit the Holy Land, Rome and the Shrines of Europe.

The parishioners of our newest mission in Jamaica, B.W.I., are making their pledges towards the construction of a new church. Frs. Clement, Mathias, and LaSalle are busy organizing the parish and planning the future work there.

Items of interest: The St. Bonaventure University classroom building will be ready in September. Forness Stadium will be razed this summer--the first step in the construction of the new monastery. The actual construction should begin in the Spring of 1960.

The Siena Dormitory will be ready for the Fall term. The Students' Dining Hall should be finished in October.

We have purchased three buildings in New Bedford, which provide about seventy feet of street frontage, and ninety feet of depth. These build-

ings will be razed, and in the fiscal year of 1960-1961, we hope to start construction of a church and monastery.

A new policy is being adopted for the American House of Studies in Rome. The foundation will be inter-provincial. Father General will appoint the Superior, after consulting the American Provincials. Statutes will be provided, and expenses will be shared on a pro-rata basis by the six provinces (capital expenditures according to size of each province, running expenses according to the number of students from each province).

The Provincial Definitorium is considering the affiliation of benefactors of the province.

Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, has been affiliated to the Order of Friars Minor through the offices of the Province of the Immaculate Conception.

The Allegany Sisters will open their centenary celebration on May 23. Pontifical Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Eustace Smith.

Fr. Callistus Smith succeeds the late Very Rev. Thomas Plassmann as Rector of Christ the King Seminary. Fr. Edmund Christy, President of Siena College, was elected to the Provincial Definitorium, to succeed the late Fr. Wulstan Gleason. Fr. Celsus Hayes has been selected to succeed Bishop James Schuck as Provincial Delegate in Brazil. Fr. Athanasius McInerney has been appointed Director of the Franciscan Missionary Union. Fr. Lambert Valentine has been chosen to be Moderator of the Franciscan Family Circle. He will continue his other duties at St. Francis' Church in New York.

The English translation of the new Constitutions is now being distributed from the Provincial Office. The Provincial Ordinations are presently awaiting approval in Rome.

We wish to congratulate Brother Cajetan upon the recent honor accorded him by his fellow architects. At a recent meeting of the Officers of the American Institute of Architects and the Jury of Fellows in Washington, D. C., Brother Cajetan was elected to Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects, and to Membership in the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects, for his noteworthy achievement in the field of architectural design in this Country.

We wish to congratulate, too, our twenty-five neo-Ordinati. The 1960 Ordinations will take place during the Spring Ember days. There will be eighteen in next year's class. The class of '61 presently has nineteen men, the class of '62 has thirty-two men.

Sincerely and fraternally,

*Celsus Wheeler, O.F.M.*

Minister Provincial