

Office of the Catholic Chaplain  
26th Infantry Regiment  
APO 1, New York, N.Y.

30 August 1946

Dear Archbishop,

Along with my monthly report comes a few lines concerning my work. The Kinderheim is doing well, and can manage its affairs by itself, depending, of course, on the help from the States. My new interest is in the German Youth Program. After fifteen months, the Military Government has noticed that very many German Youths are unoccupied. We have destroyed their schools, their churches, their factories, and have taken over their recreation centers for our own recreation, we have banned all their societies. No wonder the youth is idle!

The Nürnberg-Fürth Enclave is becoming interested! A committee met and the usual results were attained. A good many pages of minutes were recorded by men who had no idea of the problem or its solution. I had offered my services to the Enclave Commander, and had occasion to read the recorded notes of the meeting, and submit my opinion. A Major was appointed to care for the German Youth Program. I found him to be a very cooperative man, a good Catholic, and ready to learn.

Our first step is to sell the Army and the Military Government on the idea of letting the Boy Scouts, Catholic and Protestant Youth Organizations resume operations, as the Nazis had dissolved them. Then we shall try to get back a few recreation centers for the owners of them. I have found that the Dioceses and parishes have realized the need and already have fine programs on paper, awaiting the approval of Military Government to begin. We are having some difficulty showing certain men that a European is not an American, and hence can not accept our recreation ideas, which they consider inane, which they are in many respects.

When the less cooperatives are convinced, the program will roll of its own weight, and we will have no concern over it but supervision and guidance, and the function of supply.

Thus far, we have not felt the dearth of Chaplains in Nürnberg, but within the next two months we shall. I do hope more of our young priests will come into the Army soon.

Filially yours in the Sacred Heart,

*John A. Zwack*