

Camp Fannin, Texas

22 Nov. 1943

Very Reverend D.V. Foley
Chancery Office
11th and Bluff Streets
Dubuque, Iowa

*Letters
Chaplain Let. File*

Very Reverend and dear Monsgr:-

Just a little information as to my whereabouts. No I didn't get lost but have been a long time on the road. When I arrived at Camp Swift orders were awaiting for me to move on to Camp Fannin W.P. Cp. So I stay a few hours to look over what might have been my field of labor.

Camp Fannin is a very new Camp. It has sprung up like a mushroom over a short period of seven months. The new Camp has over 35,000 soldiers here now and still growing. The prison Camp is small but will be enlarged as time goes on. There are a thousand prisoners here now. Then the orders came here first to move again to another prison camp. Finally after a week here I am assigned to a two fold duty; War Prison Ch. and Station Hospital Ch. This is a two thousand bed hospital. So here I am settled tonight settled in my office.

The work is very interesting. There are 11 chaplains here; three Catholic, 7 prot. and 1 Jewish chaplains. Too many protestant chs. and not enough catholic chs. was the cry and that is how I was retained here. The hospital was badly in need of a Chaplain. There are about two hundred Catholic boys here at the hospital now a number of them back from Africa. Very interesting to speak with them of their experiences.

The prison work is also very interesting. I had Mass for them last Sunday and also attended their memorial service for the own dead comrades later in the morning. "Todengedenkfeir" they call it. Well my german was a bit rusty after 7 years. But it comes back fast and I get along fine with them. They seem so respectful to the chaplain and the Catholic boys are so devoted. You can tell the Archbishop that Hitler has not taken religion away from the catholic soldier of Germany. In fact I think their faith is stronger. They are so devout at Mass. They recited the Mass with priest in such orderly and devotional manner that it touched me deeply. Then they sang a number of their German hymns. Lord I am not worthy, Ave Maria, and Grosser Gott at the end. I had about 200 and expect to have 250 by Sunday. They have much musical talent amongst them. One lad has had ten years study with the masters of Europe.