

Walnut Hall, St. Elizabeth's,
Washington, D.C. Aug. 5, 1943.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. D. V. Foley,
Dulques, Ia.

Dear Monsignor:

Have been postponing answering your letter for several days, in the hope that I would have some definite information about the time of my discharge. Had a short interview with the lead Navy doctor here to-day. He said the only thing left in the procedure of my case is the formality of appearing before the retirement board, but he couldn't be certain just when I'd be called. It seems we have to await our turn as the orders come up from the Bureau of Medicine + Surgery and there are thousands of new getting medical discharges these days. However, it normally takes about 90 days to get through the red tape and my survey was sent in from Portsmouth on May 31. So I really expect some action the latter part of this month. I told him the appointments in the diocese were usually made about Sept. 1 and he said he'd do everything possible to get me up at an early date.

The Navy orders us in here, but it seems that we have to satisfy the civilian doctors - who really run the place - before we can be dismissed. However, I don't think they'll try to keep me after my Navy discharge comes through. I get the impression they'll be glad to get rid of a priest at the first opportunity.

This Walnut Hall is one of the "Convalescent" wards, from which the discharges come. In fact, it's one of the two "open" wards in the whole place. Have been down here 2 weeks now and had the freedom of the grounds for a week before that. (Some 750 acres, so one can really ramble around.) There are only 7 of us on this ward now - all officers and all former professional men. At times we almost enjoy ourselves, kidding one another.

Have met Dr. Coyne, Dan's sister. (Can't remember her married name, but she still goes as Dr. Coyne.) She works over in the women's section, but I made inquiries through the Catholic Chaplain and she came over to see me. She helped to pull the wires to get me permission to say Mass again. Have said it every Sunday since. There is no opportunity for Mass here during the week.

Was glad to get the news of the diocese. I receive the Witness,