

Pacific

136 Regt. APO 33
c/o P M San Francisco Calif.

10 April 1945

Dear Monsgr. Foley:-

~~Again time for the monthly reports and a line with it.~~ Best wishes to the two Archbishops. As you no doubt have been reading about the feats of our outfit in the Chicago Papers. The old Illinois outfit is doing right well according to the clippings we have received. Besides being the best housekeepers on Luzon, we have discovered \$500,000.00 in gold hidden by the Japs and most of all have given the Japs more than they can take.

I have not met ^{any more} Dubuque priest but I hear Father Weber is ^{nearby} in ~~Manila~~ at the present time. ² May go down for a day when I get a chance to break away from the fox hole.

I have been getting back to our west camp to say Mass there for the boys. Had Holy Week Services at an old church near here which was badly bombed and shelled. Also had a High Mass on Easter Sunday which was greatly appreciated by the boys. The Mass was sung by the Philipino choir. Very nicely done. I was the first high Mass in a Church for many of the boys since they had been overseas. The priest has not returned who was the pastor of this parish. They don't know if he is dead or alive. I also had a Philipino wedding. They are great for ceremony surrounding the marriage. After they are married the couple is clothed in a beautiful cope like robe which covers the couple. This they say symbolizes that the two now are one body and indissoluble till death. Also had six baptisms Easter Sunday and again six on Sunday last. Was that ever a howling by the future citizens of the New Sister Nation, the Philippine Islands. It had been almost a year since the priest was here last.

One cannot but admire the simplicity and fervor of the Philipino people. ~~There~~ there is such a shortage of priests here. I read some weeks ago about the great number of people dying here with out the last Sacraments and with out the blessings of Christian burial. I believe the report stated that 80 percent die without the Sacraments or Christian burial and I am convinced now that this is correct. I have had a few funerals when I was near.

*Kindly
return*