

OFFICE OF THE POST CHAPLAIN

FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY

Nov. 4, 1948

Most Rev. Henry P. Rohlman, D.D.
Archbishop's Residence
1105 Locust St.
Dubuque, Iowa

Most Rev. and dear Archbishop;

After a month at Fort Knox, I am happily busy in my little parish. As I reported last month, I am not working with the young trainees, but with the resident families, the school overhead troops and the hospital. This is the assignment I have been praying for. It is so ideal for a priest who loves parish life. My "parish" includes all the families on the post, some eight hundred, of which about two hundred and fifty are Catholic.

For once, I can desist from preaching missions, as I term the preaching to trainees who are to be with me a scant two months. I have always felt they should get the big things right in their minds while with me for their first time in the Army or Air Force, their attendance at Holy Mass, the reception of Holy Communion, frequent confession, the reality of the supernatural, avoidance of the near occasions leading to sin, the building of a firm set of habits in their youth. Now, I have begun a series of sermons which will run for three years, being a complete course in the faith, commandments and worship of the Church.

We have the Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal which draws the best of the flock, and these get their course in the further steps in the spiritual life. Our Cana Conferences which are permeating the homes are very successful, and it gives me the chance to meet the families, bless their homes, and bring them nearer the Church. The afternoon of the Feast of Christ the King, we had the special blessing and consecration of the children to God. The Sunday afternoon before, everyone brought his car and we had the blessing of automobiles. These poor Army families don't know their Church and are so happy to learn its beauties. Our Saturday catechism classes have grown to over a hundred children, and we must get a fourth nun to augment the teaching staff.

But it is only the beginning. Next Sunday we initiate the Holy Name Society for the men. Then we shall have an acolyte society for the school-boys, and a teen-age program for the youth. The convert class is growing and already has five taking instructions. The women want an altar society, so I shall have them responsible for the appointments of the altar from now on. We shall have a boys choir, a teen-age glee club, and from my Cana contacts, build my senior choir. A recent convert of mine from Episcopalianism can direct a choir, and knows plain chant, and is a Colonel, so has the rank necessary to get the cooperation from his songsters. All seems to progress nicely with God's blessings, and I am happy.

God bless Your Excellency and your flock. Filially yours in Christ,

John A. Zwack