

[MAR-APR 1945]

GENERAL REMARKS

A P P E N D I X No. 1.

We are now in Luzon P.I. Most of the churches have been wrecked in some degree more or less. We had Holy Week Services this week. Capacity crowds of civilians and soldiers each day. Many soldiers have never attended a Holy Week Service and others did go back home. Needless to say the soldiers really appreciated it and being in a church. They contributed accordingly to the collection which they designated to be used for the repair of this church. Over 1100 Pesos were taken in Holy Week. How much on Easter Sunday I cannot tell yet.

The Veneration of the Cross was very inspiring. The people here creep on their knees all the way down the aisle of the church. The soldiers fell in line too. I do not think I ever had Holy Week Services carried out more solemnly at home than here. They had a choir of men Chanters and a mixed young folks choir to sing the common parts of the Mass. They sing very well. Although we noted the Spanish rhythm which is natural to them They have no priest here at present and we don't know where he is at present. Many are to be baptized. How shall we record them? I have recorded them in the parish book and left them with the Trustees and meanwhile I will send them to the Bishop of this Diocese when he returns and his Diocese is freed from the Japs. Have had a few funerals. Cannot take care of them all as I am at the front most of the time and once a week come to this area in the rest area camp. I would say that eighty percent of these people die without the Sacraments and with out funeral Services. We expect a High Mass on Easter Sunday.

I also care for the Philippine and Guerilla Soldiers attached to my regiment. It is suprising to me the numbers of excellent Catholics that are amongst them. The majority are Catholic. Especially the officers amongst them are a credit to the Church. Many of them of course are college graduates of the University of Santo Thoma. I have trouble supplying these soldiers with religious goods. It is wonderful to see them wear their rosaries around thier necks. It is a lesson to our own soldiers to see this as it teaches them that even as rough and fierce fighters as these Guerillas have been they are so intensely Catholic. I have given out to them over 1750 pieces of literature, besides rosaries, prayer books, and Testaments. They seem to hunger for these Catholic pamphlets. Even the Protestants amongst them wear the Rosary. I asked some of them "Why do you wear a Rosary?". They answer immediatly, "Why we believe in the Cross to, Fader." Every here to the Chaplain is "Yes Fader".

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