

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
Department of Public Information
James E. Murphy, Director

56/132

For immediate release:

Notre Dame, Ind., Dec. 4 -- General Alfred M. Gruenther, awarded the University of Notre Dame's Laetare Medal here tonight (Tuesday), predicted that the defense of western Europe will be guaranteed when the armed forces of western Germany become effective and augment the military might of the fifteen NATO nations.

The former Supreme Allied Commander in Europe conceded that the NATO forces today "are not yet strong enough to defend western Europe against an all-out attack." He emphasized, however, that we have "the overwhelming capacity to retaliate against Communist aggression with long-range air power."

Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., Notre Dame president, conferred upon Gruenther the Laetare Medal which has been awarded annually since 1883 to an outstanding American Catholic layman. The university cited Gruenther, soon to become president of The American Red Cross, as one who has distinguished himself "as a soldier-diplomat in a period of American history which was particularly difficult and delicate."

President Eisenhower, in a message read at the campus convocation by presidential assistant Kevin McCann, saluted Gruenther's "long devotion of brilliant talents and penetrating wisdom to the security and welfare of the republic and the free world." Mr. Eisenhower described his long-time friend who served under him as NATO chief of staff as "an American of stout religious faith and loyalty."

In another message, Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, hailed Gruenther as "a patriotic American and an exemplary Catholic."

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General Gruenther -- 2

General J. Lawton Collins, former Army chief of staff, who received the Laetare Medal in 1950, shared the platform with military dignitaries and university officials. Nearly 3,000 persons, about half of them members of Notre Dame's Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC units, attended the exercises in the University Drill Hall on the campus. The Laetare Medal presentation was televised for the first time by WNDU-TV, the university's station.

Using a 12-foot European map to illustrate his remarks, General Gruenther contended that the alliance system is the best way to defend ourselves and the western world against aggression. The mantle of leadership has fallen upon American shoulders, Gruenther asserted. "We are going to have to lead the world through a very difficult period," he said.

Gruenther described recent differences and stresses among the western allies as "superficial" and asserted that anti-American sentiment in Europe "is not great." Alluding to American world leadership, Gruenther expressed the hope that the United States would be "easy to change when we are wrong and easy to live with when we are right."

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Dist. 3

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Appointments, elections

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
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56/133

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Highland Park, Ill., Dec. 3 --- James E. Armstrong, executive secretary of the Notre Dame Alumni Association, today was elected district chairman of the American Alumni Council for a two-year term beginning in 1958. The veteran Notre Dame official was also appointed director of the AAC's 1958 national convention to be held at Lake Placid, N.Y.

As district chairman, Armstrong will head alumni officers of 150 colleges and universities, both state and private, in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Ohio. Included in the organization are alumni secretaries, directors of alumni and development funds, and editors of alumni publications.

Armstrong has been Notre Dame's alumni secretary since 1925. He has also served as assistant director of the Notre Dame Foundation since it was established in 1947.

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Dist. 3

Mailed 12/7/56

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56/134

For immediate release:

Notre Dame, Ind., Dec. -- An 85-year-old priest, who persuaded Knute Rockne to remain at Notre Dame as a chemistry instructor following his graduation, will observe the 60th anniversary of his ordination with a Solemn High Mass in Sacred Heart Church on the campus December 16th (Sunday, 9a.m.).

Rev. Joseph A. Maguire, C.S.C., will celebrate his jubilee Mass at the same altar where he was ordained to the priesthood on December 21, 1896. The observance has been scheduled five days early so that Notre Dame students, who otherwise would be on Christmas vacation, may attend the rites.

Father Maguire, who arrived at Notre Dame as a seminarian seventy years ago, is one of a very few persons who remember the university's founder, Rev. Edward F. Sorin, C.S.C.. The venerable priest, who still is remarkably active as a counselor and confessor at Moreau Seminary on the campus, recalls that Notre Dame's famed golden dome was first gilded the year he arrived at the university.

For more than twenty years after his ordination, from 1897 to 1920, Father Maguire was head of Notre Dame's chemistry department. Rockne, whom he remembers as "a very fine teacher," was not the only student of his who achieved national prominence. The late Rev. Julius Nieuwland, C.S.C., whose research led to the development of synthetic rubber, also was a student and later a colleague of Father Maguire.

From 1950 to 1953, at four score years of age, Father Maguire returned to the Notre Dame faculty, this time teaching religion, after serving in several responsible posts of the Congregation of Holy Cross for thirty years.
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Father Maguire..2

For approximately fifteen years Father Maguire was associated with St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas, serving as its president from 1934 to 1937. He was pastor of St. Patrick's Church, South Bend, from 1931 to 1934 and from 1937 to 1940. During the following ten years he was religious superior of the Community House, then a residence of Holy Cross priests and brothers on the Notre Dame campus.

Father Maguire enjoys remarkably good health and is more active than most men twenty years younger. He can be seen at most concerts, plays and lectures in Washington Hall on the campus. Until a few years ago he used to ice skate and hunt ducks, pheasant and deer.

As counselor at Moreau Seminary, Father Maguire gives future Holy Cross priests, many of them destined to teach at Notre Dame, a special insight into the history and development of the Congregation of Holy Cross and the university. His stories of Notre Dame's early years bring to life men whose names loom large in Notre Dame's annals.

Born in Blythe, England, of Irish parentage on Oct. 28, 1871, Father Maguire is the last living member of his immediate family. He has relatives in England and Australia and several cousins in the United States.

Assisting Father Maguire at his 60th anniversary Mass will be Rev. Eugene Burke, C.S.C., deacon; Rev. Cornelius Hagerty, C.S.C., sub-deacon; Rev. Paul Rankin, C.S.C., superior of Moreau Seminary where Father Maguire resides, assistant priest; and Rev. Laurence LaVasseur, C.S.C., master of ceremonies. The sermon at the jubilee Mass will be preached by Father Maguire's long-time friend, Rev. Matthew Schumacher, C.S.C., chaplain at nearby St. Mary's College.

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56/135

For release in AM's, Sunday, December 9th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Dec. 8 -- The Catholic college graduate, in the opinion of many priests, is not carrying his weight in the lay apostolate with the result that the important work is still being done "by the relatively un-educated or poorly educated Catholic lay person," Rev. Joseph Fichter, S.J., visiting professor of sociology at the University of Notre Dame, declared here today (Saturday).

"Four years in college, even in a Catholic college, does not automatically make us experts in the lay apostolate," Father Fichter asserted. He noted that "some people with relatively little formal schooling are making a tremendous contribution, while others with the highest academic degrees obtainable are doing practically nothing."

Father Fichter, an authority on parish sociology, and Donald Thorman, managing editor of THE AVE MARIA, were the principal speakers at the fourth annual Advent Symposium here. More than 200 college students from throughout the country attended the sessions which were sponsored by the National Catholic Action Commission whose headquarters are at Notre Dame.

Thorman told the collegians of the role of the Catholic press in nurturing, sustaining and building up the lay apostolate. "Through its books, pamphlets, magazines and diocesan papers, the Catholic press is helping to motivate, educate and form the minds of its 20-million plus subscribers," he said. Describing the Catholic press as "the voice of the lay apostolate in modern America," Thorman said that young people cannot help but become better lay apostles if they read "selectively and regularly" as much of its continuing output as possible.

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While stressing the importance of Catholic lay leadership, Father Fichter noted "the odd position" of the layman in the structure of the Church. "There is a ceiling, and a very low ceiling," he said, "to which the lay person can climb. All of the important functions and roles in the Church are performed by professional, full-time clergy."

Father Fichter, who is head of the department of sociology at Loyola University of the South, observed, however, that the status of the Catholic laity is changing "rapidly and upwardly" as compared to that of the priest. Whereas priests have tended to maintain approximately the same status which they had a generation or two ago, laymen with specialized professional training often have more prestige than the parish priest, the Jesuit sociologist said.

"It may be said that some lay people are too learned and too educated not only for the other parishoners, but also for the priests of the parish," Father Fichter contended. "Pastors are often taken aback," he said, "by the advanced and so-called liberal attitudes exhibited by an educated person." Pointing out that the level of education is rising very rapidly among lay Catholics, Father Fichter said that the Catholic college graduate "is no longer the exception he once was. Some of the newer parishes," he said, "are made up of almost entirely of college people; and their number is increasing all the time."

"The best contribution the college man can make is not necessarily to be out in front as a known and approved leader" in parish affairs, Father Fichter said. It is rather through contacts, through committee work and through personal relations that he is able to put over his ideas and reform any organization from within, he said.

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News Releases for December, 1956

<u>NO.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
56/132	Dec. 5	Gen. Gruenther awarded Laetare Medal (12/4)
56/133	Dec. 7	J. Armstrong elected dist. chairman of American Alumni Council.
56/134	Dec. 7	Rev. Maguire celebrates 60th anniv. of his ordination.
56/135	Dec. 7	Fr. Fichter says Catholic College grad. not carrying his weight in lay apostolate.

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