

(Ill) Sister of Father Connerton, CSC (very serious); sister of Father Powers, CSC; Father of Strat Easter (Dil).	University of Notre Dame Religious Bulletin June 15, 1945	(Deceased) brother of Pat Nolan (Sor), 2nd Anniv. 2 Thanksgivings; 2 Spec.Int. SUNDAY IS FATHER'S DAY.
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Bravery.

O'Callahan -- the name must be familiar to you these days. He was the Catholic chaplain on the carrier ship U.S.S. Franklin that survived two direct bomb hits, raging fire from her own gasoline and repeated explosions of her own bombs and ammunition, off the coast of Japan last March.

Of Lt. Com. Joseph O'Callahan, S.J. former teacher at Holy Cross College, a newspaper correspondent wrote: "The ship's padre fought fires, entered a blazing magazine in search of men, and helped heave hot bombs overboard. Somehow he found time along with all this to administer last rites to dying men and comfort the wounded."

Of him, his skipper said: "I saw him in front of a huge billow of smoke, holding a fire-hose and encouraging others to go in with him while he extinguished flames... I even saw him go into an ammunition magazine where there was a fire . . . with another Irishman, Lt. Com. Kirkpatrick, he got a hose and stood there and went down the ammunition locker, which might have blown up any moment, killing the both of them. . . The next day there was another fire and he went in and fought it himself. He is the most fearless man I've ever seen."

What Makes Heroes?

(By Father O'Callahan, S.J. "America" June 9)

"People say what I did was brave. I claim that that definition of bravery is based on an inordinate love of life; I claim that it is much smarter to take God at His word that life hereafter IS life. That's why I say -- and I speak sincerely and humbly -- we'd better re-define bravery.

"I know I'm right about this, because I can speak not merely from my own personal reactions but from many examples that day of others reacting the same way. There was the youngster who saw the white Chaplain's Cross on my helmet and rushed over to me; he went down on one knee and, in a not-too-steady voice, asked me for Absolution. He said his Act of Contrition, I gave him Absolution, and then, because there was work to be done, I told him to go off and man one of the fire-fighting hoses where the danger seemed greatest. His response came with utter spontaneity: 'Sure, Father, I'll go anywhere now.'"

"There is another example, too, illustrating the same reaction. Somewhere in the mid-afternoon, when we had pushed the fires back considerably, but were still in a critical state, when a few minutes' delay meant hours of loss, and while we were still being strafed by another Jap plane, a young Filipino steward flopped down beside me on the deck. He had been gradually conquering his natural fear and lending a hand in the fire-fighting, but this strafing was the last straw, and he was on the verge of giving up. I've never seen or expect to see, a person more completely frightened. In those few seconds, with the bullets splattering around us, I said the Act of Contrition with him -- and I mean fervently -- and gave him Absolution. The plane had zoomed away, and we were still alive. He was still flabby with fear, but he had got Absolution. Knowing that he could not delay, I spoke rather sharply and ordered him back to the hoses. He went back. The fact that he went back, though so ridden with fear, makes it clear to my mind that simply the fact that he was spiritually ready to die is the one thing that made him brave. In fact, it made him so brave that he led fifty others into the most dangerous fire-fighting. This boy is my example of real bravery. He was physically and psychologically un-nerved, but he worked and led because of a spiritual motive." GO HOME IN THE STATE OF GRACE. THEN YOU WILL BE BRAVE, UNAFRAID, AND TRULY DETERMINED TO FACE POSSIBLE DEATH AND TEMPTATION.

To the graduates, transferees, vacationists, God's blessing on your future.
To the returnees, a pleasant two weeks!