

If drafted, see Chaplain
before leaving. (Many
make a General Confession)

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
April 6, 1945

Killed in action:
Relative of
Joe Martellaro (Cav)

Shepherds Of Their Flocks.

There is no "Father" in front of his name, just "Ensign". But he is doing a priestly work. He is a Notre Dame man. A paragraph from a recent letter shows the type of leader he is.

"We don't have a chaplain aboard, hence I conduct Sunday services. At first they wanted combined services, but I wouldn't stand for it. They still tried to have it, but no soap. There are about 40 Catholics, aboard and we have from 15 to 35 almost every Sunday except when in port, then we go ashore. I lead all the prayers and have the Executive Officer lead the singing. Each Sunday I have a different enlisted man read the Epistle and Gospel. During Lent we say the Stations. Our singing has boiled down to "Holy God," but we go all out on it. Before our last invasion (Iwo Jima), I took a party of 32 men to confession, Mass and Communion -- those men had to miss out on a beach party to get there. In fact, Sunday is "Holiday Routine" and the fellows miss liberty in order to get to services."

Tom Flatley is out on the Pacific too. We don't know what school he's from, nor his hometown. He call himself "deputy chaplain." The description he wrote about his services has been receiving some national publicity. (If you are a serviceman, or expect to be one, keep Tom's paragraph and the one above, tucked away for future reference. You may have the opportunity to be Father Chaplain some day, and then you will know how to proceed. Where there is no chaplain, take the lead and arrange a service for Catholics on Sunday and before battle. Always be ready. Letters received from N.D. men mention the fact that Executive Officers repeatedly call on them to take over the Chaplain's duties.

"In the role of a deputy chaplain I am a pretty poor substitute, but with these men there is no difficulty. We always start off with a hymn. Then our morning prayers from Monsignor Sheen's book. Then we follow the Mass for the day. In the missal we all read the prayers of the Ordinary of the Mass and when the time comes for the Proper parts, I read them in a larger missal. I read the Gospel, then go into the sermon part. Well, I'm not much of a preacher, so I don't try. First we have our announcements about the rosary every night at 9 p.m. in the fantail; remind them about the religious pamphlets, give out rosaries, etc., then we have a general discussion on anything the men have in mind. Then to keep an interest and to act as sort of review I usually ask a couple of questions on things like the Commandments, precepts of the Church, etc. (making sure that I always look up the answers the night before.) I mean to tell you that these men have plenty on the ball and forget little. Then we dispense with the collection, and instead sing another hymn. During the Mass we sing about four hymns and end up with 'Holy God We praise Thy Name.' I do not believe there could be more fervor put forth if we were in church."

Maybe Christ is calling you to be a Father (with a capital F). There are not enough priests for our parishes, universities and missions in this country. If the thought of working with souls has been growing in your mind, nourish it and pray over it. Above all, talk over the matter with a priest. Sit down for a chat with any priest on the campus. Have a chat with one of the Prefects of Religion. Or Drop over to see Father John Wilson, C.S.C., Vocational Director at Holy Cross Seminary on St. Mary's lake.

PRAYERS: (deceased) Father of Bill Schaefer, ex.'47; Rev. Terence Kelly (Detroit) (Ill) mother of Bill McDonald (St. Eds); Prof. James Withey, operation.