

From Notre Dame to Africa

"In 1935 I graduated from Notre Dame at the end of the same year I returned to Ireland and thence to Rome for Theological studies. In 1940 I was ordained and in 1944 sent to the mission field in Africa. Here I have worn shoe leather ever since.

"Our Prefecture here is a new one, about 15,000 square miles in extent and undeveloped from a missionary point of view. Missionaries did come here as far back as fifty years ago, but because of the extreme opposition of witch-doctors, they had to shake the dust off their feet and pass on to more promising climes. Indeed, according to missionary annals, the territory here was completely in the grip of Satan, witch-doctors abounded and customs of the worst kind prevailed.

"During the past six months a strange change has taken place, one for which we may well thank God. There has been a sudden awakening of interest among the native population in our bush schools.

"We can now count catechumens by the hundreds where a year ago or even six months ago, we had not even a dozen. This is most consoling and makes us sing a Te Deum.

"But this increase in the number of converts brings its problems. We must build not only schools, but also churches and eventually hospitals. At present we seem to be meeting a tidal wave and we are hopelessly equipped to meet the situation. It is in a time like this that one realizes how false it is to believe that only the missionary in the trenches is the real missionary.

"In a modern war it is reckoned that for every man in the front line there must be at least ten in the home front. In the struggle against Satan the same truth holds, only more so. Our efforts, here without those of our good people at home, are like trying to be good with the grace of God.

"What I would request of you, Father, is that you find a way to place my plea before the good students." Father Walter J. Dick, O.C.S.O.

A portion of the Christmas collection for the poor will be sent to Father Dick. You were most generous in that collection. Many worthy causes have been helped already.

PRAYERS: (deceased) niece of Prof. Robert E. Sullivan (Law Dept); mother of Art Haley (public relations); Mr. Mancel, friend of Robert Weber (Dil); John Dawley, '48; father of Father John Curran, Mex '44; Andrew Marko, uncle of Gene Charlie, (Morr)l; grandmother of E. Burke (Morr.)

(Ill) grandfather of Ted Lachner (Dil); Mr. Thomas Walsh (Laetare Medalist) anointed; father of Robert Monacelli (Dil) Eight Special Intentions. One Thanksgiving.

ADORATION ON FIRST FRIDAY  
(8:00 to 5:00)  
PLAN TO MAKE A HALF HOUR