

D
C. C. G. O.



United States Lines

On Board S.S. Pres. Roosevelt.

Sunday night, 4: XII 38

Dear Mr. Alcorn,

Tomorrow our ship, we are told,
will arrive (two days late) in New York,
and I write this, in anticipation, to tell
you of my arrival in the Territory.

We have had a stormy passage,
and, except for yesterday & today, the
ship's engines had to be slowed down, ^{every day} to
prevent damage to the hull from the
plunging of the boat & the pounding of
the waves.

A few days' stay in New York is,

I think, ~~indicates~~, if only to find my
land-logs again, & I am promising
on permission.

I trust you & all yours in Omaha
are quite well.

Sincerely yours in Christ.

Michael A. MacCourt.

P.S.

My address in New York will
(probably) be:

40. Mr. R. Faughnan,

6304 Booth Street,

Forest Hills,

Long Island, N.Y.

October 5, 1939

Rt. Reverend Paul Waldron,
St. Columban's,
Nebraska.

Dear Father Waldron:

On October 3rd, 1939, I examination Father Michael MacCourt to decide as to the condition of his heart. Apparently he has been told in the past that there was some enlargement and that he had a weak heart. You are probably familiar with the story of a nervous breakdown in 1930 at which time there was also a story of duodenal ulcer. Fortunately, he has had no recurrence of this latter condition and he is able to handle it very nicely. There has been at various times, a return of his nervous symptoms, primarily those of fatigue and inability to concentrate and these have been preceded by a period of insomnia. Recently, he has been occasionally dizzy, and has fainted on two occasions. His history otherwise is negative except for his appendectomy in 1922 and a short period of sciatica a few years ago. He does have some palpitation and occasional sighing respirations but at no time has he ever suffered pain referable to his heart.

Physical examination showed a well developed man of a rather tense type. His reflexes were normal and the teeth were artificial. His breathing was normal and there was no distension of the neck veins. His heart was normal in size by percussion with the midclavicular line equaling $8\frac{1}{2}$ cm. and the left border of dullness in the fifth interspace, 8 cm. No murmurs were heard and there was no gallop rhythm. His pulse was regular at a rate of 68, and the blood pressure was normal with a systolic of 130 mm. and a diastolic of 80. The artery walls were soft. His chest was clear and there was no evidence of edema.

Fluoroscopic examination showed his heart to be of normal size and shape. He did have a high diaphragm on the left side which gave the impression of a full-sized left ventricle but on descent of the diaphragm, this impression was eliminated and the heart appeared of normal size.

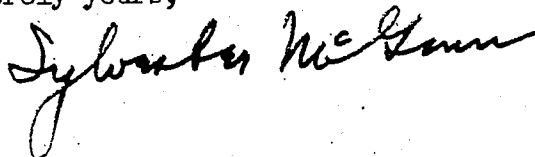
Electrocardiogram showed normal rhythm at a rate of 68. The P-R interval was 0.13" and the QRS duration was 0.08". The T waves were upright in leads one and two. There was a slight tendency to left axis deviation. This disappeared, however, during full inspiration and descent of the diaphragm and definitely does not indicate any abnormality. Incidentally, during the period of full inspiration his heart rather decreased in rate, going as low as 48 due to increased vagal tone. This finding is consistent with an irritable vaso-motor

system and could account for his fainting spells. Lead four, or the chest lead, was normal, the R wave being present and the T wave upright. This is a normal electrocardiogram.

I made the diagnosis of a normal heart and believe that this man's symptoms are dependent upon an irritable vaso-motor system of a nervous origin. It seems obvious that it is a part of his general tense nature. Everything that will help him to relax or to take things a bit more easy would be beneficial to his entire condition. There is nothing in his heart that should limit his activity and I, therefore, advised him to get in some kind of exercise and gave him reassurance, advising him very strongly to train himself to relax.

I was very glad to see Father MacCourt and if I can help with him at any time, I would be very glad to hear from you. I appreciate that this report is filled with medical terminology but hope that you will have somebody available in St. Columban's who can interpret it to you.

Sincerely yours,



SMcG/M

St. Columban's Foreign Mission Society

North San Diego, California

2444 Congress St.

P. O. Box 79

May 27, 1941

My dear Paul,

Thanks for your letter of May 24, to hand just now.

That long-distance call of yours from L. Angeles was taken by Dr. Mac, who ordinarily is easily flustered. He had well-nigh a thousand explanations(?) excited for your sudden appearance in California before I got home to listen to them! And when your telegram came announcing your departure, with S. Diego unvisited, the other probably carried Dr. Mac's mental disturbance to you on your outward journey!

It is very good to learn of the extension — even if at present only to the "bit" represented by Joe Brown! — of the L. A. Chinese apostolate.

We, too, are in urgent need — for some time to come: while the Dominican Priests are going on Vacation — of more priests. If we fail our friends here now, the newly-established O.M.I.'s will, I fear, gain a foothold which was assured to us by the great friendliness of the surrounding priests. That was the reason for the urgency of my recent letter — fully approved, even diluted, by Dr. Madden, in which we asked for more priests — Dr. Moran, Dr. Schow, and, if possible, some of the newly-ordained priests — to be routed to San Diego.

To make the urgency more emphatic, the Bishop called up

2

St. Columban's Foreign Mission Society

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yesterday, and asked us to take charge of Christ-the-King Church - a Colored People's Church - while the present temporary Pastor - is gone back to his monastery for retreat, etc. - I promised the Bishop to take charge even though, except for one Sunday, we are fully broken-up for all 3 priests of us here, and even though it means perhaps ^a 3-times-a-day ^{an hour's} trip, ^{each way,} by bus and street-car. And dress is at 7 am.!

Thanks for the promise to send the copy of Fr Mateo's lectures when he goes to sanctify St. Columban, N. Cal.!!!

Yes, we all are desirous of seeing you more often and for longer periods in S. Diego.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Michael M. MacBourke.

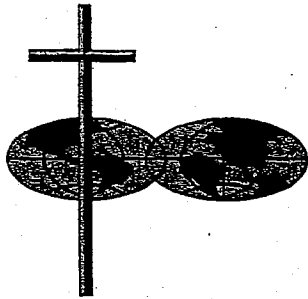
P.R.

John said there is no present urgency in the matter of paying the Bishop for the \$500 - lot.

COLUMBAN FATHERS

ST. COLUMBANS, NEBRASKA 68056

TELEPHONE (402) 291-1920



December 2, 1977

Dear Father:

Father Michael McCourt died at Lake Shore Nursing Home, Silver Creek, New York, on Thursday afternoon, December 1, 1977.

Father Martin O'Brien had visited Michael on Thursday morning.

Father McCourt was born on February 20, 1888. He resigned his professorship at St. Patrick's College, Armagh to enter the Society in 1919 and was ordained on June 10, 1923. Father Michael taught at St. Columbans, Nebraska and Silver Creek and was stationed at Bristol for many years before retiring to Silver Creek in 1973.

Mass and burial at St. Columban's, Silver Creek, New York on Saturday, December 3, at 10:30 a.m.

You are reminded of your obligation under Article No. 90 of the Constitutions.

Fraternally,


C. Coulter

CC:fp

MacCourt-WOA 000007

McCOURT

GISH NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1977

- 3 -

Recent Deaths:

Fr. Ted McCormack died at the Priests' Residence, Dalgan Park on Nov. 26. He was a brother of the late Fr. Alfred McCormack who died in 1933. Born in 1913 in Ballinrobe, Fr. Ted received his secondary education in St. Joseph's College, Ballinasloe and in 1932 he came to Dalgan Park, Galway, where he was ordained in 1938. From 1939 to 1942 he did post-graduate studies (Scripture) in Rome and then spent seven years on the staff of St. Columban's College, Navan. In 1949 he was appointed to the American Region and for the next ten years he taught in St. Columban's College, Nebraska. He returned to Ireland in 1959 and took up the post of spiritual director in St. Columban's, Templeogue, Dublin. In 1962 he rejoined the staff in St. Columban's College, Navan. Because of failing health he retired from teaching in 1969. The funeral took place in Dalgan on Nov. 28 after concelebrated Mass with Fr. Joe Flynn as the principal concelebrant. Another classmate, Fr. Tom Hanahoe, preached the homily.

Fr. Michael McCourt died in Silver Creek, U.S.A., on Dec. 1. Born in 1888 at Banbridge, Co. Down, he was the oldest member in the Society. He came to Dalgan Park, Galway, in 1919 after having spent one year on the teaching staff of St. Patrick's College, Armagh. He was ordained in 1923 and then worked as a member of the College staff in St. Columban's, Nebraska (1923-1924) and St. Columban's, Silver Creek (1924-1930). Because of illness he was in Ireland from 1930 to 1938. He returned to the American Region in 1938 and worked mostly in California until he retired.

The death took place on Dec. 4, in Glasgow of Fr. Jim Fisher. He was born in Dublin in 1900 and was educated at Mungret College and Dalgan Park, Galway, where he was ordained in 1924. After his ordination he was assigned to Australia where he spent the next six years in helping to establish the Society in that country. In 1931 he was appointed to China where he remained until returning to Ireland on home leave in 1939. Because of the outbreak of World War II, he was prevented from returning to China, so he spent the war years as chaplain to the British Forces. In 1946, he was assigned to Burma and there served as regional procurator as well as secretary to the Burma Catholic Bishops' Conference. He returned to Ireland on sick leave in 1968 and since then he has done pastoral work in England and Scotland and especially in St. Patrick's, Wishaw (Motherwell Diocese). The funeral took place on Dec. 7, to the College cemetery after a concelebrated Mass at St. Columban's College, Dalgan Park. Bishop Thomson of Motherwell Diocese was principal concelebrant and Bishop Howe was among the 48 concelebrants.

Also noted: Fr. Pat Daly's (U.S.) father; Fr. John McMullan's (London) sister; Fr. Des Morrison's (P.I.) mother. May they rest in peace.

McCOURT, REV. MICHAEL

Died December 1, 1977. Buried in ^{St. Columban's} Silver Creek

Resigned a professorship at St. Patrick's, Armagh, to enter St. Columban's in 1919. Was ordained four yrs. later and has taught in St. Columban's seminaries in Nebraska and Silver Creek, N. Y.

Born Feb. 20, 1888, Eanbridge, dioc. Dromore, Co. Down.

Prof. St. Patrick's Coll., Armagh, 1918-1919. Dalgan Sept. 1919-June 1923. B.A. extern. (N.U.I.). Ordained June 10, 1923.

Prof. Nebr., Sept. 23-June 24. Prof. S. Creek, 1924-30. On sick leave in Ireland June 1930. On various supplies in Irish Region from 1931 to 1938. Then apptd. to Silver Creek. The next year in Riverside (Casa Elanca), Calif. From 1941 to 1943 in San Diego house. From 1944 to 1947 chaplain at Oxnard hospital, Los Angeles archdiocese. Then spent two years as chaplain at Cragmoor, N.Y., and from 1950 to the present (1956) has been at Bristol, R.I. Same in '51. And in Novr. 1960. And in Novr. 1961. And Novr. 1962. And Novr. 1963. And Novr. 1964. And Novr. 1965. And Novr. 1966. And Novr. 1967.

Buried in St. Columban's on the Lake, Silver Creek, N. Y.

DECEMBER

1 **WILLIAM J. KEHOE** was born at Blessington, Co. Wicklow, in 1911. He died at St. Columban's, Killiney, Co. Dublin, on 1 December 1979. Bill received his secondary education at Christian Brothers School, Synge Street, Dublin [1920-29], before entering Dalgan in 1929. After his ordination in 1935 he was one of the first group to Bhamo, Burma. During the Japanese occupation of Burma, he, along with Michael Kelly, took part in the trek into China and India, accompanied by a large number of refugees. In 1949 he was assigned to Australia for health reasons. Bill was editor of the Australian FAR EAST for eleven years. In 1971 he went to St. Columbans, Nebraska, where he worked in the General Mission Office. In 1974 he was appointed secretary to the Central Administration. Bill is buried at Dalgan.



1 **MICHAEL McCOURT** was born at Banbridge, Co. Down, in 1888. He died at Silver Creek, NY, on 1 December 1977. Michael was a member of the teaching staff at St. Patrick's College, Armagh, for two years [1918-19] before entering Dalgan in 1919. He was ordained priest there in 1923 and appointed to the U.S. where he taught at St. Columban's, Nebraska [1923-24], and at St. Columban's, Silver Creek [1924-30]. He returned to Ireland on sick leave [1930-38] and did parish and chaplaincy work. In 1938 he was reappointed to the U.S. and did pastoral work in California. He spent his last years at St. Columban's, Bristol, RI. Michael is buried at Silver Creek, NY.



3 **GERARD HURLEY** was born at Kilcrohane, Co. Cork, in 1926. He died at Dalgan on 3 December 2002, having retired there two years earlier. He was one of three Columban brothers. His sister, Catherine, was Columban Mother General [1970-1981]. Having completed his secondary studies at St. Colmans College, Fermoy, Gerry came to Dalgan in 1944 and was ordained there in December 1950. He was a member of the pioneering team which went to Fiji in 1951. In 1960 he was assigned to the Ireland/Britain promotion team and became Columban Superior in Britain where he was recognised as a shrewd administrator, a lover of sport and always a Columban to the core. He purchased our Glasgow house and administered it [1974-78], when he returned to Fiji for the remainder of his active life. Gerry is buried at Dalgan.



4 **JAMES FISHER** was born at Drumcondra, Dublin, in 1900. He died at Wishaw, Scotland, on 4 December 1977. Jim studied at Mungret College, Limerick [1917-21], where he completed his philosophy course before coming to Dalgan in 1921. He was ordained priest there in 1924. His first assignment was to promotion work in Australia [1925-31]. In 1931 he was assigned to Kiangsi, China. After a vacation in Ireland [1938] he did not return to China due to ill health. He joined the British Army as chaplain and served in Europe and in the Burma Command. In 1947 he was assigned to Burma and acted as

