

Tells Of Unique Experience



Rev. Roman Ament, O.F.M. Cap., now associate pastor at St. Patrick's Catholic Church Beaver Dam, and who is shown above with four Arab children from Jerusalem on the First Common Day in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, will speak at the meeting of St. Patrick's Christian Mothers and Altar Society at 8 o'clock on Tuesday evening, October 26. The meeting in the school hall will be preceded by Mass at 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Ament will tell of his unique experience of establishing the Catholic Church in Saudi Arabia, called the Holy Land of the Islam. He was the first and only priest for 12 years in an area of almost a million square miles. The Christian religion was forbidden in the countries but private arrangements were made with top government officials to "keep up the morale of the Christians living in that country," with no Christian propaganda or public display of any kind allowed. At present there are three Wisconsin priests working in Saudi Arabia.

Rev. Ament was born in Merrill, Wis., November 11, 1907, moving to Milwaukee in 1916 where he attended St. Francis of Assisi school at Fourth and Brown Streets. He attended St. Lawrence Seminary, Mt. Calvary for six years, joining the Capuchins at

Detroit, Mich., spending six years at the Capuchin Monastery, Marathon, where he was ordained June 17, 1934.

Rev. Ament's first appointment was as a prefect and professor at St. Lawrence Seminary, Mt. Calvary, in 1934-36. After a succession of appointments in Indiana, New York and Appleton he returned to Mt. Calvary. In 1939 he was one of the early Fathers to open missions in Nicaragua where he spent 13 years during which time he built six churches, founded two schools, and established a famous baseball team. He was in charge of relief operations of the Red Cross following the 1941 hurricane in this jungle country.

In 1952 **Rev. Ament** returned to teaching at Mt. Calvary. In 1956 he received the most unique appointment by the pope to Saudi Arabia from where he returned to the United States in 1968 due to the government regulation that foreigners over 60 must leave the country.

The public is cordially invited to hear of this unique appointment and resulting experiences of **Rev. Roman Ament** as a missionary in Saudi Arabia.

Mrs. Robert Butterbrodt and Mrs. Richard K. Bauer, chairmen of Circle 2, and their committee will be in charge of refreshments following the meeting.