



Msgr. Britt

Fr. Strassberger

... best wishes for Europe-bound Air Force chaplain

Falls Priest Is Chosen For Air Force Staff Tour

The Rev. Harry R. Strassberger, a Niagara Falls priest, is the first Catholic chaplain selected to make an overseas tour under the U.S. Air Force's overseas staff visit program. He is a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

He discussed plans for the Dec. 6-21 trip Saturday with the area's ranking chaplain, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edmund J. Britt, PA, a retired colonel, who is pastor of St. Joseph's Old Cathedral, Franklin and Swan.

Fr. Strassberger is assistant pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Niagara Falls. In the Air Force Reserve, he is attached to the office of the Staff Chaplain, 26th Air Division, Stewart AFB.

The main purpose of his visit to several American bases in Europe will be to bring back information on goals and activities of the military in the European area.

Fr. Strassberger, while in Washington last May, told the Chief of Chaplains' office that no chaplains were being sent on the annual Air Force-sponsored trips.

His application was approved shortly thereafter.

Fr. Strassberger will travel with eight other officials from other parts of the United States. Besides being the first chaplain, he is the first officer from Western New York to be selected for such trips.

He said several area organizations have asked him to speak on the trip when he returns. He will be available for lectures.

Fr. Strassberger, who became an Air Force chaplain 22 years ago during World War II, will visit East and West Berlin, and military bases in Italy and France. The tour group will also receive briefings from NATO, the U.S. European Command and Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.

Msgr. Britt, pastor of the downtown cathedral for 50 years, was an Army chaplain in World War I. He became a colonel in the New York National Guard during World War II, and was named chaplain for Civil Defense in Buffalo in 1951.