

'Globe Village' product notes priesthood golden jubilee this month

PC # 2
By Jean Judge

Herald News Lifestyle Editor
May is a time for celebrating — and remembering.

For Rev. Edward Paul Doyle, O.P., a product of "Globe Village," one of a family of nine who was born, baptized and confirmed in St. Patrick Church, it is the time for the commemoration of his golden jubilee in the priesthood, an event that will be celebrated in his home parish on May 21 with a Mass at 11 o'clock and a reception.

It will be marked also at Providence College on May 17, where he will be one of five jubilarians.

But it is also the time for remembering the Holocaust, and

that is an issue that the Dominican has been addressing during the past few weeks, in his own mind, and in talks before school and temple audiences.

For on this, his golden anniversary, the priest is remembering anew what it was like to be among the liberators of a Nazi concentration camp.

It is a subject that seems to be the reverse of this joyfilled season marking, as he says, "a very happy priesthood."

But, in essence, what he experienced at Nordhausen, Germany, in the spring of 1944 illustrates what that priesthood is all about.

Today, it is about visiting the

sick in nursing homes, every day, praying with and for them, trying to cheer them. "Yesterday," 35 years of them, it was about teaching college students.

Forty-five years ago, it was about going overseas as an Army chaplain, who had officiated at 40 weddings of fellow servicemen before he left the states, and who later buried some of them.

When he spoke at Temple Emanu-El recently, he told the audience that "Nordhausen gave all the meaning to my life." For there, where he saw first-hand the horror of the Holocaust, with 5,000 of the 6,000 political prisoners dead, he realized that it represented the "denial of the Judao-Christian tradition of love of God and love of neighbor."

But, even as he witnessed "the barbaric ravages of hatred," he also saw "the parallel need of love of mankind."

"Surely the vastness of man's inhumanity to man can convey to the mind the wisdom of sound theology and its application to our daily lives. Men may disagree, but that does not destroy charity and the love for each other."

Nor, he said, does it destroy the necessity for the continuing search for peace; "in such pursuits may we be God's willing and effective instruments."

Quoting Elie Wiesel, the author who is a survivor of Buchenwald, he reiterated, "Unless we remember in good faith and in sincerity and in the very depths of our being . . . we must not speak. But speak we must!"

He has never forgotten those "boys," with whom he served, those fellow Wolverines, whose national chaplain he is, and many of whom he sees at get togethers every year.

He remembers, too, many of his students of yesteryear, but he admits that "When you get to be 70, it is time to get out of the classroom."

At that point, he simply "gravitated toward nursing homes," and now visits three of them regularly in Rhode Island. "It's not hard for me, I like people."

He believes in trying to bring older people some cheer and humor, as well as spiritual solace.

As a young man, a graduate of B.M.C. Durfee High School, working part-time in a grocery store in the South End, who thought he wanted to be a motorcycle policeman, he dropped in every day for a visit at St. Patrick's and learned that the Lord had other things for him to do than ride a motorcycle!

He pursued undergraduate studies at Siena Heights and Providence Colleges, where he studied philosophy and theology, and earned his M.A. from Catholic University and his Ph.D. from Aquinas Institute in Chicago. He was also a graduate fellow in psychology at Yale University Divinity School.

The priest has taught at PC, Emmanuel, Seton Hall, Mt. St. Mary and Siena Heights Colleges.

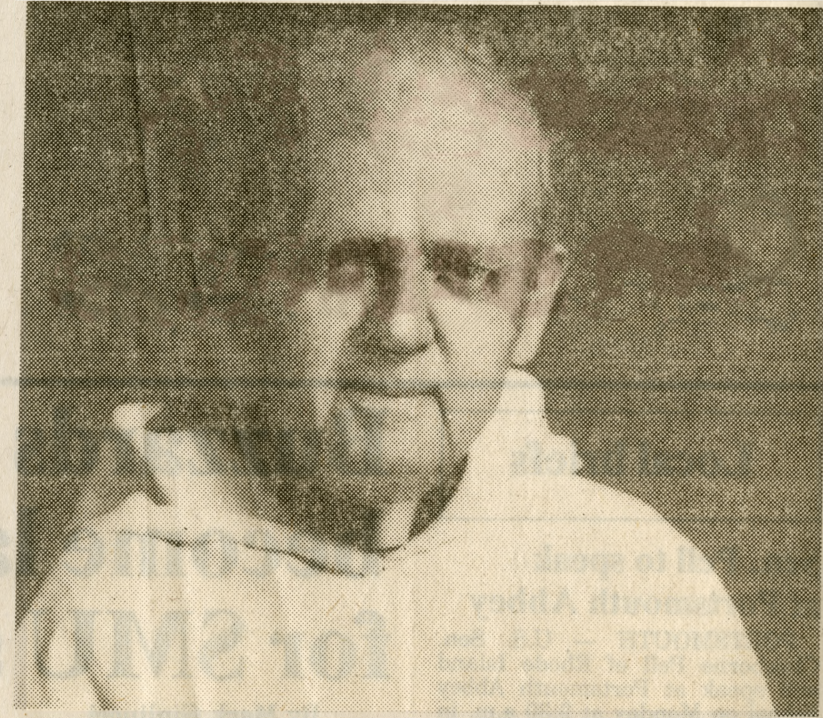
The head of the Third Order of St. Dominic, in Fall River, he has a special devotion to the Blessed Mother, and will speak about her as "Mother of Mercy" before the Legion of Mary on Wednesday at the Franciscan Monastery in Providence. To him, Mary exemplifies every aspect of womanhood — teenage mother, widow, displaced person, refugee.

Doyle is optimistic about the future. He sees a revival within the Catholic Church, good attendance at Masses among the students at Providence College, where he resides, a desire on the part of people to return to simpler things.

Pointing out that there are cycles in the church, as there are in life, he said that today, "the enemy is the world around us."

It is not a life he would have changed, added to it maybe with more studies in psychology, more in-depth spiritual behaviorism, but he is as convinced today as ever that "God is good . . ." and that "if you do God's work, He will take care of you."

He only wishes that "more young men could know the happiness of service to others."



Rev. Edward P. Doyle, O.P., celebrates his golden jubilee in the priesthood this month.