

# Fr. Clark Protests Use of Mothers in War Work

"We are making heroines out of every 'Rosie the Riveter.' Too many are mothers in overalls making war orphans of their children."

So said Rev. William R. Clark, O. P., of Providence College, addressing the R. I. Congress of Parents and Teachers at Henry Barnard School auditorium this morning. Speaking of "Heroines On the Home Front," Fr. Clark registered a "mild protest against the good job the War Manpower Commission is doing," glamorizing the woman war worker and urging women to leave their homes for war work. He declared himself not unpatriotic and fully cognizant of the urgent need for workers for our war effort. But he stated his belief in the fundamental principle of "first things first" and said that the real heroines of the home front are those women who care for their children, realizing that the nation's children are its hope of the future. Care for that future, he said, is "at least as important as the winning of the war."

He pointed out that the Govern-

ment puts itself on record against taking mothers of young children from homes, with the specific ruling against the acceptance of women with underage children for service with the WAC, Waves or other services. "Yet," said Fr. Clark, "women are urged to accept positions in war industry no matter what their responsibilities are at home."

Quoting from an article on "America's Home Front," he deplored a state of affairs where children are "parked" in movie houses until mothers finish their shift; where children under 16 in California falsify their age, work the "graveyard shift" and sleep through school classes; where a survey of one large plant's parking lot revealed 45 infants locked in cars.

Mrs. Paul L. Gould, president of the congress, presided at the meeting, at which the invocation was delivered by Rev. Richard K. Morton. The group was greeted by Miss Mary Thorpe, principal of the school, and Mrs. Frederick L. Harrison, president of Henry Barnard Mother's Club.