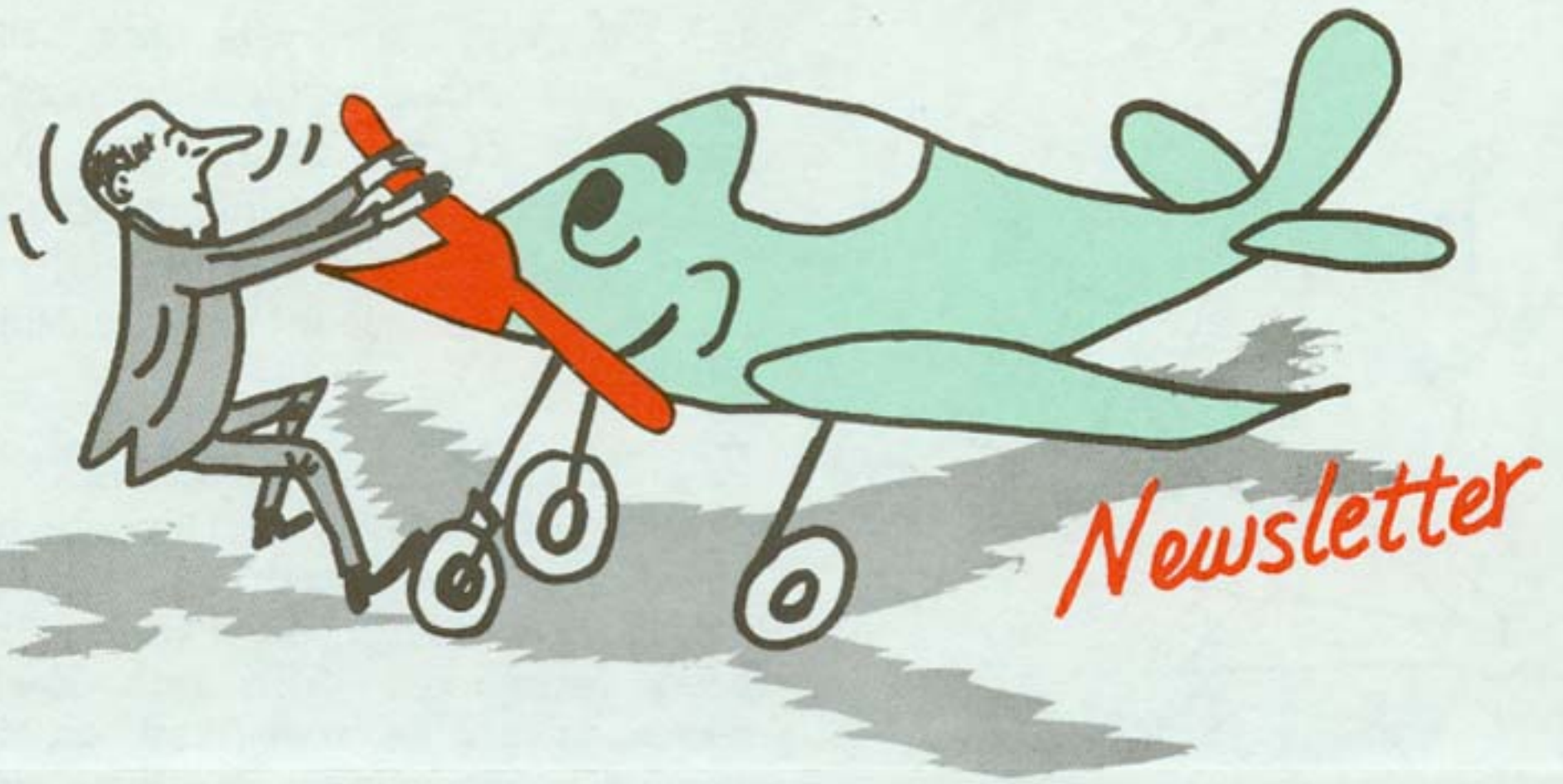


N.A.P.P.



VOLUME XVII

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NO. 4



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Best wishes for a joyful and healthy 1990. May the winter months especially go well for all Priest-Pilots.

Our Parishioners, indeed all of us, are subject to more stress and depression during longer nights and bleak weather.

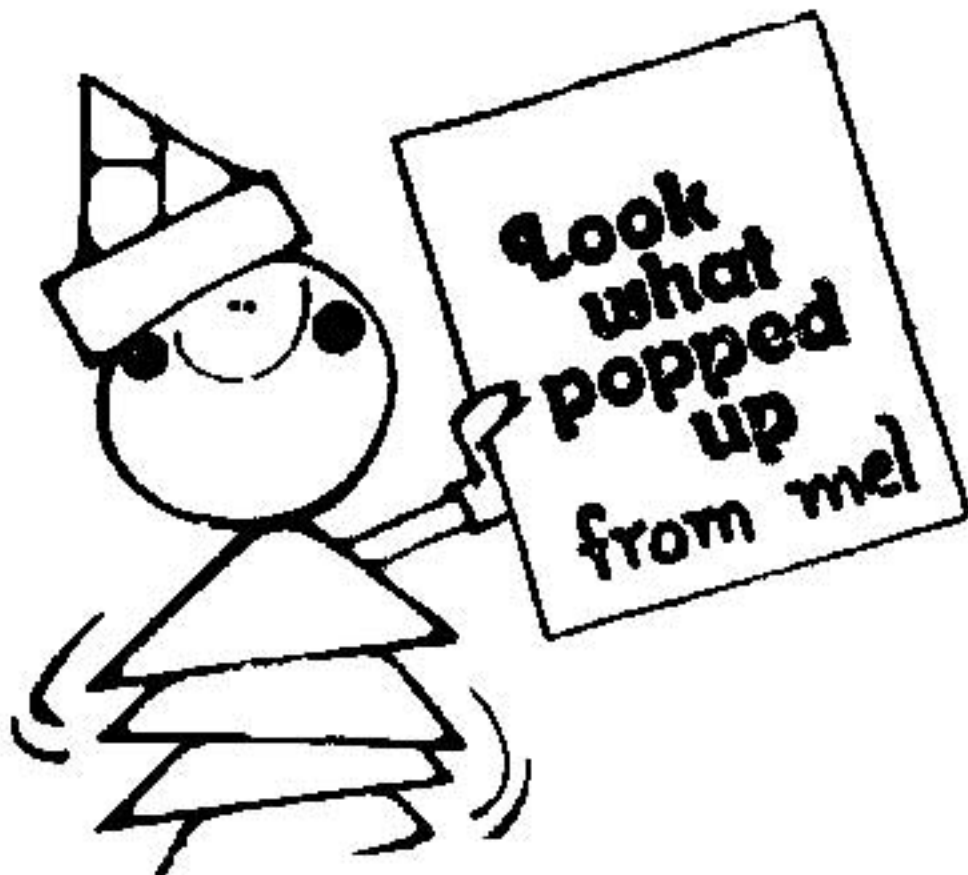
Flying, together with vacation time, regular physical workouts, fraternal companionship, etc., can be healthful therapy. Besides, it's cheaper than the hospital.

These years and months are truly exciting---from opening countries to democracy to closing churches---Come Holy Spirit!

May your tanks be free of water, the runways long and smooth, and the cruising winds always at your back.

Frank Nemmers

Frank Nemmers

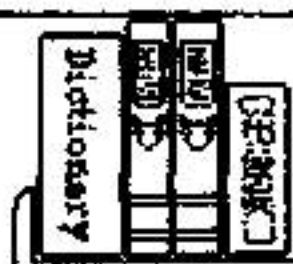


1. If you have paid your 1990 dues your new membership card is enclosed. If you haven't mailed in the \$15 we are including another dues envelope for you. Please return it as soon as possible. Thank you.

2 SPECIAL NOTICE:

Because of conflicts in the schedule of many, the April 23 Midwest regional meeting in Preston has been cancelled. The late Easter seems to put a real bind on the normal activities. We will reschedule in the Fall.

3. Treasurer John Mulesky had an electrical failure recently in his Bonanza. This resulted in a "gear up" landing in Kansas City. While the plane was tailed he suffered no injuries. If any one knows of a good buy John would be interested in hearing from you.



For Your
Information

We have two different sets of videos for those interested in furthering or up-dating their
COMMERCIAL/INSTRUMENT skills

CONTACT:

DAVID J. HOGAN
P.O. Box 157
Pocahontas, IA 50574

[or]

MEL HEMANN
P.O. Box 309
Preston, IA 52069



ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

REV. MEL HEMANN
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, BOX 309
PRESTON, IOWA 52069



BRIEFS FROM HERE AND THERE

Several have mentioned the possibility of making their annual Retreat while in Anchorage. Archbishop Hurley says anyone wishing to do so BEFORE or AFTER the July Convention should contact the Retreat House Director:

**Fr. Vincent Beuzer, S.J.
Holy Spirit Retreat House
10980 Hillside Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99516**

It will be YOUR responsibility to contact Fr. Vincent if you wish to take advantage of this opportunity.

The Family of
David Stanley Corcoran, Jr.
joyfully announces the
Ordination to the Priesthood
of their father
by the most reverend Thomas Tschoepe
Bishop of Dallas, Texas
on Saturday, the seventeenth of March
nineteen hundred and ninety
at ten thirty o'clock in the morning
at All Saints Catholic Church
Meadowcreek and Arapaho Road
Dallas, Texas

You are cordially invited
to participate in a Mass
of Thanksgiving for
God's Many Blessings
on Sunday, March eighteenth
at twelve fifteen
at All Saints Catholic Church

A reception will be held
in the Fellowship Hall
immediately following
the Ordination on Saturday

Most Rev, Leo Arkfeld, S.V.D.
P.O. Box 750, MADANG
Papua New Guinea

S A S S O Y A

1 9 4 9 - 4 9 - 1 9 8 9

Forty years ago I walked through the jungle from Wewak on the North Coast of P.N.G. to Sassoys, that was a day's walk. I had just been appointed the new bishop of the diocese of Wewak. Sassoys was one of the parishes that I needed to visit. Three years of war had left Sassoys a sad place. No priests had worked in the diocese of Wewak during the war. They had all been killed or evacuated. Now I was there in Sassoys for the first time in my life. The church and father's house were falling apart. All such buildings in the jungles of P.N.G. were made of poles, leaves and bark, held together by vines. They deteriorate in about 7 years. The people seemed depressed. The new, recently appointed priest was trying to get a bit of spirit back into the people. He had to start from scratch. I walked back to Wewak. There were now so many things to do.

The years rolled by. Sassoys started to revive. Some of the jungle was cleared to make a little airstrip. That meant that a small plane could fly from Wewak to Sassoys in 7 minutes. My pilot's licence now became very useful. A small portable saw mill was brought into Sassoys. Little by little the rough boards for a church and school were cut. Catechumen classes grew larger. Baptisms increased dramatically. Once a year I would fly in for confirmation.

Father Ivo Hutter, an expert aircraft engineer and pilot did a lot of flights to Sassoys with the cargo and people needed to run a mission parish. Often he carried sick people out, to the hospital in Wewak. Wooden flooring was cut into short pieces so it would fit into the little airplane. The new father's house, therefore, got a wooden floor instead of a shaky bark floor. School children could now learn reading and writing along with catechism.

The years rolled by. When 30 of them had passed, Rome transferred me from Wewak to the Archdiocese of Madang, which is next door to Wewak. Ten more years slipped away, and I turned the corner at 75. That is the age at which all bishops are asked to resign. My resignation was accepted about a year later. Archbishop Benedict To Varpin was appointed. He is a local person from the Island called New Britain. He is doing just fine. I am still doing a bit of flying. I do the 1 hour and 25 minutes flight from Madang to Wewak whenever something important happens in Wewak.

Some months ago, I flew there to take part in the 75th anniversary of the parish of Wewak. Very recently, I received a most welcome letter from two Sisters of the Rosary in Wewak. They said they were from Sassoys and were getting ready to make their final vows. They wanted to do that in their home village, Sassoys. Would I come and receive their vows? That suited me just fine. When the date drew near, I flew to Wewak. The bishop of Wewak, the most Rev. Raymond Kalisz, S.V.D. and I drove to Sassoys. The trip took one hour and thirty minutes. I had not seen Sassoys for about 10 years. The Sassoys air strip had returned to jungle. It was no longer needed. My memory reminded me that I had walked to Sassoys 40 years ago. I remembered the old church made of poles, leaves, bark and vines. That was all gone now. I remembered that I nearly lost my life there about 25 years ago, when I overloaded the plane with seed plants to take to the Supik River area, where floods had destroyed all the people's food gardens. It was almost hard to believe that 40 years ago everything started again with Grade One. Now there were two educated and qualified Sassoys Sisters ready to make their perpetual vows. It was also encouraging to learn that there are 3 other Sassoys Sisters who are in temporary vows. Another source of satisfaction was the fact that some Sassoys boys are studying for the priesthood.

Father August Knorr, S.V.D., the pastor of Sassoys for the past 21 years, said, "It is time to start." The drums rumbled and Bishop Raymond Kalisz and myself, with an impressive array of Missionaries and servers processed into the new, over crowded church. Hundreds more were standing outside.

The solemn ceremony started with pomp singing and dancing. It was an impressive moment when the parents of the two Sisters presented their daughters to God and to the Church. The biggest moment, however, was when Sister Victoria and Sister Maria Corretti came up to the altar and promised poverty, chastity and obedience for life. There was a moment of silence. The non-celebrated Mass continued with the ceremonies at their best. The kiss of peace was sincere and universal. It was a day I will never forget.

You, who have read these lines thus far, are among that special group of people who have provided much of the natural and spiritual power that made it all happen. I hope you will persevere with us in our work of planting the Catholic Church at the ends of the earth. Do keep praying.

Yours in Christ,
+ Leo Arkfeld S.V.D.
+ Leo Arkfeld

This article from DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES, Winter 1989

FLYING HIGH IS OVER!

With the development of road systems throughout Papua New Guinea, especially in the Highlands, there is no longer a need for the special air service that was once so essential. Archbishop Benedict To Varpin decided the time has come to cease operations. The pilots' house will revert to the archdiocese and Divine Word Airways aircraft will be sold. Archbishop Leo's aircraft will be based in Wewak. So, we learn again that nothing is forever.

Al Worth, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina, KS sends the following clipping from their diocesan paper.

'PLANE' PARISH LOOKS TO HEAVENS

The Rev. John Dompka and his parishioners look to the heavens in more ways than one. Dompka, 70, a licensed pilot, is pastor of St. Margaret Mary Roman Catholic Church, located on a hilltop near Greater Pittsburgh International Airport.

Many in the congregation of 1,500 families work at the airport, and Dompka said he sometimes flashes a photo of an airplane on the audio-visual display screen behind the church altar.

"To get their attention immediately, I sometimes use my aviation experience in my sermons," he said. The congregations enthusiasm for flying can be seen on the church's stationery, which features a picture of an astronaut. It includes this note: "Saint Margaret Mary Church, a parish of plane people with a special air about them. Saturday evening mass at 6:30 to accommodate earthlings."

Dear Friends,

Happy Christmas! From Africa this year, my hopes for each of you are that you are well and happy and still excited about life.

As the end of 1989 approaches and the beginning of the last decade of the second millennium, major events -- hope filled events -- seem to be overtaking our world.

On a much smaller scale Olkokola mission and the Flying Medical Service share in the excitement. Because of the generosity of many of you, we have just put into service another aircraft. We now have two very tough and very beautiful airplanes serving on a regular basis the medical needs of remote areas in this part of the world. We are able for the first time to offer comprehensive health care programs throughout the whole 30,000 square mile area of Arusha and parts of the surrounding dioceses, as well as providing emergency services throughout the country.

In somewhat the same vein, Olkokola Technical Training Center has become -- I believe -- more responsive to the deeper needs of the community. From a single rural training center, we have changed its focus to helping physically handicapped young women and men to work as tailors, carpenters, masons, and experts in agriculture and animal husbandry. Again, with your help, both moral and financial, we have been able to provide many of the students with artificial limbs, new skills, and new hope to carry back to their villages. Our efforts with 30 students are still small. But we are also still young.

Also young is this country of Tanzania. Over the past several years, rapid and radical changes have been taking place in the political and economic structures. Many seem to be very good, many also bring with them new difficulties.

So the Christmas excitement -- and sometimes terror -- that surrounds new birth is present here, as I trust it also is in your lives. May your own struggles all be worthwhile, your dark days turned light, and your bright days well shared with new and old friends.

MEL:

Thanks for keeping the NAPP newsletter coming my way, even though it gets here a couple of months late.

Sorry I didn't get a chance to see you during my vacation in the States. Time always seems to go so fast. Did manage, however, to get a second aircraft for our service, and do a flight instructor's rating in the last few weeks there. Perhaps one day I can train a Tanzanian to take over.

Wishing you a beautiful New Year.

Pat

Saint Brigid's Church

207 Adams Street

Midland, Michigan

48640

12 January, 1990

Dear Mel,

This is a little note to let you know that at this time I have no flight to Alaska. Some planes are filled as of this date and some are not going.

If any of the planes that you know of are not filled and want another passenger, please let me know or put it into the News letter.

You may know by now that we Redemptorists are pulling out of four places, one in Minneapolis, two in the St. Louis area and here in Midland. That means that I will be transferred as of the first of July.

I hope to stay near my work here in Michigan, but that is up to the Provincial and his council.

When I know my new address, I will let you know, so that the NAPP will know where I will be. I have been here as of the 1st of July 19 years. It will be a difficult move for me.

All goes well back here and I hope to see all of you in Alaska.

As always in Christ

John E. Ballon
John E. Ballon, C.Sa.R.

St. Joseph's Church

P.O. Box 54

ROCKFORD, WA 99036-0054

509-291-3481

Dear Mel,

I would like to hitch a ride, if it is possible, to the Alaska Convention. I could meet some one at Spokane International Airport. I would be happy to share expenses from there to Anchorage.

Hope you had a blessed Christmas. Have a happy New Year filled with many blessings and "Happy" memories.

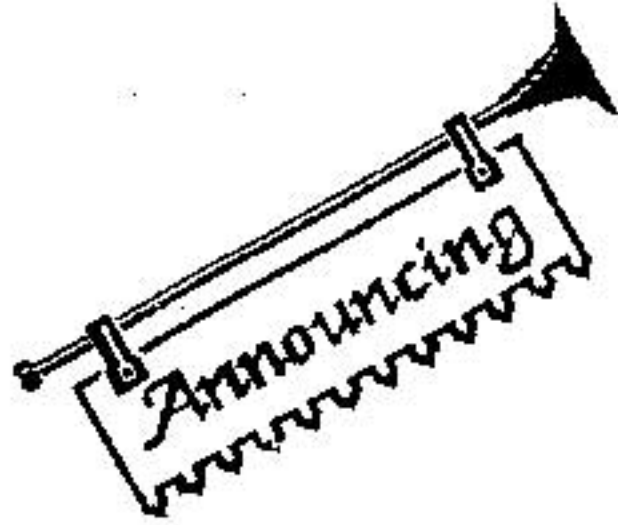
Yours fraternally in Christ,

John G. Birk
Fr. John G. Birk

President Frank Nemmers included this additional note with his letter:

All is well (economy's great) in Carroll. This parish paid all it's bills (including \$650,000 for the schools) in 1989. Alleluia!!! We even gave \$15,000 to the poor, including our adopted Parish in Haiti.

I'm celebrating by four days of skiing (with 8 others in Vail, Col) followed by golfing (for me) in Phoenix & Palm Springs. The Mooney, of course, will take me there. It's time the Associates stay home for two weeks.



NAPP
1990 CONVENTION - ANCHORAGE, AK
July 18-19, 1990

NAPP
1991 CONVENTION - St. Louis, MO
July 9-10, 1991

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER
WILL CARRY DETAILS ON THE 1990
ALASKA CONVENTION.**

**FOR NOW, KEEP THE TIME AND DATES
OPEN.**

**THERE WILL BE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO
SEND IN YOUR RESERVATION.**

**MAY YOUR TENT BE
SPRINKLED ALL OVER
HAND TO TO BE**