

RG 9 THOMAS FREDERICK PRICE 1860-1919.

## BIOGRAPHY

Rev. Thomas Frederick Price, 1860-1919

Co-founder of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America (Maryknoll Missioners); b. Wilmington, N.C., Aug. 19th 1860; d. Hong Kong, China, Sept. 12, 1919. His parents were Alfred Lanier and Clarissa Bond Price; his father, who died when was 12 years old, was editor of Wilmington's first daily newspaper. the DAILY JOURNAL.

Price entered St. Charles College, Catonsville, Md., in 1877 to study for the priesthood; one of his fellow students was William O'Connell, future Cardinal of Boston. Continuing his studies at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Md., he was ordained on June 20, 1886 as the first native diocesan priest for the vicariate of North Carolina, later the diocese of Raleigh. He was appointed Pastor of the Vicariate's oldest parish at New Bern and for 9 years carried on a horse-and-buggy apostolate throughout his widespread parish.

In 1897 Price launched TRUTH, a monthly magazine of Catholic apologetics addressed to Protestants; the magazine had considerable success even in the Northern States and eventually became the organ of the International Truth Society (1912).

In 1898, near Raleigh, he founded an orphanage called Nazareth, which later became the diocesan orphanage of the Sacred Heart. This same foundation became the home in 1902 of what he envisioned as a quasi-religious home mission congregation. It was called the Apostolate of Secular Priests of North Carolina, and affiliated with Belmont Abbey for academic purposes; its aim was the conversion of the entire South. This venture had very limited success at the time, but it resulted in wide recognition of Price and his concept of mission work.

At the first meeting of the Catholic Missionary Union in Washington D.C., in 1904, Price addressed the group on his mission methods. Also present at the conference was Price's future collaborator, Father James A. Walsh, then director of the Boston branch of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

In a significant article in TRUTH (May 1909), Price suggested that the time had come for founding an American foreign mission seminary attached to the Catholic University of America, with preparatory schools in strategic major cities. Correspondence resulted between Walsh and Price, but it was not until the International Eucharistic Congress in Montreal in 1910 that they met to lay the groundwork for the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America. The plan for the society received the endorsement of the American Hierarchy, and on June 29, 1911, the Society was given temporary approval by Pope Pius X. That summer the Seminary site was chosen in West Chester County, N.Y., and became known as Maryknoll.

## BIOGRAPHY (Continued)

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In the years immediately following, Price traveled extensively in the East and Middle West, speaking in favor of home and foreign missions, recruiting vocations, and collecting funds. When the first group of missionaries was ready to be sent abroad after World War I, Price, despite his age, insisted on leading them to their first assignment--Yeungkong, South China--in 1918. He was named the mission superior. Within a year the climate and rigors of primitive mission conditions took their toll. An attack of acute appendicitis resulted in his death in St. Paul's Hospital in Hong Kong. In 1936 his remains were returned to Maryknoll, where he lies buried next to his friend Walsh in the Chapel crypt. Picture in Albert J. Nevins, Our American Catholic Heritage, pp. 259 & 261.

Referring back when Fathers Walsh and Price returned to the United States, they decided to establish the new Society in the vicinity of New York City. A site in West Chester County was purchased. Later a better property overlooking the Hudson River was bought, and the Society moved there. The new property was on a hilltop, and Father Walsh named it "MARYKNOLL," a title that was to become the popular name for the Society.

The first to join was Francis X. Ford, a N.Y. Seminarian. He was destined to become a bishop in China and to meet death at the hands of Chinese Communists. Then Fr. Price recruited James Edward Walsh who was also to become a bishop in China, and who was a prisoner for twelve years in Communist China.

The first mission consisted of four priests, Fr. Price, Fr. Walsh, Ford and Bernard Meyer. From then on the growth of the Society was steady. Today Maryknoll priests are spread throughout the World. Fr. Kapaun died in Korea; Bishop Patrick Byrne died in N. Korea, and Bishop Ford died in a Chinese jail and Fr. Walsh returned to his boyhood town of Cumberland, Md. in Oct. 1970 after being imprisoned for 12 years in Communist China.

In conclusion many young men and women and married couples have left America for Africa, Asia and Latin America to work in critical areas as part of the Church's world-wide movement. Organizations have been established for the training and support of lay missionaries.

Box	Folder	
1	1	Pictures of Maryknoll priests, and correspondence to Price, 1905-1906. re: letters of sympathy on the calamity that befell the establishment of the burnt building., some donations were given also.
	2	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906, re: Sympathy letters for the disaster of his institution at Nazareth, along with donations.
	3	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906, re: Sympathy letters with donations from many concerned friends.
	4	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906, re: letters of sympathy with many donations to replace his loss.
	5	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906, re: Many letters of sympathy and donations given for his loss.
	6	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906, re: Donations and letters of sympathy, also letter of Price asking for assistance.
	7	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906, re: letter from Mary Help Abbey giving permission for school bulding to be used till priests house is ready after the fire. Also donations and sympathy given.
	8	Correspondence to Price 1906-1906, re: Sympathy letters and donations give for loss.
	9	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906 re: Donations and sympathy on fire. Letters.
	10	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906 re: donations and sympathy on fire. letters.
	11	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906 re: Publication of I. Kerkey from the new Bingham Hotel. Also sympathy on fire and donations.
	12	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906, re: Sympathy and donations for fire.
2	1	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906, re: Letters of sympathy & donations for fire.
	2	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906, re: letters of sympathy & donations towards fire damage.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
2	3	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906, re: Letters of sympathy and donations for fire.
	4	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906, re: letters of sympathy and donations for fire.
	5	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906, re: letters of sympathy and donations for fire.
	6	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906, re: Letter from Redemptorist Fathers on subscription on "Truth" paper, and letters of sympathy and donations for fire.
	7	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906, re: Letters of sympathy and donations for fire.
	8	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906 re: letters of sympathy and donations for fire.
	9	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906, re: Letters from Mother Ursula advising that she will circulate magazine to their patrons, also other letter of sympathy and donations for fire.
	10	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906, re: Quite a number of letters from St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, N.Y. on talks, slides, and students letters on installing a building and suggestions. Also letters of consolation and donations for fire.
	11	Correspondence to Price 1905-1906, re: one letter from Sacred Heart Rectory asking for additional copies for the edition of "Truth".
	12	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906, re: A small note asking for pictures of Fr. O'Brien, of Dr. Lamb and others in a group. Also quite a few Letters from St. Mary's Seminary, Belmont, N.C. from Tom asking if he recieved Breviaries he sent him. There is a drawing of priests house and aprartments. Also letters of smupathy and donations.
	13	Correspondence to Price, 1905-1906, (Undated) re: Letters of sympathy and donations for fire.