

Prison Chaplain, at Guard's Funeral,
Asks Separate Facility for Revolutionaries

NYTimes

SEP 17 1971

THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1

Prison Chaplain, at Guard's Funeral, Asks Separate Facility for Revolutionaries

He Predicts More Riots Unless Change Is Made

By McCANDLISH PHILLIPS

Special to the New York Times

BATAVIA, N. Y., Sept. 16—A widely known Roman Catholic prison chaplain, the Rev. James P. Collins, stood near a freshly dug gravesite in St. Joseph's Cemetery here today and warned that major prison upheavals would recur in New York State unless a separate institution was opened for inmates he described as "hard-core revolutionaries."

Father Collins, a chaplain at the State Correctional Facility at Elmira for the last 12 years, is the immediate past president of the American Correctional Chaplains Association, a national organization of chaplains of three faiths.

Father Collins called for the early creation of what he called "a maximum security institution for about 150 hard-core, militant, Marxist revolutionaries."

"Until this is done, you're going to have more than what you had at Attica," he said. As a veteran prison chaplain I predict it."



PRISON REFORMS STRESSED: The Rev. James P. Collins, left, a chaplain at Elmira prison, with the Rev. Eugene Marcinkiewicz, Catholic chaplain at Attica facility, at gravesite after the funeral yesterday of Carl W. Valone, one of the hostages who died.

The New York Times/William E. Sauro

Mother at Gravesite

The sounds of grief had just subsided at the gravesite. The body of Carl W. Valone, a 44-year-old guard who died as a hostage during the storming of the state prison at Attica on Monday, was buried as Father Collins made his plea.

The victim's white-haired mother, Mrs. Mary Sica Valone, had sat quietly during the gravesite rites, held under a sugar maple tree now touched with autumn yellow. A few feet away was the stone marking the site where she had watched the burial of her husband, Joseph, in 1963.

As the burial of her son began, the widow's grief became too great for silence. "My son, my son—my son Carl," she called out.

Moments earlier, the victim's sister, Mrs. Willaim Bangert, had fainted and fallen to the ground.

Father Collins said he had come to this area to stand by his weary colleague, the Rev. Eugene Marcinkiewicz, the Catholic chaplain at Attica. The two men stood together a few feet from the guard's grave as the family left the cemetery.

"You've got a new ballgame in prisons throughout the country now," Father Collins said. He spoke of "a new breed of revolutionary who want to bring down the prisons."

"They're just as dedicated to that as most of us are to the rule of law," he said. "A small group of such men can tear an institution up. The ordinary prisoner has no choice but to go along. There is a fear of the militant by many men."

The chaplain said it was necessary to establish a small prison, "as tight as Alcatraz used to be," for such men, "without regard to color."

Father Marcinkiewicz, a tall priest with black hair and a face that seemed drained of color or joy, said quietly: "I feel such a void now. I've been in this prison 15 years, and I saw improvements in that time. May be not as many as there should be, but some."

He agreed with Father Collins on the necessity of segregating militants from other inmates, but he stopped short of endorsing the idea of a small, separate institution specifically for them. He estimated "the hard-core group" in Attica at 150 to 200 men.

Asked why 1,200 men are

thought to have participated in the Attica rebellion, the 61-year old chaplain said, "I think there was pressure put on them."

The priest saw some significance in both the objects and the order of destruction carried out by inmates inside the prison.

"First," he said, "they desecrated the chapel. Religion. They destroyed the chalice, missals, the portable altar. They tore my vestments and they wore them in the yard." This was done in mockery, he indicated.

"Second, they destroyed the school books.

"Third, they destroyed the industry areas, where the men worked and learned trades."

Father Collins stressed the urgency of keeping "the type responsible for the carnage at Attica away from the ordinary, unsuccessful burglars and robbers who are decent men, who want help."

He scoffed at the "instant experts" who are calling for reforms based on a vacuum of first-hand knowledge. "A man cannot be helped against his will," Father Collins said. "The eggheads do not understand this because they do not know prison nature."

The institution that he envisions would not require certain facilities. "You would not need a school—they don't want them. They burned this one. They would not need a chapel. They burned this one," he said.

Clean-Up Going On

The Attica chapel is also the auditorium, seating 1,500 men, where motion-pictures are also shown.

Prison chaplains receive a state salary beginning at \$12,734—one step above a lieutenant in the correction officer corps—plus a house and the help of a housekeeper.

"The inmates are quiet now," Father Marcinkiewicz said. "Teams of medical men are going from cell to cell, block by block, to treat the men who need it. I talked to all the men on the three floors of the hospital."

The chaplain said he had not yet gone into the cell rows to talk to the men there. He indicated that such action was still premature but that he believed that he would soon do so.

A reporter asked Father Collins about some guards referring to prisoners as "animals" and "niggers."

"The Department of Correction has sent down the word

for some time that this kind of nonsense has got to stop," he said. He spoke also of "the insolence and language that the guard force has got to take" from inmates.

Father Marcinkiewicz said that "some inmates offered to and are working with the officers in cleaning up, putting the place back in shape slowly."

Both chaplains had concelebrated the funeral mass for Mr. Valone with Father Paschal Accuavia, pastor of the St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church here, and two other priests.

Some 320 persons attended the mass, about a third of them children from the parochial school adjoining the church. Six of his comrades from the guard force bore the flag-covered coffin out of the church. There was not the outpouring of correction officers from across the state that marked the first two funerals for hostages yesterday.*

After darkness fell tonight scores of cars preceded by a motorcycle escort drove to the Attica prison where residents of the village and surrounding countryside gathered for a candlelight service to honor the slain guards.

Mr. Valone, who had worked at Attica for 10 years, was a Genesee County and Batavia Democratic committeeman, a member of the Glen S. Loomis American Legion Post and the St. Nicholas Club. He had formerly operated the Silver Slipper Tavern here. He leaves, in addition to his wife and mother, two sons and two daughters.

Meanwhile, the bodies of five victims were at the Marley Funeral Home in Attica, awaiting funerals tomorrow. Hundreds of floral displays had arrived, and 3,000 people had visited the large frame house on Main Street to view the bodies.

A second autopsy was conducted this morning on the body of Richard Lewis, the slain guard whose burial in Batavia yesterday was delayed at the request of state police.

Robert E. Fischer, the deputy attorney general in charge of the investigation at Attica said today that it was he who had asked the police to request permission from Mr. Lewis's family to postpone interment. This was done, he said, pending re-examination of autopsy reports.

James F. Smith, the funeral

director in charge of the Lewis funeral, said yesterday that he had not seen any bullet wounds on the body.

Dr. John Edland, who performed the autopsy, said today in Rochester that he had been telephoned this morning by Dr. Michael Baden, the New York City pathologist who is re-examining the autopsies. Dr. Baden told him that the findings of the new post-mortem were identical to the one that he had performed on Tuesday morning, Dr. Edland said.

In that report the cause of death was attributed to a single small wound in the back through which a bullet passed on an upward projectory, injuring the heart and blood vessels and lodging under an arm.

Guard's Burial Delayed

Special to The New York Times

AUBURN, N. Y., Sept. 16—

One hundred and fifty correction officers as well as county and city officials formed an honor guard today as funeral services were conducted for John J. D'Arcangelo, one of the nine hostages killed Monday at the State Correctional Facility at Attica.

A solemn high mass was Msgr. James D. Cuffney in St. Mary's Church.

The body was then returned to the Farrell Funeral Home, where an examination was conducted by Dr. Henry Siegel, a pathologist from Westchester County. Dr. Siegel did not disclose his findings. Mr. D'Arcangelo will be buried tomorrow morning.

The examination of the body was requested by the Attorney General's office and with the consent of the widow to determine the cause of death. Two officers from the state police were at the funeral home during the examination.

Last night, more than 125 wives of employes at the correction facility at Auburn, met with Superintendent Robert J. Henderson; Paul Bergan, deputy superintendent; Assemblyman L. S. Rifford Jr. and Mayor Paul W. Lattimore of Auburn to discuss what could be done to make husband's jobs more safe.

The wives expressed anger, fear, and, most of all, frustration over what they termed the irresponsible acts committed at Attica. Assemblyman Rifford suggested to the group that they form an auxiliary.

* On Valone, see
Belyveld NYTimes
15 Sep 71.

* From list of
inmate proposals,
NYT 13 Sep:
#7, allow true
religious freedom