

Daniel Berrigan Is Freed After Serving 18 Months of a 3-Year Term

By MARTIN ARNOLD
Special to the New York Times

DANBURY, Conn., Feb. 24— In the bitter cold this morning, with about 200 supporters waiting ankle deep in snow at the gate, the Rev. Daniel J. Berrigan, a major symbol in the antiwar movement, walked out of prison on parole.

He had served 18 months of a three-year term for burning draft records in Catonsville, Md., in 1968, and he was somewhat frazier, somewhat grayer, perhaps even ailing from the experience.

But he was also exhilarated as he stood before the cream-colored prison building and shouted, "Terrific, free!"

He will, he said, direct his life toward "survival and resistance." The only restrictions he will allow himself, he said, besides the geographical boundaries of his parole, will be determined by "my ingenuity and courage."

'Dreadful and Marvelous'

And touching the cross on his shirt front — four large screws welded together, hanging from a multicolored twist of yarn—the 50-year-old Jesuit priest said that life in prison was "dreadful and marvelous,

depending on whose face you are looking at." "I made hundreds of friends," he said. "It's a popstale prison, not like Attica."

Father Berrigan stepped through the prison door at 8:30 A.M. and said, "Hello, hello, everybody," to the 50 or so newsmen assembled. He then greeted a brother, Jerome Berrigan, an English professor at Syracuse Community College, and his brother's wife, Caroline and 12-year-old son, Philip Daniel Berrigan.

Another brother, the Rev. Philip F. Berrigan, and six others are on trial in Harrisburg, Pa., on charges of plotting to kidnap Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser on national security. The Rev. Philip Berrigan is also serving a six-year sentence for burning draft records in Baltimore and Catonsville.

Caravan Formed

After a short news conference, the priest got into his brother's station wagon and was driven a quarter mile to the prison front gate, where he greeted his supporters briefly.

Then a caravan of automobiles and marchers was formed — most of the march-

ers seemed to be college students — and drove or walked 2 miles past empty snowbound fields and gray and white cottages to the St. Gregory the Great Roman Catholic Church and School.

There, about 300 persons jammed into the gymnasium, which had been deserted because the students are on vacation, for a religious service. Here the crowd was mixed, with students and townspeople, priests and ministers.

From a stage in the auditorium, the Rev. John Wigh, pastor of the church, tossed homemade loaves of bread to the crowd seated on the floor. The bread was broken and passed among the crowd, along with small cups of wine.

The Rev. Thomas Carroll, curate of the church, said that all the telephone calls he had received from parishioners so far favored using the church and school to greet the priest. But Father Wigh said he was wondering when the complaint calls would start.

"I know we'll get some flack," he said.

Father Berrigan, a slim, erect figure, worked his way through the crowd, stopping now and then to embrace a supporter with "Hey, friend, you look beautiful." Others embraced each other saying, "Christ in peace."

Sorry to Leave

Father Berrigan said that he was sorry to leave the prison, "in the sense they [his fellow prisoners] can't come with me." "The war is still the first fact

of life for the living," he said. "There is no issue comparable to the death of the innocent — not the economy, not good fellowship in China, not cancer.

"Today we begin another journey together, a pilgrimage to Harrisburg. Let our walk declare the deep resolve of our hearts. We will never rest until sanity has been restored to the mighty and power to the powerless."

Under the terms of his parole, Father Berrigan must stay within the physical jurisdiction of the United States District Court of the Southern District of New York unless he has special court permission. The Southern District consists of Manhattan, the Bronx and Coxsack, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester Counties. This weekend, however, he has permission to visit his mother, who is celebrating her 86th birthday in Syracuse.

On Monday he must report to his Federal parole officer in rights."

Manhattan. His parole, which lasts until the end of his sentence on Aug. 2, 1973, is under the supervision of the Woodstock Jesuit Communities. Father Berrigan will live in Coleman Hall, 501 East Fordham Road, the Bronx, which is run by the Jesuits.

The administrator of the Woodstock Jesuit Communities, the Rev. Francis Schemel, said he thought that Father Berrigan's first order of business would be to receive medical attention.

The priest was paroled because he was in poor health, the United States Board of Parole said. Father Berrigan said that he had been paroled because it was "politically embarrassing for them to keep me there longer." However, he is believed to be suffering from a chronic digestive disorder, ulcers and a hernia.

He said that he would keep the terms of his parole, but that he would insist on his "constitutional and human