



—(Staff photo.)
Rev. Fred Fox greets Cuban refugees.

Smuggled Out of Cuba

8 Castro Refugees Arrive in Duluth

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Keeping close to one another, as children do in fright, eight young refugees from Fidel Castro's Cuba stepped off a plane in Duluth Friday.

The people milling about the airport were unaware of the drama they were witnessing. To them the children looked like any others being met by a priest, the Rev. Fred M. Fox. Onlookers watched the youngsters with only fleeting interest and seemed more fascinated by the big jets taxiing in the distance.

The eight boys—the youngest only eight, the oldest, 13—tried hard to contain their bewilderment. They smiled perfunctorily, paused for a moment to survey the scene and glance back at the plane that had brought them from Chicago, where they had arrived from Miami. Then they started toward the gate leading to the depot.

Their young lives lately have been full of bewildering events, too big and too significant for young minds to fathom. A few months ago they bid farewell to their families and friends in Cuba, not knowing whether they would ever see them again.

With barely more than the frayed clothes on their backs, they were smuggled out of Cuba, some with help from a charitable underground operation that has rescued thousands like them in recent months for resettlement in the U.S.

Then they suddenly found themselves in Florida, not far from Miami, a n o n g strangers in a country of different language and different ways than they had known before. How they got to the U.S. and who helped them they are not at liberty to say, for that might endanger the exodus of others and also the safety of their families left behind.

In Florida they were herded with hundreds of others into havens and relocation centers run by kind people, who also must keep out of the news as much as possible.

At first they barely noticed Father Fox, director of Duluth's Catholic Social Service, who had arranged for their resettlement here. His handshake reassured them. It had to suffice, and it did, since he speaks no Spanish and they as yet cannot understand English.

Father Fox nodded to them to cooperate if they wished as a couple of photographers motioned them back on the gangway to take their pictures. The photographers had been instructed not to take closeups and to keep their faces shaded. But all youngsters love to mug a camera.

In another minute they were on their way, following closely behind Father Fox. He took them to the St. James Children's Home in Woodland where they will remain temporarily. In time, said Father Fox, they may be placed in private foster homes, provided enough suitable homes are offered. Each foster home must be inspected and licensed.

The plan is for the children to remain in Duluth until they can be reunited with their own families. When that will be no one knows. Meanwhile, with help and affection from the nuns at the Children's Home, and from compassionate persons who feel a love for these young victims of oppression in Cuba, they will have a chance to resume their disrupted youth and start a brighter life here.

And maybe, if the brief drama that took place at the airport Friday penetrates into enough hearts, Duluth will be able to welcome other youngsters to follow these in the future.

"We have much to pray for and much to do," said Father Fox as he corraled his young charges and with a soft smile made them feel at home.

They were warned especially against trying to contact their families and were told what they may and may not do while they waited for their next move, meanwhile being given a fast orientation course about life in the U.S.

As others they had come to know in the centers left for new homes in communities willing to accept them, they waited their turn, wondering when it would be, and their loneliness and bewilderment grew.

For some the weeks stretched into months. Then, suddenly, at dawn Friday they found themselves aboard a plane and less than a dozen hours later they were in Duluth, a city they had never heard of. No chaplaine accompanied them, but Eduardo, the oldest, carried their papers and acted as the leader. His brother Carlo, 11, is also in the group.

Column of Religious Aided Tois Through Years Those Who Made St. James' Home

(At a Solemn Pontifical Mass celebrated on Aug. 16 to observe the fiftieth anniversary of the present St. James' Children's Home in Duluth, Bishop Lawrence A. Glenn of Crookston delivered a sermon in which he traced the history of the institution. Bishop Glenn was associated closely with St. James' during the years in which he served as director of Catholic Charities for the Duluth Diocese. The text of his sermon is printed below.)

Throughout her history, the Catholic Church has been solicitous for dependent children, especially those of the household of the faith. If there are no others to provide for those not

of the fold, the Church is constrained to do so by the love of neighbor which she preaches in the name of Christ. But she is especially concerned about the lambs of her own flock lest their precious faith be lost when separated from their families. So the Bishops have always striven to provide for their care directly or through others.

Thus it was in the Diocese of Duluth. The first Bishop, James McGolrick, and Mother Scholastica, the first prioress of the Benedictine Sisters, collaborated on June 17, 1900, in establishing what was the recognized plan of that day, an orphanage. It was located in the ten-year-old brick building at 20th Avenue West and Third Street, Duluth, which had been recently vacated by the original St. Mary's Hospital. Children in need were to be channelled to it by the pastors of the diocese, which then reached to the North Dakota border.

The Benedictine Sisters have staffed the institution since. Sister M. Hilda Power was the first directress for about one year. There were almost 60 children soon after it opened, and this number eventually climbed to 150 in 1918. Other superiors succeeded her in due time, but in all only six superiors carried this responsibility over a period of 60 years. All devoted themselves to their exacting task with zeal and industry, but two must be singled out for special mention, viz. Sister James Roche and Sister Yvonne Campbell, both of the Order of St. Benedict, each of whom gave approximately 25 years to this work of charity.

To the public from 1901 till 1917 the two James', Sister James and Bishop James McGolrick, were synonymous with St. James' Orphanage. During this period the institution was dependent on their personalities. It was the Bishop's first love among his various duties and he kept in close contact with every phase of its operation, while the cantl administration internally he left in the hands of Sister James. Her gentle and refined approach left its impress upon the children and provided the public relations needed for attracting financial support. Sister James was superior on two later occasions till her death in 1929.

Sister Yvonne deserves a conspicuous citation not only because of her length of service, but also because of her extreme industry and self-effacing cooperative spirit. During her time, the administration was actually divided between three persons. But she had many

duties, including bookkeeper and choir mistress, but still found time to devote attention to dealing first-hand with the children and she exerted a lasting influence over them.

Other nuns who served as superiors were Sister Enstelle, Gerard, Seraphine, and Mari-
anne.

Various chaplains served the orphanage over the years. The first ones were the Benedictines, Father Augustine Brockmeyer and Father Raymond Basel, who resided at St. Clement's Rectory next door. After the present building was erected in Woodland, the chaplains lived in the institution, and for the first five years there was a rapid succession of them. Father Joseph Gillien, who is still living in his late 80s in France, was among this group and is remembered for his part in fighting a fire during the first six months of the new building's existence.

Father John O'Dwyer who died in Crookston in 1957, in his late 80's, also served during this period. Though the chaplains were expected to confine themselves to spiritual ministrations, there was one, Father Thomas Hennebery, who went beyond the call of duty and offered to help on the collections and strode from end to end of the Range visiting the parents for this purpose.

Permanence and stability was attached to the chaplaincy in 1915 with the arrival of Father Thomas O'Donaghue, a generous and wholesome soul for whom a long term was hoped for by all. Alas, however, he died unexpectedly in February 1920. He was succeeded in

March 1920 by Monsignor Michael Boland, the present incumbent.

Toward the end of Bishop McGolrick's career, on Aug. 2, 1816, an important change in organization was introduced, when the institution was incorporated as a diocesan organization. From 1900 to 1910, the building had been owned and had been operated by the Sisters. The new building was erected in 1909-1910 and from its opening in 1910 till 1916 was owned by the Diocese but the institution was administered by the Sisters.

From 1916 the building continued to be owned by the Diocese, while the ultimate responsibility for administration was gradually being assumed by the diocese through the priest appointed by the Ordinary. Father O'Donaghue first served nominally in this capacity and it was only after the coming of Bishop McNicholas in 1918 that he actually began to act as secretary-treasurer and was assisted by a lay advisory board.

The board of laymen represented a "Who's Who" of prominent Catholics of the city at that time: Charles F. Haley, F. X. Farrell, Thomas J. Monahan, and Francis W. Sullivan. Judge Dennis Donovan and C. E. Fuller, Jr., have been faithful lay members of the Board in recent years.

The appointment of Monsignor Michael Boland in March, 1920 as chaplain and secretary-treasurer must be classed as one of the pivotal points of the institution's history. He soon became a fixture