

FREDERICK OBRECHT PEAKE

Old Glory is flying at half-mast on the flag-pole near the Church to-day as we mourn our first casualty of the war in the death of Frederick Obrecht Peake, son of Boone Peake and Della Mary Greenwell Peake. Fred was born on July 16, 1921, and was named after or for the present Abbott of Gethsemani, Frederick M. Dunne and former abbott Edmund Obrecht. He was a member of the Graduating class of St. Catherine's High school of 1939 and joined the United States Navy in 1941. He held the rank of gunner's mate, third class at the time of his death. It has not been made known how or where he died. We have only the bare fact of his death.

We extend to the bereaved parents and to the brothers and sisters our deepest sympathy. May the God of all comfort bless and console them, and may they be heartened with the thought of the infinite mercy of God who loves our dear ones far more than we do, and who desires their salvation more than we are able to think or imagine.

In your charity we ask that you pray for the repose of his soul. May he rest in peace.

A SOLDIER'S FUNERAL.

(I speaking here of a soldier's funeral we wish to refer to anyone in the armed forces of our country.)

While more than 200 persons of the community attend the funeral Mass of Fred Peake, the number was altogether too small.

Do you who slept or sat comfortably in your homes around here while that Mass was going on ever stop to realize what a debt you owe to those who die for your country? Is it asking too much to ask you to attend their funerals? Are you really an American? If you are a true American you will not think so. We should attend the funeral of a soldier first of all because we owe it to him who died for us to pray for the repose of his soul. That is asking very little.

The second reason for attending the soldier's funeral is a patriotic one. After all these men who fight and bleed and suffer and die for us are human. They stand ready to make the supreme sacrifice for us. When their buddies fall and they see us thoughtful of them; when they know that we pray for the repose of

their souls; when they hear how all turn out to attend their funerals, and know that we pray for and offer the holy Mass for the repose of their souls, the soldiers still in the service are encouraged. They hear of our love and charity and they take heart and make greater efforts to be good soldiers. If they fought before they will fight harder when they think that they are fighting for those they love.

But if we are heartless; if we pay no attention to them; if we do not even turn out to attend the funerals of their buddies, then they will be disheartened. They may even wonder if such people are worth fighting for after all.

This is an apparently small matter, but it can have a tremendous effect on the outcome of this war. I really believe that any citizen who fails to attend a soldier's funeral out of pure laziness is unworthy of his American citizenship and should be dispossessed of it. He is a slacker of the first water, and an enemy of our country. Very little better is that citizen who fails to attend the soldier's funeral on the least pretext or excuse.

WHETHER YOU HAVE ANY RELIGION OR ANY CHARITY OR NOT, THEN MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS TO ATTEND THE SOLDIER'S FUNERAL OUT OF RESPECT FOR WHAT HE DID FOR YOU, AND FROM A MOTIVE OF PATRIOTISM. IF YOU DON'T LOVE HIM, LOVE AT LEAST YOUR SELF AND YOUR COUNTRY.

HOLY NAME SUNDAY AND THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Next Sunday is Holy Name Sunday. Remember, men and boys, this is the first Sunday of the New Year. Make a good start.

THE ELECTION of the new officers will take place at that mass. The office of president and the other offices are honorary for the most part. The giving of that honor is in our hands. We shall recommend or nominate for that office only those whom we think to be loyal to the church and to us. If, after they have been given the honor they turn out to be lacking in loyalty and sacrifice to us we will never honor them again.

ALTAR SOCIETY DUES FOR 1943 ARE NOW DUE. WE ASK THAT THEY BE COLLECTED IN JANUARY.

NEXT SUNDAY IS PAYUP SUNDAY. GET YOUR ENVELOPE COLLECTION UP TO DATE NEXT SUNDAY SURE.