

# Broadway

By ED SULLIVAN.

## A Chorine's Letter to Her Ma

Dear Mamma: Remember that priest who sent you the letter from France when Papa was wounded, the letter Pa framed when he came home and hung it in the parlor? Well, yesterday, some of us were walking downtown and we saw the biggest crowd I've ever seen on Broadway and what do you think, Ma?—they were unveiling a statue to that same priest, Father Francis Duffy, and the bands were playing and there were soldiers with guns and very famous people were making speeches about him. . . . I didn't want to boast, but I told Margie Ellis and Shannon Dean, who were with me, that we had a letter from Father Duffy at home, in a gold frame. . . . "I didn't know you were a Catholic," Shannon said, and I said we weren't Catholics, but Episcopalians, but that Father Duffy said in his letter to you that, although Pa wasn't of the same religion, he was one of his boys.

"Gee, he must have been a swell person," Margie said, and I said "Yes" that Pa said he was the finest man he ever met and that all of the men in the trenches idolized him. . . . "Your Dad must have known him real well," Shannon said, and I told her that the night Pa was shot and got caught on the barbed wire in No Man's Land, Father Duffy crawled out to him and tried to get him unpinned from the wire, and every time the wire rattled, the machine guns would shoot in their direction and Pa told him to go back and Father Duffy said: "Son, we Irish are very stubborn, so shut up, because I'm sticking with you," and after almost three hours, he got Pa off the wire and carried him back and then he wrote you a letter and said not to be scared by the casualty lists, because Papa would get better. . . . So Margie said: "I'm glad they put his statue on Broadway. Every time us kids look at it, it will remind us to keep our noses clean." . . . Shannon said: "But it will make those Broadway phonies uncomfortable, with his eyes on them all the time." . . . When we turned away, I had the funniest feeling that he WAS looking right at me, Ma, and I know it was silly, but I smiled right at him because, after all, he saved Pa for you and me.

A - Duffy, Francis P. (Father) (07-07)

TIMES SQUARE HIS PARISH



FATHER DUFFY

A. P. Photo.  
Statue of Father Duffy unveiled yesterday.

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Aug. 1996