

A-Duffy, Francis P. (Father)
(07-12)

DUFFY STATUE IS UNVEILED

30,000 Attend Ceremonies at Times Square.

LETTER FROM ROOSEVELT

Postmaster-General Farley Reads President's Message.

The late Rev. Francis P. Duffy, pastor of Holy Cross Church, 329 West Forty-second street, and chaplain of the old Sixty-ninth Infantry, later the 165th Regiment of the Rainbow Division, stands memorialized in bronze at the northern end of Times Square.

The statue to this heroic Catholic of world war fame was unveiled yesterday while some 30,000 persons stood and heard Father Duffy extolled by Federal, State, city, military and religious notables.

It is placed on the triangular island between Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh streets and Broadway and Seventh avenue. In front of a massive granite cross stands a figure of Father Duffy in bronze. He is wearing an A. E. F. uniform and his trench coat is open at the neck. His prayer book is in his right hand and his helmet lies at his feet.

Roosevelt's Letter Read.

Participants in yesterday's ceremonies sat before the monument. There were Postmaster-General James A. Farley, Mayor F. H. LaGuardia, Major-Gen. William N. Haskell, representing Gov. Lehman; Borough President Samuel Levy, former Gov. Alfred E. Smith and Mgr. Michael J. Lavelle, representing Cardinal Hayes. Also in this group were Major Joseph A. McCaffrey, chaplain of the old Sixty-ninth; Major-Gen. Frank R. McCoy, commanding the Second Corps Area; James J. (Gene) Tunney, former world champion heavyweight boxer, and Col. William J. Donovan, former commander of the Sixty-ninth. The presiding officer was Col. Alexander E. Anderson, head of the regiment.

Several veterans' organizations were present as were military groups and Knights of Columbus councils.

Mr. Farley read a letter from President Roosevelt expressing his regrets at being absent and paying tribute to the dead priest, whose military rank was lieutenant-colonel.

Mayor Accepts Statue.

The Mayor accepted the statue for the city. Father Duffy, he said, could "do more with a shake of his finger than a lot of statues or a posse of deputized sheriffs." The statue is in a natural spot, in the priest's parish on Broadway, he declared. Former Gov. Smith said that Father Duffy died for his country as heroically as any soldier on the field of battle.

Other speakers were Gen. McCoy,

UNVEILING THE STATUE OF FATHER DUFFY



A view of the crowd at Times Square on Sunday afternoon.

Sun Staff Photo.

Col. Donovan, Mr. Levy and Gen. Haskell. Major McCaffrey blessed the statue. The Rev. Paul Moody, president of Middlebury College, delivered the invocation and Rabbi Abraham L. Feinberg the benediction.

The actual unveiling was done by Miss Agnes Bird, Father Duffy's niece, who drew the string that pulled the veil from the statue of the priest.

After Rabbi Feinberg's benediction a bugler blew taps, then the band of the 165th Infantry led the uniformed delegations down Broadway, playing "Onward, Christian Soldiers."

COBOURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

Aug, 1996