

St. Columban's, Killiney.

29 December 1970.

Dear Alice and Maurice,

Many thanks for your Christmas card. It was very good of you to think of one so far away. I didn't send any cards myself this year. I joined a very large crowd of people in this country who are protesting (one has to be protesting about something) about the scandalous increase in postage that has been shoved on us by an ungrateful overnment. They put it up by 50% and we are all proper blazin' mad. It costs far more now to mail a card than it does to buy it. So the Christmas mail went down by 30%. Not that this will worry the Department because they didn't have to employ so much extra help and they will still be shead of the game. But wait till the next general election!

Our Chapter came to an end a couple of weeks ago. That is the time when we have our own elections and draw up policy for the future. It was the longest Chapter that we ever had, as it lasted four months. As a result of it I lost this job which I have held for 23 years. And I can't say that I am sorry. I was beginning to feel that any change would be a change for the better.

For the present I will be at our place near Navan editing the Acts of the Chapter and getting them ready for publication. After that I am due a good long vacation and then I have been asked to take charge of one of the office departments in our head house in the U. S. near Omaha. That is where I started off my career in the U. S. so it won't be anything new.

I suppose you know that our new Superior General is Father Steinhilber, who was the Superior over there in the U. S. I wonder how he will like living in Ireland. It will be quite a change, and as he is of German descent he has no relatives here.

Glad to hear that you had a chance to see Fr. Bill Smith on his way back to the Philippines. I suppose you know that his father died suddenly while he was at home. R. I. P.

All the best for the New Year to yourselves and Tom (and his wife, God bless them) and Phil.

Love to all.

g. Marman