

Catholic convento
Zaputacan, Lango
Mindanao, P.I.

AIR LETTER



**VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

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Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Murphy & Family
2550 31st Ave.
San Francisco, California
U. S. A.

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

Catholic Convento
Kapatagan, Ianao
Dec. 11, 1952

Dear Alice & Maurice,

Received your most welcome letter a while back but I have been waiting for the money order to arrive so that I could tell you I had received it safely. Well, it came the other day and I want to say a big "Thank You" for the nice Christmas present. I will take care of the Masses as soon as possible. I wrote out my Christmas cards some time ago and mentioned all this to you in it but because I could not get .06 centavos stamps until yesterday, they did not get mailed till today; so it will be long after Christmas when they arrive. In fact, I am still lacking about fifteen of them. For mail in the P.I. it is only .05, so they do not usually carry the .06. This should reach you around Christmas to let you know that everything is o.k. and say "Merry Christmas" on time. I will write to those addresses you gave me but it will be after Christmas. It is a very good idea and many thanks for thinking of it and going to all the trouble. I would write now but I owe so many letters and have been so pressed with work that I can't make it. I can't remember ever looking for a vacation so eagerly as I am this year; guess I never really needed one so much. I am really dead tired with the kind of tiredness that sleep doesn't help. It is up in the head as well as in the body. I guess it is the last year catching up with me. You don't realize it when the work is to be done and you are running around but it gets you in the end. I came home from a barrio Fiesta yesterday and found that a funeral had left - couldn't wait for me to get back. Another came in shortly after and there was a couple waiting to be interviewed for a marriage. I went to bed at 9.00 last night and because I do not usually need the alarm to wake me, I didn't bother setting it. Meyer heard a thing until 6.30 this morning. I usually wake before the alarm at 5.30 and that when I go to bed at 11.00 or so. Before I start the day I am tired. Oh, well, a month in Manila should fix me up. It is the change I need more than anything else. It won't be too much of a rest as I have a lot of shopping to do - getting things for the church as long as my money holds out and I will have to have a long session with the dentist. I was down with the flu for a few days before my Fiesta - Dec 3rd - and just got up on the 2nd to be in time for the festivities. There is a great deal of it going around here now and every day there is at least one funeral. I was talking to the doctor last night and he told me there was not one house along the road that did not have at least one in bed with it. An epidemic like this takes care of the over-population of babies and I always figure the poor kids are a lot better off. (Another funeral is just coming in and it is not a baby this time!)

Had a great Fiesta yesterday. They wanted three priests and I had a job getting two others but finally made it. Father Bahl up the road was one of them, so we had his truck. It was only an hour's trip - about half in the truck and half walking. There was a long stretch that we had to ride "piggy back" through water to get there. The rains have been very heavy of late. I have another one coming up this Saturday but it is right on the main road so I won't have to tramp through mud! Fiesta is a great time for baptisms but after Confirmations in October and the Centro Fiesta on Dec. 3rd I did not expect many to be left. However, we had fifteen yesterday and that was only a small Fiesta - in the sense that it was not a real barrio, only a private land owner giving one for his tenants. Well, the fiscal has that funeral listed so I must get out and bless the body. Once again, many thanks for all your help. I hope things pan out for that little affair you and Ray were thinking about. I haven't given the Bishop a centavo on my debt yet but the ax will fall any day now and I'll have to hand over everything that comes in. It is great to have it all over now and I can concentrate more on the spiritual end of the work when I come back. So, once again I'll say "Merry Christmas" to you and all my friends who will be receiving late greetings. You and they will be remembered in my Masses on Christmas morning.

As always, Father Bill