

✠ FATHER LEO PETER CRAIG, O.P. ✠

Captain Craig, a chaplain serving with the 99th Field Artillery Battalion in Korea, was killed by a land mine in that country on April 5th.

Father Craig was born in Everett, Massachusetts on October 27th, 1913, and received his early education at Nicholas School in Everett and St. Mary's School in Providence, R. I., He was graduated from La Salle Academy in Providence in 1931 and received his Baccalaureate of Arts from Providence College in 1935. In August of that same year he entered the Dominican Novitiate at St. Rose Priory in Springfield, Kentucky, making his profession at that same convent a year later. Having completed his philosophical and theological studies, Father Craig was ordained in the chapel at the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D. C., on May 21st, 1942, by Bishop Eugene McGuinness, then Ordinary of the diocese of Raleigh, N. C. After ordination Father Craig was assigned to Aquinas College in Columbus, Ohio, where he taught until his enlistment in the army in May, 1949.

As he was vesting for Mass on April 5th, word reached him that a soldier had been injured by a land mine about a hundred yards away. Father immediately removed his vestments and hurried to the wounded man with his stole and holy oils. But a short time before he had warned two war correspondents to keep away from the area, which had been mined by retreating Communist troops. The executive officer of his battalion warned him to stay out of the area where the mine had just exploded. "I believe that I'm needed there and I'd better go through," was Father Craig's answer.

He reached the wounded man and had been with him for a few minutes when one of the others who had come to help stepped on a second mine which exploded, killing eight men and wounding nine others. Father Craig was killed immediately.

Brig. Gen. John H. Hinds, First Cavalry Artillery Commander paid sterling tribute to Father Craig: "A very, very fine man. We have heard nothing but the finest things about him at all times. He was ministering to the wounded at the time of his death and died in the performance of his duty." Father Craig had been recommended for the Silver Star.

On April 6th Lieut. Col. Harold O. Prudell, chaplain with the

First Cavalry Division, read the prayers for the dead over the body. The body was then transported to the United Nations Cemetery at Tang Gok, near Pusan, where burial took place. A Requiem Mass was offered and the Most Rev. Paul Ro, Bishop of Seoul, gave the final absolution.

On April 23rd, a Solemn Mass of Requiem was offered for Father Craig in the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer in New York. Rev. William J. Dillon, O.P., celebrated the Mass assisted by Rev. John J. Ryan, O.P., as Deacon and Rev. Philip L. McQuillan, O.P., as Subdeacon. Fathers Dillon and Ryan are classmates of the deceased. His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman was present in the sanctuary as was His Excellency Bishop Griffiths, Military Ordinariate. Besides about a hundred Dominicans, there were delegations of Franciscans, Redemptorists, and Fathers of the Sacred Hearts present. Father Craig's brother Rev. Lawrence Craig is serving with the Fathers of the Sacred Hearts in Japan.

At 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, April 25th, a Solemn Mass of Requiem was celebrated in St. Martin's Chapel, Fort Belvoir, Va. Lieut. Col. James Murphy was celebrant, Capt. John J. McHugh, Deacon, and Lieut. Gregory R. Ratte, Subdeacon. The Rev. W. C. Burke, O.P., of the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D. C., delivered the eulogy. The Rt. Rev. L. A. Motry, Dean of the School of Canon Law at Catholic University, and the Rt. Rev. E. L. Stevens, V.F., pastor of St. Mary's Church, Alexandria, Va., were seated in the sanctuary.

To Father Craig's father, his brothers and sister, relatives, and friends, *Dominicana* offers the most sincere expression of sympathy. May his soul rest in peace.