

Monday, December 7, 1942

Rev. Clement Falter is Killed in Action

Priest Known Here Killed in Africa

Rev. Clement Falter, C.P.P.S., formerly of St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, and well known in Decatur, died November 8, in North Africa, the first American Catholic chaplain known to have been killed in offensive action on foreign soil.

Word of his death was received here by Rev. Joseph J. Seimetz, pastor of St. Mary's Church and a personal friend of the chaplain. As far as known, Father Falter was buried in North Africa. He was 38 years old.

Memorial services will be held Wednesday morning at St. Joseph's College and on Thursday morning at Carthegena, Ohio in St. Charles' Seminary from which place he was ordained in 1930.

Father Falter visited in Decatur last December and spoke before the high school body. He visited here prior to that time and was well known to many people here.

Father Falter was killed during a landing operation at Fadala, Morocco, according to Rev. Francis Ballinger, Navy chaplain of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., who was aboard the U.S.S. Joseph Hewes with Father Falter. The Hewes was torpedoed after Father Falter disembarked.

Father Falter was commissioned a first lieutenant and had served with the signal corps at Ft. Monmouth, N.J. with the 113th combat team at Georgetown, Del., and at Ft. Ord, Calif.

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