

We have been reading in the papers about how some unscrupulous fishermen practice their trade by the use of deadly poison and dynamite. And about mass food-poisoning (fatal in several cases) among our fish-eating population. In a majority of these cases, it has been definitely established that the poor innocent victims had eaten fish containing the poison used by these fishermen.

Again, our citizen may ignore the important fact that the illegitimate fishing methods of these fishermen do great harm to the aquatic resources of our country. But certainly he, or all of us for that matter, cannot minimize the great threat that the illicit practices pose on the health of the community, of which we are a member.

The government is taking steps to curb these illegal fishing methods but it needs badly the cooperation of every citizen to apprehend and punish these fishermen-murderers!

MONSIGNOR CRONIN

Filial greetings to Mons. Patrick H. Cronin, the first Apostolic Administrator of the new Prelature of Ozamis in Northern Mindanao!

Born in Fullamore, Ireland, in 1913, Monsignor Cronin was educated by the Irish Christian Brothers at the Diocesan Seminary of St. Finian's, Mullingar, (High School).

Deciding to devote his life to the missions in the Far East he joined the Society of St. Columban, was ordained in 1937, assigned to the Philippines, and was one of the first group of Columban priests sent to Mindanao to take over the province of Misamis Occidental from the overburdened Jesuits. After six months in Cebu, studying the Visayan dialect, his first position in Mindanao was to assist in Tangub.

When the parish of Bonifacio was started as an offshoot from Tangub, young Father Cronin became its first pastor, and stayed there during the war years in the mountains, administering to the people and sharing their trials and hardships. On one occasion, he was almost ambushed by the Japanese. Spotting the soldiers hiding in the grass ahead of him, he jumped off his horse and threw himself into the mangrove swamp. Luckily he managed to escape, but lost to the Japs a good horse and saddle.

After the war he worked in the parish of Aurora in the diocese of Zamboanga, and also administered to the people in the new town of Salug where he eventually became the pastor in 1948. It was from there that he moved to Ozamis city as Regional Superior in 1951.

Our humble and heartfelt prayers for this zealous shepherd of souls in his new and important work. Ad multos annos!