



HEROIC IMAGES, HEROIC MEN—May 28 marks the 65th anniversary of the issuance of the Four Chaplains commemorative stamp, which features Father John P. Washington of Newark, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode; Rev. Clark V. Poling; and Rev. George L. Fox. Family members of the Four Chaplains were invited to the White House on May 28, 1948, to meet with President Harry Truman. Earlier this year, Saint Stephen Parish, Kearny, celebrated a Mass in honor of the Four Chaplains, marking the 70th anniversary of their ultimate act of bravery during World War II aboard the doomed United States Army Transport (USAT) *Dorchester* (see *The Catholic Advocate*, Feb. 20 and Jan. 23). During the early morning hours of Feb. 3, 1943, en route to a U.S. military base in Greenland, the *Dorchester* was hit by a torpedo from a German submarine and sank. In the face of calamity, the Four Chaplains gave up their life jackets to save others and went down with the ship. Fr. John Washington was born in Newark on July 18, 1908, and was ordained a priest on June 15, 1935. He first served at Saint Genevieve Parish in Elizabeth, and then went to Saint Venantius Parish in Orange. In 1938, he was assigned to Saint Stephen Parish in what was then the town of Arlington (today a section of Kearny). Also pictured is a section of the stained-glass “Memorial Window” at East Rutherford Memorial Library, which depicts the Four Chaplains—a composition similar to the scene on the postage stamp. The Four Chaplains posthumously received the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart on Dec. 19, 1944, in a ceremony at the post chapel at Fort Myer, VA. The United States Post Office, on May 28, 1948, issued the printing of 115 million Four Chaplain 3-cent stamps. The Four Chaplains also received a posthumous “Special Medal for Heroism,” which was authorized by Congress and presented to family members by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on Jan. 18, 1961. Mark S. Auerbach, Passaic city historian, is a cousin of Rabbi Goode and maintains an extensive collection of books, photos and memorabilia on the Four Chaplains. Auerbach said he’s fulfilling his father’s wish to do all he can to be sure the story of the Four Chaplains is never forgotten. Most Rev. Timothy P. Broglio, J.C.D., Archbishop of the Military Archdiocese of the United States, Washington DC, the main celebrant and homilist at the Feb. 3 Mass at Saint Stephen, said the Four Chaplains are a shining example of faith in action. “Their actions represented the logical consequence of who they were and what they decided to do with God’s grace.”



Stamp graphic courtesy of Mark S. Auerbach

Congratulations



Reverend Joseph J. Astarita
on the 10th Anniversary of
your ordination to the Priesthood