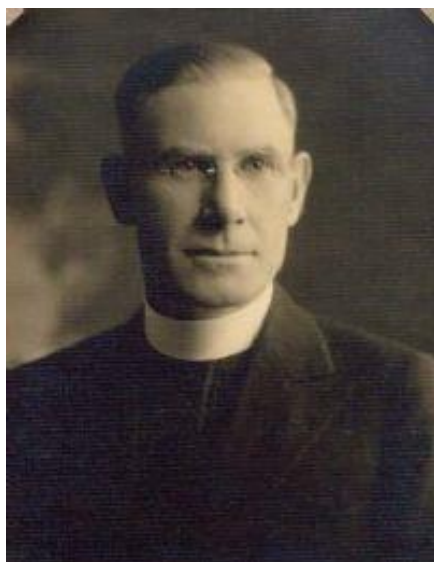


Rev. Michael Edward Fleming

15th State Chaplain of Oregon 1939-41



Michael Edward Fleming was born October 19, 1891 in Kilalee, Ontario, Canada to Jeremiah and Mary Ann Cull Fleming.

Michael enlisted in the Canadian army in 1914, the year Canada joined the Allied forces fighting World War I. He was a telegrapher.

During the winter of 1915 his unit was dug in near Ypres, Belgium for a prolonged period of trench warfare.

The shooting was interrupted by heavy fog, and some of Canadian troops who spoke German and some of the Germans who spoke English shouted across the trenches. A group from both sides agreed to meet together in the middle. They met, exchanged cigarettes, German beer and Jamaican rum, and agreed that the war would stop now if they had anything to do with it. Then they said 'goodbye,' 'good luck' and returned to their respected trenches. When the weather cleared, they were shooting at each other again.

After Michael was discharged at the end of the war he attended and graduated from the University of Toronto. In 1922 he attended Mt. Angel, OR to study for the priesthood.

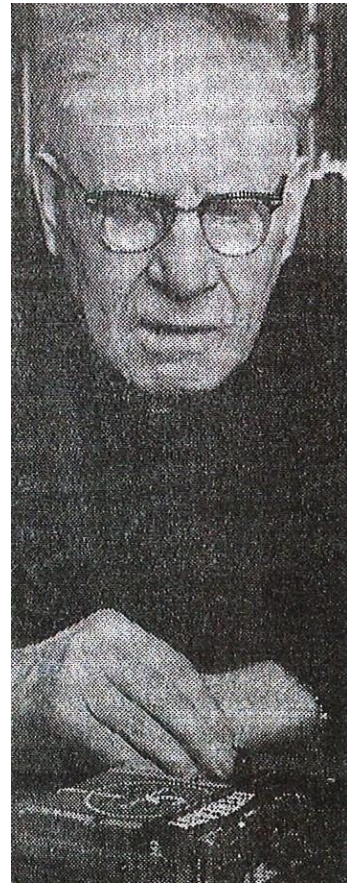
Rev. Fleming served as an assistant for three years then was appointed pastor of St. Patrick parish in Canby. He lived in the unfinished church attic. In 1935 he established the Archdiocese of Portland's Catholic Youth Organization. While pastor of Canby he began the construction of the first Catholic Church in Molalla, OR.

He was state Chaplain of the Columbian Squires the Oregon Knights of Columbus State Chaplain 1939–41 and Chaplain at Sacred Heart hospital in Medford, OR after he left Canby parish.

Rev Fleming retired in 1961 and lived at Mt. St. Joseph in Portland.

Rev. Michael E. Fleming died August 3, 1966 in Portland, OR. He is buried at the Mount Calvary Cemetery in Portland, OR.

"It shows the futility of war. The fellows fighting the war have nothing against each other at all." Rev. Michael E. Fleming, remarking on his time served in WWI, October, 15, 1965, Portland, OR



Rev. Fleming at his telegraph in 1965