

9-1-2015

## Letter from Fr. Leonard Amrhein to Catherine Amrhein, Al, and Tom.

Fr. Leonard Amrhein C.P.

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Sept. 1, 1946.

Huki - Etc.

Dear Mom - Al - Tom

Tom's letter of "Horse Thief Sunday" arrived during the week and made me realize that it is a month since I wrote home. Thanks a lot for the letter and birthday greetings. Nicely timed Tom. I couldn't have done better if I was wishing myself the said greets.

See, I hate to think of your letters getting lost, Tom. Enjoy them all so much. I don't know who to get sore at. But I think the blame can well be placed on those this side of the pond. We have lots of grievances against them ourselves. But we aren't in the good old U. S. A. and we aren't natives. So we just take it and <sup>don't</sup> like it. Only three of your letters arrived: your very first; one dated Passion Sunday - enclosing check; and Horse Thief Sunday's letter. What's the idea - "Horse Thief Sunday"? Whose horse got stolen - when? - Also your package arrived safely. But don't give up hope. One of the sisters here received a letter from Yvaning - a distance of 40 miles - It took 3 months.

I hope all my letters with the  
souvenirs in arrived home. Did you get the  
bundle of newspapers I sent home last May?

Since your letter was written  
before Mom's fall, naturally there wasn't any-  
thing in it about Mom. But I also received  
a letter last week from Mary. She said Mom  
was coming along fine. That's swell. Mary  
also told me some of the details. Mom  
was very lucky. I'll bet Al has already  
demolished those three stone steps. If he  
didn't, I don't know Al. Tell Mom I send  
her my best "hello's".

Al and Tom - what a pair! Where  
did you get the idea of sanding the parlor? I  
bet Al just wanted to see what was under  
the rug. It must look nice though. Do you  
have to take your shoes off when you enter?  
Guess I'll park on the back porch when  
I come home. - If there is any room left  
from Al's iceboxes.

Speaking of going home.  
Fr. Tenard left for home a few weeks ago.  
He is sick. I haven't seen him for six months.  
I guess he'll be in to see you soon.

I'm still here in Nuki. I'm  
 here over three months now. I was supposed  
 to stay two weeks - if you remember. It looks  
 as if this is going to be my permanent abode  
 for awhile. There is lots to do here. But since  
 this is my first appointment - and alone - it  
 is taking me a little while to get on to the ways  
 of running a mission. Chenki is a city mission.  
 Nuki is in the country. So my experience in  
 Chenki doesn't help me much here. Luckily the  
 sisters down here know how to do things.

We have about 300 Christians  
 here - scattered far and wide. At least <sup>half</sup> ~~half~~  
 are apostates or for some other reason don't  
 come to church. So there's a big job for the  
 prayers back home.

When I first landed here, I  
 went through the books and found about 43  
 of communion age but who hadn't made their  
 First Communion. Of this number some had  
 died or moved away. We started a ~~to~~ class  
 during the summer. We had as high as 23 at  
 one class. However, ten persevered to the end  
 and made their First Communion the last  
 Sunday of August. The sisters also had a class of

14 orphans who made their First Communion during August. We still have about 25 who haven't yet received. The Christians here aren't very fervent. So it's slow work. But with the help of God and your prayers we'll just keep trying.

Wuki once was a very fervent Christianity. In 1900 there were only 10 families who were not Catholic. But there never was a resident pastor here till the Passionists moved into Hunan. It was administered from down river someplace. The priest came four times a year. In the meantime the Christians grew careless. One of our very best Christians - and she is genuine - told us of another "very good Christian" who "comes to Church four times a year". They think that is all that is expected of them.

So Tom, get your M.C.C.D. organized and - no don't come over - get praying for Wuki Mission.

So long and greets to everybody in the neighborhood.

P.S. Tom, Will you please get at some Religious Article Store

1/2 doz. of those "wax savers" \* send them to me. They are metal caps to help put on top of candles and slide down as the candles burn. They keep the candles from burning fast. Size - the ordinary small altar candles - about 3/4 or 1 inch in diameter. Thanks - Bill.

Leonard

Air mail surtax unpaid.  
Sent as ordinary mail



2000 1000



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B  
P

Recd  
10/23/46  
Mrs. Catherine Amshin,  
2623 E. Isie St.,  
Pittsburgh (10) Pa.,  
U.S.A.

美國

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