

Roman Catholic Welcome

Dear Friends,

We welcome your return to Canada. We are deeply grateful to you for having defended our Country's Cause bravely and successfully, and for having added lustre to the name of Canada by your military achievements.

You return to Canada with a wider outlook on life and a habit of self-sacrifice for a worthy cause. These are precious qualities in citizenship, when they penetrate our civil life. At first you may find it somewhat difficult to combine them with the ways of civil life. If, during your years of absence, you had not spoken a word of English, you would find, on your return, that your mother tongue had become more or less rusty in your case from lack of use. Others, at least, would observe a difference. So it is with civil life. You have been leading a military life, and at first our ways may seem a little strange to you. Have patience, and soon the better qualities acquired in the Army will enrich the qualities you had as citizens of Canada.

In the Army you learned to face death and to consider squarely what it means for you to stand before your Maker beyond the grave. That is religion. Your faith and your hope of a happy eternity aided you in the performance of the gravest duty of a soldier. Your Chaplains assure us that such, as a rule, was the case. Having thus once looked into eternity with a realizing sense of God's presence, your responsibility is henceforth greater than it was before. It is easy to forget even the greatest of privileges. Without frequent prayer the spiritual sense soon becomes dulled. We expect our returned soldiers to be not only good citizens but also good Christians.

Cordially yours,

N. McNEIL,

Archbishop of Toronto.