

# Six Flee Rectory Fire in South Boston



(Globe Staff Photo by Paul Maguire)

**CURATE TELLS OF FIRE**—Rev. Gerard D. Barry (hand raised) of St. Augustine's Church shows where rectory fire started. Looking on, left to right, Rev. Henry O'Connell, Fire Department chaplain; Rev. Daniel Leary of St. Brigid's Church and Sgt William Crowley.

The pastor and four curates of St. Augustine's Church, South Boston, were forced to seek living quarters elsewhere last night after a three-alarm \$12,000 fire swept the upper floor of their rectory on F st. at 2:15 p. m. yesterday.

Six persons fled the blaze, of undetermined origin, which started on the top floor of the five-story brick building.

Fearing that the fire would spread to the connecting 133-year-old St. Augustine's Church, Chief John V. Stapleton ordered the second and third alarms sounded.

"The blaze was really roaring when we got here," the chief said, "so I ordered a protective curtain of water thrown about the sides of the rectory."

**RECTORY**

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## Comic Dictionary

### HEATHEN

A person who never quarrels over religion.

## RECTORY

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As a precautionary measure, hose lines were taken into the sanctuary of the church. The blaze was confined to the top floor of the rectory.

Forced out by smoke and flames were Rev. Cyril E. Tolland, 34, Rev. James F. Redding, 37, and Rev. Gerard Barry, 27, all assistants.

Also, three women housekeepers, Mrs. Amanda Bailey, 49; Kathleen Mitchell, 24, and Margaret Griffin, who were on the first floor at the time.

The pastor, Very Rev. Harry M. O'Connor, and another curate, Rev. John Cusack, 43, were not at home.

### 2 Firemen Later Collapse

Two firemen, apparently uninjured at the scene, collapsed five hours later at the Andrew-sq. firehouse and were taken to City Hospital.

They were:

**Pvt William T. Murphy**, 27, of 47 O'Callaghan way, South Boston, held for inhalation of smoke.

**Pvt Frank Oldakowski**, 30, of 22 Raven st., Dorchester, released after treatment.

Three workmen, who were making repairs on the rectory roof, clambered down the scaffolding to safety when the flames burst through the windows.

Fr. Tolland said he was reading in an upper floor room when he was aroused by a call of "fire."

He and Fr. Redding rushed from their rooms and into the hallway and met the three women housekeepers heading up the stairs to collect valuables from their burning top-floor rooms.

"We handed them our topcoats and ushered them down the stairs to safety," Fr. Tolland said.

### Blessed Sacrament Removed

The latter then ran to the church and removed the Blessed Sacrament and some valuable vestments to the convent chapel on E st.

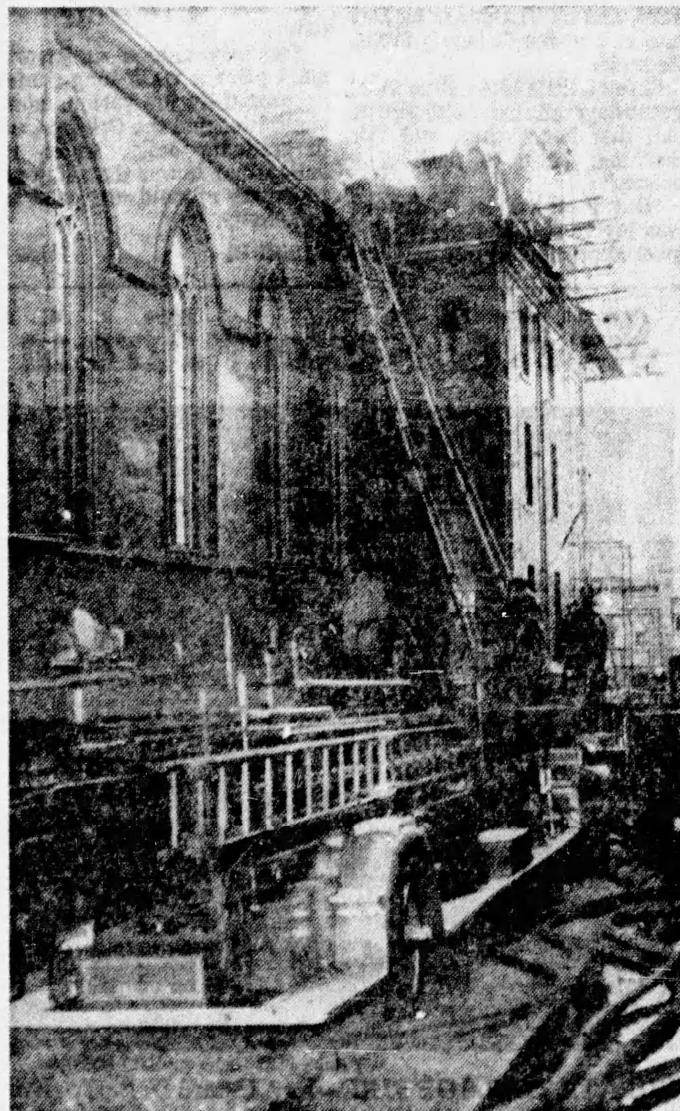
Traffic on busy Dorchester st., main M. T. A. line between Andrew sq. and City Point, was blocked three hours.

Rev. Michael F. Collins, chaplain of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, rushed into the burning building and brought out books and clothing owned by the priests.

Chief Stapleton said the fire was confined to the women's quarters on the top floor. He estimated the fire damage at \$12,000, but said there was also "extensive" water damage to the lower four floors.

### Prefab Knotty Pine

Prefabricated knotty pine room interiors are made to order from plans supplied by architects and homeowners. The interiors come complete with facing for doors, windows, closets and decorative trim necessary.



(Globe Staff Photo by Paul Maguire)

**RECTORY FIRE**—Firemen climb ladders in fight to prevent three-alarm blaze from spreading into 133-year-old St. Augustine's Church.