



WORLD WAR II — Rev. Msgr. Walter S. Carroll is shown above riding in jeep with General Mark Clark (back left) and General Bedell Smith (back right) on the way to an audience with Pope Pius XII in June, 1944.

Professor Kemon, guest speaker at Jewish-Christian dialogue

By Mrs. Anna B. Crow

A captive audience of more than 100 people heard Professor George Kemon of Biscayne College in Miami, Fla. speak at the Jewish Christian Dialogue about Rev. Msgr. Walter S. Carroll, who was deeply involved in the church's efforts to help persons terrorized by the Nazi regime during World War II.

Born in Philadelphia, Pa., and raised in Atlantic City, N.J., Professor Kemon started working on newspapers at the age of 15 after school, on weekends and vacations. After receiving injuries during World War II in Europe, he was assigned to the *Stars and Stripes*.

Following his return to the states, he worked at several papers, went overseas as a correspondent, covered areas of the Far East and also returned to Europe.

Returning from abroad, Professor Kemon became involved in the Catholic Press, resigning at the request of Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy to become biographer of Msgr. Carroll. He has gained a reputation as an eminent Catholic historian and authority on the involvement of the Church in World War II and the Holocaust.

Calling to mind that Msgr. Carroll was only the third American to serve as Secretariat of State at the Vatican, Kemon

noted that he was the only non-military American to remain in Rome when the American Embassy closed during World War II.

Msgr. Carroll lived two lives — helping with prisoners of war for the Vatican and working as a spy for military intelligence for the United States. Although he had an ongoing heart condition, Msgr. Carroll not only had direct access to Pope Pius XII, but also attended allied meetings of the general staff and was closely associated with General Mark Clark. During his tenure, Msgr. Carroll assisted many Jewish refugees through Italy. Also, he abetted prisoners of war (Jewish and Italian) helping them to escape. Many of these, kept in bunkers, were provided a hot meal a day and necessary toilet articles. Children were sent to England, Denmark and Portugal - adults, anywhere they could send them. Upwards to 860,000 Jews were helped.

Msgr. Carroll was a priest for 15 years from 1935 to 1950. "He was put on this earth to do one job — World War II — and no one since that time could operate and accomplish what he did," concluded Professor Kemon. "He lived entirely for other people, the downtrodden and the helpless. No single person made the contribution that he did during World War II."