TELEPHONE:
CONDUCTED BY
EUREKA 3561
FRANCISCAN MISSIONARY
BROTHERS
ST. Joseph's Hill Infirmary
Eureka, Missouri
Wednesday, August 27th, 1941.

My dear Bob:

Your more than welcome letter came yesterday. I was delighted to hear from you and surely appreciate your writing. Ever since I heard of your going to he hospital I have been worried, as you thought I was, and I have reasons for being so. Tee's letter broke the news to me. While he recognized the seriousness of your ailment he was rather optimistic. Said they were starting a novena for you, etc. After hearing from him I wrote to Col Mollison (a swell little guy) and asked him to check up. His reÂ¬ port was 50/50. He had taiked with the doctors and the general result was that you might snap out of it and, again, you might not. Then I wrote to Brick. He was a little pessimistic, but not without hope. Said his mother had the same trouble. But the letter that really got me up-set was from Emmett Culligan. He had just had a visit from Leo. He said: "Bob has a fatal illness, and Leo gives him about 60 days". This is all betw n ourÂ¬ selves, Bob, and w at I am tryin mtrying to do is to give you the low-down as I get it from others. I am doing for you what I would want somebody to do for me if I were in your position. How I wish I could change places With you! In spite of the adverse reports I have a sneaking hunch that you are going to pull through and come down here to convalesce. Nothing on earth could please me more. I'll have everything ready for you when you come.

n the meanwhile, Bob, since neiber you nor I can predict the future, the only sensible thing to do is to take no chances. Your condition is serious. So get everything in shape for whatever might happen. Should the st come to the worst, you have the world byÂ the tail, and eternal life in heaven too. A good general confession,Â the reception of Holy Communion prayer, the offering of your sulfering to our blessed Lord as a penance for past mistakes and I have made more than you have), or trust in the Sacred Heart of Jesus that was pierced on the cross for both of us and for all mankind, prayer to our Blessed Mother, jur just as you would to Mamma, prayer to her too and to Aunt Charlotte, will pull you through. Wil pull you through your sickness to heaven, iI un ir that be God's will; or pull you through to a fuller life here and a still higer place in heaven when the final end comes, to me and all of us.

Yesterday morhin omping I started saying 25 Masses for you in honor of Iter's 25th anniversay in the reilgious life. Many other Masses and prayers will be offerred for you, but all of them will be useless unless you tal take the "bull by the horns and decide that you are going to do your part too. You have a life back of you that can win a higher place in heaven unan all the rest of us put together. You have humility, which is the foundation of everything; Humiley which has been acquired by "humillation" (the only safe and sure way to get it), a humility that will never give way to des- pair (which is the result of pride).

I'll never forget, Bob, when I was down on one Mexican Border sowing my wild oats, a little card that came from Mamma. It was a picture of the Sacred Heart. Across the boutom was printed the words: "O Sacred Heart of

Jesus, I put all my trust in you. Underneath Mamme had written: "Say this
Often. I have been saying it ever since never give up: neither
will you.
You will be seeing Wim soon and I will be up later unless you get down
here lirst.
With Love,
John