Father Coffey Whereabouts, Installment II
Written October 11, 2014

Dear St. Louis Cathedral rectory and parish friends,

Greetings from the mighty USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CVN 73, 90,000 tons of America's force for good! No better friend, no worse enemy! I am grateful for our warriors. As the chaplain I'm a non-combatant. Keep praying for peace and justice in our world.

We just left a port visit in Guam. It's a tiny island in the middle of the huge Pacific Ocean and it's a little slice of America. We liberated it from the Japanese after WW2. The locals are a mix of the Chamoro, which is the native population, Filipino, other Pacific Asian islanders, with about 10% from the USA. The local language is American English and the currency is in US dollars.

Guam is famous for the warm crystal blue ocean waters. It's great for scuba diving and snorkeling. I was able to go for a long swim in the ocean and saw lots of tropical fish. I also rented a kayak and rode some great waves in the surf. I was warned about the reef, I did wipe out, and I did scrape my knee. Only a little blood! You know I'm tough!! I did get to do some amazing kayaking in St. Louis. One time I went from St. Charles almost to the Arch. Going through the confluence was cool. It was like being with Lewis and Clark coming home from their journey. Those guys were studs!

Our next port of call is Manila in the Philippines. The local currency is the peso and I heard it's about 40 pesos to one US Dollar. I have signed up for an MWR (Morale Warfare and Recreation) tour to go by ferry to Corregidor and Bataan, two famous places in WW2. That should be fascinating.

Life onboard the aircraft carrier with 5,000 plus sailors and airmen is fun. I really feel blessed to be their pastor. We all miss family and friends. I try to keep spirits up. It's one of my duties as chaplain. Thank you for your love, prayers and support. Letters would be great, too!

Love and prayers,

Fr. Joe Coffey

USS GW CVN 73
Box 8 CRMD
FPO AP 96650-2801
Joseph.Coffey@CVN73.Navy.mil