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**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
 SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE ASSEMBLY 2977**

# MONSIGNOR JAMES HUGH O'NEILL

Served as a chaplain under General George Patton during WWII. This is the story: they were socked in solid with fog and rain unable to get air cover or land paratroopers behind enemy lines. Patton asked O'Neill to write a prayer asking God to provide good weather for the planned invasion. O'Neill responded, "The weather is HIS domain and HE will do as HE wills." General Patton known as old blood guts & glory responded, "There are three ways a man gets what he wants by planning, working & praying. We are going to pray about this. Write the prayer." And the prayer became known as the Patton Prayer:

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*Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech thee and Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains, which we have had to contend, grant us fair weather for Battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee that, armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory, and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies and establish Thy justice among men and nations. Amen.*

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250,000 copies of the prayer were distributed to the troops. On December 20th the weather cleared and they proceeded with the invasion which was the turning point of the war the, "Battle of the Bulge." After the war O'Neill served as pastor in Pueblo at the Sacred Heart Cathedral. Many remember him riding his red bicycle thru the streets of Pueblo. But we will always remember him as the priest who wrote the Patton Prayer.

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