

# Handicap To Be Deaf?

Chicago — (RNS) — You're only as handicapped as you allow yourself to feel, a reporter discovered stumbling around the convention of the International Deaf Association here.

All the pleasant women at the hotel registration desk smiled and wanted to help the reporter. But the "outsider," no reader of sign language, could not respond to the questions and messages sent by friendly fingers and handwaves, and was soon surrounded by a dozen people who seemed to be writing their hands in an effort to help.

Soon a speech-reader stepped forward, learned who was wanted and found a page to lead the reporter to the Rev. David Walsh, North Side chaplain for the deaf of the Chicago archdiocese and press secretary for the 12th annual ICDA convention.

THE REPORTER felt handicapped and embarrassed in being the only person among several hundred in the assembly hall dependent on oral sound to communicate. But Father Walsh understood.

"It's like stepping into another world," he chuckled. "Here you are the one who's different. You're in the minor-

ity where the majority is using sign language."

The reporter at first feared the interview with Father Walsh might disturb delegates seated nearby, then remembered they could not hear it. Their eyes were focused up front where officers were literally "going through the motions" of their annual reports, and a woman deafened in mid-life was giving an oral commentary into a microphone for the benefit of near-sighted priest chaplains who hear better than they see at a distance of 60 feet.

Some of the deaf can't read signs well at a distance, either, Father Walsh said, but like churchgoers everywhere they persist in filling the rear pews first.

"I accuse them of sitting in the back so they won't have to watch my sermon," Father Walsh said. "I know another priest who tells them they let his sermon go in one eye and out the other."

The people have a comeback. Since the chaplains seldom become as quick in using hand symbols as their deaf parishioners, they hear frequent complaints on how Father "dragged" the sermon.

The association has the two-fold task of encouraging deaf Catholics to participate in activities of the geographic parishes in which they live, so they feel they "belong" where their children attend school, Boy Scout and other youth meetings, and at the same time of extending the special services which the typical parish cannot provide.

In a national population exceeding 180,000,000, the United States has about 187,000 deaf (as distinguished from the hard-of-hearing who employ hearing aids or other amplification). They form an "infinitesimally small part" of the total population, Father Walsh said, and the number of Catholics among them is smaller yet.



## Chaplain in The Sky

Ft. Campbell, Ky. — (RNS) — Lt. Col. Thomas E. Waldie, Catholic chaplain of the 101st Airborne Division, is shown at Ft. Campbell, Ky., in a free-fall jump involving turns at 120 mph before the chute opens. At right, he is shown on the ground celebrating Mass. Colonel Waldie, who volunteered for the paratroopers eight years ago at the age of 42, says that "to be an effective chaplain, you have to do what the men do." With more than 300 jumps to his credit, the priest says he finds parachuting "exhilarating and easy." Three priests of the Rochester Diocese are paratroop chaplains — Father Joseph Natale, and twin brothers Fathers Gerald and Joseph Gefell.



## Church Built With Stamps

Plymouth, Ohio — (NC) — The new church now building in St. Joseph parish here won't be a house of cards. But it will be a house of stamps.

Sales tax stamps, that is, 16,000 pounds of them adding up to enough to pay for the \$347,000 building in a parish of only some 250 persons.

The idea of financing construction of the church through the Ohio sales tax stamps originated with Father William Conces, St. Joseph pastor. The project got underway in 1952.

Under the sales tax stamp plan — which was voted out of existence only recently by the state legislature — stamps were given with each purchase made in the state. The stamps were redeemable by charitable and religious groups, hence spurred contributions by individuals.

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## Why Are Some Lives Filled With Loneliness, Frustration?

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S. J. Sociology Professor St. Louis University

Do you think God loves me? I'm 38 and single — though not by choice, for I've always wanted to marry but never seemed able to attract the right man. From my earliest recollection, all I can remember of my life is disappointments. Now I read in a pamphlet on vocations that not the single life but only consecrated virginity is praiseworthy. That's ironic. I didn't choose the single life, though I've tried to be a good Catholic. At times I get so lonesome life doesn't seem worth living. Please tell me what to do.

Well, Peggy, I can answer your first question very definitely — though you know the answer as well as I do. Yes, God does love you. One look at your Crucifix will remind you how much He loves you.

But that is not really your problem. You are wondering why some lives seem full of frustrations, disappointments and sorrows even from childhood, while others seem blessed with happiness and success. And as you imply later in your letter, it is frequently not the people who pray most or appear to be most faithful that get all the lucky breaks, so that you almost agree with your friends at work that it doesn't pay to try to be a good Christian.

Similar objections have been dealt with in both the Old and New Testaments. They imply a serious misconception of the meaning of life and of our relationship to God. Although it may be easy to see why "the wicked prosper," we do not know all the reasons why God permits the lot of some of the faithful to be so much more difficult than others.

Faith tells us that God made us to His image and offers to each of us all the graces needed to develop this image in His love and service under whatever circumstances it is our lot to live. By offering us the supernatural aid we need to grow in His love and service, He provides all that is necessary to achieve our essential purpose in life. Why we happened to be born male or female, rich or poor, talented or mediocre, under difficult circumstances or easy, and so on, is a mystery of Divine Providence.



As the saints tell us, the first step toward sanctity is to really accept ourselves as we are, together with the conditions under which we must lead our lives. This brings up your second problem in regard to vocations. It appears that you read the pamphlet you mention too hastily.

The author was comparing various possible life-vocations or states of life and making the traditional point that virginity was superior to marriage or the single life not because it implies mere physical integrity or non-participation in sexual life but because it is consecrated to God and one's fellowmen.

The author did not state that the single life lived according to the precepts was not praiseworthy — which would be absurd — but that considered as a state of life, singleness does not imply as complete a dedication to divine service as consecrated virginity and consequently does not rank as highly.

Your real problem, Peggy, is learning to accept yourself and to live with your situation. Of course you're not too old to marry, but your past experience suggests that you probably won't. Under the circumstances, therefore, you may as well be prepared to "go it alone." What does this imply?

You've mentioned already the problem of loneliness and

the feeling that life doesn't seem worth living. Apparently your present job doesn't give you any sense of fulfillment, your friends at work seem quite cynical, and since your mother died, you have no close bonds with your relatives. I don't know what preparation you have, but you might consider a different type of work, even though this would require taking time out for special training.

You need to form more adequate friendships. Are there any parish, school, or civic groups or organizations needing volunteer workers that you could join? Such associations would offer you the opportunity to meet people, to make friends, and to become involved in useful activities.

You need to deepen your spiritual life. A closed retreat might be a good start, but you should also try to do some reading and study. You need to enlarge your intellectual scope and interests. Are there any study or discussion groups available? Night school? Perhaps a summer session at some school or a tour to refresh your interest and open new horizons.

Does all this sound impractical? Not if you really want to do it. You can either retreat from life or make a fresh start and continue to grow. Remember whether married or single, if you want to live, you must stay alive!

## Tape-of-Month Teaches Liturgy

Cincinnati — (NC) — A club here prepares tapes that bring major addresses on divine worship and the sacramental life of the Church to many thousands beyond the original audiences.

This is the work of the Tape-of-the-Month Club, a Cincinnati-based committee of the North American Liturgical Conference.

In a report prepared for the 1961 Liturgical Week, to be held at Oklahoma City Aug. 21 to 24, the committee will point out that the tape-recorded talks now are reaching about a quarter of a million persons annually.

SOME OF the nation's and the world's foremost authorities on the liturgy and related subjects are among the speakers who are brought by tape — without charge — to groups that join the club.

Among the speakers are James Cardinal Lercaro, Archbishop of Bologna, on "Liturgy and Social Action"; Father Godfrey Diekmann, O.S.B., editor of *Worship*, "The Church Year in Action"; Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh, "The Hierarchy as the Expression of Charity"; Bishop Nicholas T. Elko of the Byzantine Rite Diocese of Pittsburgh, "Church Unity"; and Father Frederick McManus, president of the Liturgical Conference, "Law the Liturgical Spirit."

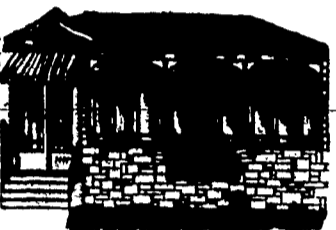
According to the committee's report, 185 of the tapes are going to convents and mother-

houses of religious communities. More than 150 go to parish priests for use in their parishes. About 70 go directly to lay groups.

Other users of the tapes include seminaries (58), high schools (49), colleges (44), hospitals (19), retreat houses, and orphanages. Fourteen members are monasteries.

Dr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Berger of Cincinnati, who organized the Tape-of-the-Month Club and head the committee in charge of its operation, encourage members to make duplicates of the tapes. Club headquarters are at 3807 Clifton Ave., Cincinnati 20.

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