



FR. PAUL J. CUDDY

## On The Right Side

There has been an insistent movement by some to water down Catholicism to a nebulous Christianity. Wittingly or unwittingly, they work against true ecumenism; against the teaching and spirit of Vatican II. However, they do it so persistently that there has come a beclouding in the minds of some regarding the historic reality which all recognize, viz., the historic Catholic Church.

One Sunday I explained to our Rexville congregation that people should know their own identity, and told them this story:

"Since early July I have dutifully been going swimming at the Hornell City Pool as part of my physical fitness program. Most of the people there are children from 5 to 15, with a few older ones mixed in. I suppose it is because I am so old and flabby that three little brothers, aged 9, 10 and 12 have adopted me like a waddling mongrel.

"I was going to Auriesville on Retreat so said to them: 'Don't expect me next week. I'm going to a place where three saints were tomahawked to death by Indians because they preached about Jesus.' I didn't know what church the youngsters belonged to, so asked, 'Are you kids Catholics?' One replied, 'No. We're Baskets.' 'Oh,' I said, comprehending. 'Yes. We belong to the First Basket Church.' He may have been weak in linguistics, but he did know his religious identity."

The point of the homily was this; sincerity demands that we know and profess our faith as Catholics. After Mass a matron from Buffalo, who is also a nurse in her thirties, thundered into the sacristy. "Father, I'm so glad I was here today! I had begun to wonder if I was crazy. You've made things clear." This was her story:

"In our parish we have three priests. The word 'Catholic' is never used in homily or conversation. Always 'the Christian this' and 'the Christian that'. One night I attended a meeting in the parish. Christian came came through repeatedly. Catholic came through never. At the question period I asked the

priest: 'Is there any reason, Father, why you never say 'Catholic?' We are Catholics, aren't we?'

"The priest replied coldly: 'I consider that a snide remark, and I refuse to answer it.' Honestly, Father, all I wanted was an answer. Another woman spoke up after the priest had set me down: 'But Father, we would like to have an answer.' He just replied icily: 'I refuse to answer the question.' Father, what are people like us supposed to do?'"

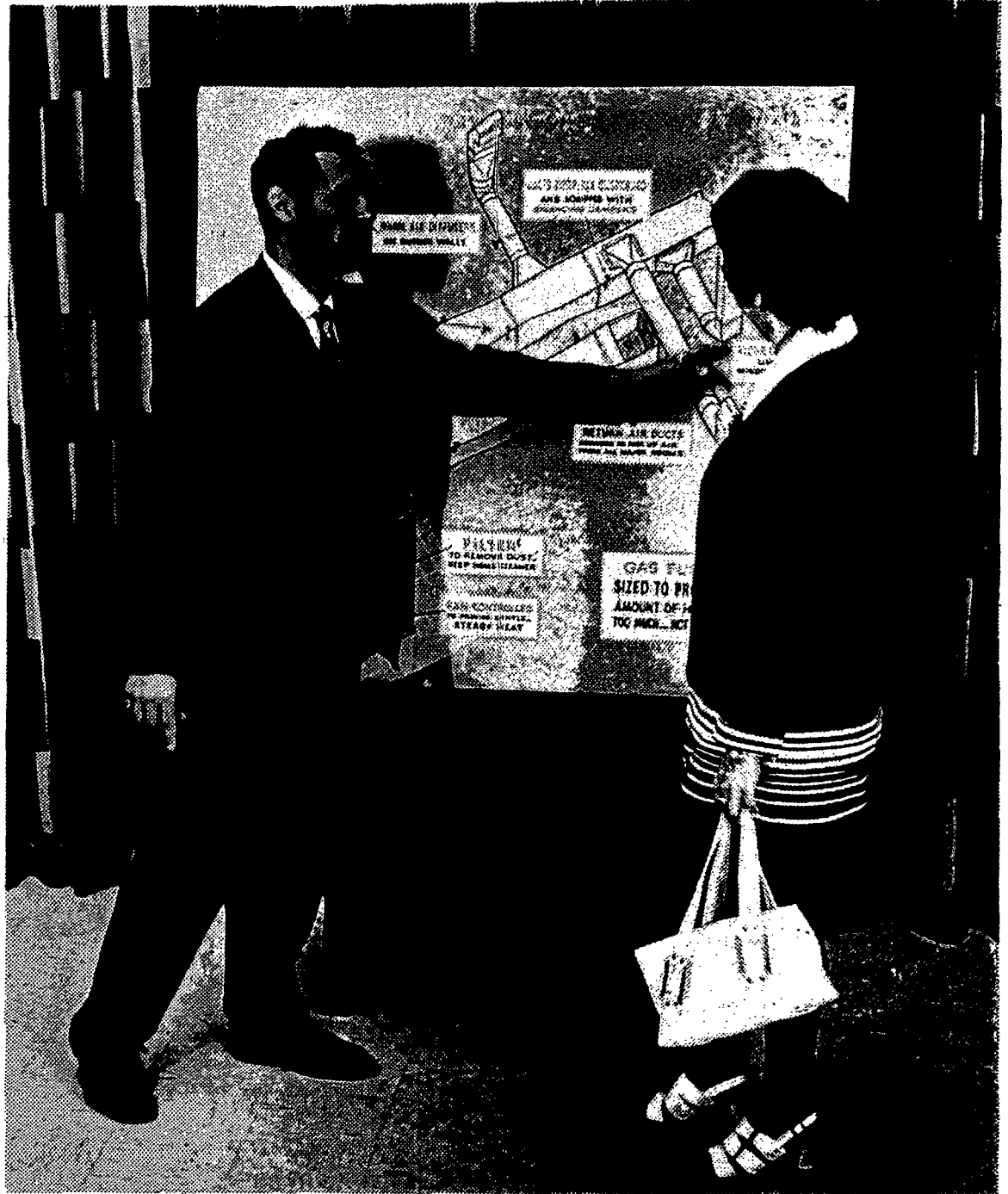
I know perfectly well that there are correct times to use the broad word, Christian; and there are times to use the identifying word, Catholic. Sincere ecumenism is betrayed by watering down the Catholic Faith. How reads the Document on Ecumenism? "The Catholic Church accepts them (separated brothers) with respect and affection as brothers. For men who believe in Christ and have been properly baptized are brought into a certain though imperfect communion with the Catholic Church..." (N. 2)

The separated Christian Churches form a multitude of denominations which have in common a firm faith in Jesus Christ, Our Lord. This faith we share with them. It is their own sorrow, and ours for them, that they are split into so many divisions.

To the question, "What is the Church?" the catechism answers: "The Church is the congregation of all those who profess the faith of Christ, partake of the same Sacraments, and are governed by their lawful pastors under one visible head."

Vatican II calmly declares: "Christ, the one Mediator, established and ceaselessly sustains on earth His Holy Church, the community of faith, hope and charity, as a visible structure. This is the unique Church which in the Creed we avow as one, holy, catholic, apostolic. After His resurrection our Saviour handed her over to Peter to be shepherded, commissioning him and the other Apostles to propagate and govern her. He erected Her for all ages as the pillar and mainstay of the truth." (The Church: No. 8)

## Home Heating Featured at Consumer Information Center



RG&E heating expert, Jim Schiano, explains a point to interested customer.

Forgive us if we seem a bit confused with the seasons, but we'd like to talk about heating your home. In the middle of August? Yes. You see, now is the best time to make certain that your heating equipment is in good operating order, not on a frosty September morning when the mercury tells us fall is here and there is no heat because of old or poorly maintained heating equipment.

Now is also the time to find out how to end those dry, itchy skin problems in winter with proper humidification in your home, or how better insulation can end drafty hallways and cold corners while saving you money on your fuel bills.

August is the month to ask RG&E any questions concerning home heating and air control. During August, our Consumer Information Center, on the main floor of our offices at 89

East Avenue, will be staffed by heating experts who will field any questions you have about heating your home, whether they're on furnaces, weather-proofing, insulation, ventilation or what have you.

We're not out to sell heating equipment. We do not sell, install or service heating equipment. We're only interested in seeing that you remain comfortable throughout the long Rochester winter and that you do so economically. We feel that a little precaution now can insure a warm, cozy home all winter long.

### Hours.

Stop in at RG&E's Consumer Information Center soon and pick up some helpful tips on winterizing your home. It's open 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and from 7 to 8:30 P.M. on Tuesday evening.

Our Consumer Information Center is always staffed to answer any questions you may have about appliances, home heating, wiring and lighting.

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