



FR. PAUL J. CUDDY
On The
Right Side

Q. Is Purgatory still "in"?

A. Yes. Purgatory is still "in." However, Catholic defined teaching is clear but limited. All that the Church has defined is: 1. Purgatory exists; 2. the souls detained in Purgatory can be helped by our prayers and by charity.

Q. But I can't find the word, Purgatory, in the Bible.

A. So? To be a Catholic is to believe what the Catholic Church teaches. The Church has two sources of God's revelation: the Bible, and Divine Tradition. (cf. Mt. 20:19; 2 Thess. 2:14; Mt. 18:18; 1 Cor. 11:27; etc.) In the Bible we don't find the words Blessed Trinity, Mystical Body of Christ, Infallibility. But these are all doctrines of the Church. It is because the Catholic Church is the Teaching Church that many, e.g. Chesterton, Waugh, Greene, Sigrid Undset became Catholics. (Of Undset's literary power Father William O'Brien said: "In her Kristin Lavransdatter, when she describes the barn yard you can smell the manure." No modern novel surpasses Kristin in describing noble love.)

Q. What is Purgatory like?

A. The Church never has declared what it is like, and I think we should be discreet in our declarations. My home parish church, Holy Family, Auburn, has a beautiful stained glass window from Holland, donated by the late Father Hickey, which depicts the flames of Purgatory and embodied souls gazing upward in their suffering, with an angel hauling a soul to heaven. It is a fine window and gives a common impression of Purgatory. Surely it is not to be contemned, because it is an imaginative picture which does help us to remember: 1. that there is a Purgatory; and 2. the Holy Souls can be helped by our prayers and suffrages.

Q. But what is the suffering in Purgatory?

A. Catholic theologians agree that there is pain of some kind in Purgatory. All agree there is a purgation for unrepented venial sin or remains of satisfaction for mortal sin. Our Lord

said to the adulterous woman: "Go and sin no more." The fact is that most of us are hugging some venial sins: resentments, hostilities, sins of the tongue, jealousy, ambition, avarice. Even though we say "I'm sorry", my own experience is that sometimes I'm not really sorry.

Ann Landers had a bitter letter. Two women planned, purchased and wrapped exquisitely a gift for a bride. A third woman, a friend, joined the two to go to the bridal party. As they were getting out of the car, Woman Three grasped the gift, presented it as "from us"! Then she received the special thanks from the bride. The true donors were thanked secondarily. From the tone of the letter I think the writer was sizzling with unrepentant resentment. I suspect that most readers would hug the same resentment, even after confession. With all my faith and love of God and neighbor, which is not inconsiderable, I still find myself hugging petty resentments, selfishness, spiritual laziness, avarice of a sort. I do pray God for the grace to quit hugging them. I do not doubt that God gives me the grace; but the fact is I do not always accept it!

Q. Any suggestions?

A. Yes. The October Catholic Digest has a more complete article on Purgatory. Do get it and read it carefully. Two other suggestions. First, pray for the dead. Who go to Purgatory and for what duration is not revealed. Common Catholic teaching is that the fruits of the Mass, prayers and charities offered for an individual who is already in heaven are applied to other souls, in Purgatory, according to God's Will. Indulged prayers are still "in". Secondly we need a different prayer for memorial cards than the one commonly used. I should be glad if any readers would share their own selections of prayers and Scripture passages which would be applicable for memorial cards. Psalm 130, the De Profundis would be good. There are others. Anyone want to share his thoughts on this?

Nazareth College
Fills Board Post

Donald L. Clark, president and chairman of the board of Bernzomatic Corp., has been elected to the Nazareth College Board of Trustees. The election took place at the annual meeting of the board.

Prior to joining Bernzomatic on Nov. 1, 1966, Clark was vice president in charge of advertising for Xerox Corp.

He joined Haloid Company (predecessor to Xerox Corporation) in 1954 and was named eastern zone manager in 1955, manager of New Product Sales in 1957, manager of marketing in 1961, and director of Marketing Planning in 1963. This latter post he held until his election to the vice presidency in 1964.

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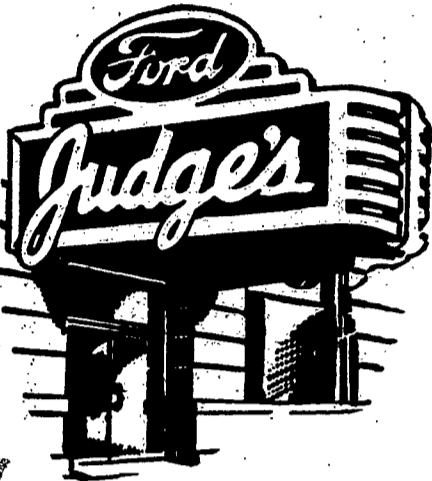
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Mercy Receives
School Press
Top Awards

By ANN KALASKA

Patrice Mitchell, a 1971 graduate of Mercy High School, was recognized for talent in journalism at the annual Empire State School Press Association convention Oct. 16. She was awarded second place in the Journalist of the Year contest and received an honorable mention as a feature writer.

Patrice was judged on her articles in the school newspaper and contributions to the Courier-Journal throughout the school year. She now is a student at Nazareth College.

Top awards were captured by Mercy publications. The Quill, school newspaper, received a plaque for the best front page. In the category of originality, The Quill placed third.

The yearbook, Veritas, was judged to have the best theme and organization. It received honorable mention as one of the best yearbooks. Mercy's literary magazine, the Mercedes, won a first class rating.

Courier-Journal



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