

FR. HENRY ATWELL

Toward Tomorrow



The scars from the floods of June will be a long time healing.

Some scars will never heal.

The greater agony is not just the terror and the shock of seeing a home and all of a life-time's possessions swirled away into a shambles. The greater agony is trying to live with the remnants — constant reminders of what once had been, of a pride and a beauty now spoiled forever.

Our Christian concern, therefore, must somehow continue.

Certainly the bravery, the generosity, the stamina of countless thousands who worked tirelessly in rescue and other emergency efforts reveal there's still a lot of goodness in the human race.

And now that goodness will have to go on until every victim is back in an adequate home and able to take care of self and family. Many people will search for a long time to find an adequate home, however.

Our country has suffered a little-publicized crisis in housing for close to half a century.

Those who can remember back 30 years will recall Franklin D. Roosevelt's radio message which told us one third of the nation was ill-clad, ill-fed, ill-housed.

Insufficient clothing, insufficient food may still be problems for some Americans, but no longer so many as a third of the nation. But anyone who's gone looking for a house or an apartment at a reasonable price in a pleasant neighborhood can testify that housing is still insufficient.

President Johnson launched a housing program in 1968 to build 26,000,000 new units in 10 years. Our construction rate since then is far below 2,000,000 per year; we're simply falling behind even faster! We were able to put an American on the moon within 10 years of deciding we wanted to do it. But we can't put an American in a home of his own down here on earth.

Compounding the magnitude of the crisis are many factors.

The nation's population continues to soar, despite a falling birth rate — because there are more people to have children.

As family size declines, fewer people occupy existing houses.

Opening of new industries, closing of other industries results in vast shifts in population, leaving houses vacant in one area and creating over-burdened demands in another area.

Racial pluralism and polarization creates havoc in both existing housing patterns and for proposed new construction.

And, of course, natural disasters such as storms and floods produce instant needs but we have no instant solutions.

Modular construction techniques and mobile homes are an attempt at a quick solution but each of these has its own special drawbacks — and so we go on in a worsening situation.

Those who believe that the home is the backbone of the nation should ponder seriously this continuing insufficiency in housing and decide with a firm determination that our right "to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness" includes the right of every American to have a decent place to live.

FR. PAUL J. CUDDY

On The Right Side



Question: Don't you travel an awful lot?

Answer: Friends tease me thus: "Who does your work at the hospital? You're never there." I enjoy a bit of teasing, and usually reply: "The Sisters. Since Vatican II they have become charismatic." The fact is that most of "the trips" are from 14 to 24 hours, on my day off, and extend from Hornell to Auburn, which is 95 miles; or Hornell to Rochester or to Elmira, which is 65 miles. In such short distances I can have lots of interesting happenings. For example, hitch-hikers are frequently more enlightening regarding the human condition than Institutes, class rooms or books.

Question: In what way?

Answer: Well, for example, en route to Rochester, at Dansville, are Father Emo and Msgr. Duffy. One is a young wing-spreading priest who is a diocesan area coordinator; the other manifests the great concerns of pastors for their people. At Geneseo, Father Caron always expands with speculations both psychologically and sociologically, which is a fancy way of saying: pin-pointing-trends in the Church. The monks and Brothers at Piffard exude piety, but I am always a bit dejected that they have ditched the magnificent Gregorian Salve Regina with an inferior melody in vernacular. At Avon Father Atwell is always interesting, and is less abrasive at home than in his public utterances; and Father James Tierney is often full of funny tales. An interesting stop is at Leicester, where, if you can get past the hunting dogs, Fathers Wedow and Reynolds are always cordial and instructive. Now, all these places are just en route.

Question: Do you just meet with priests?

Answer: Oh, no. As a rule priests don't live isolated. I find the hard work and loyalty and good common sense of the cooks, housekeepers, secretaries, sextons, frequently match the dedica-

tion of the clergy. However I have been blessed with extensive travels thanks to over a decade's service with the Air Force; and am grateful to have had the opportunity to live in many places and countries, including England, France, Germany, Morocco and Texas. And recently the Courier-Journal invited me to lead a tour to the Holy Land, which was great. "Tours" are full of interesting things: historical places, native people, native foods and customs and loyalties and prejudices and enthusiasms. I am always impressed that no matter how diverse the native customs may be, human nature is the same everywhere.

Question: What were the highlights of the Holy Land Tour?

Answer: The number 1 highlight was the People who composed the tour. I have never found a more congenial group anywhere. The whole group had the capacity to appreciate: to appreciate the devotion from the holy places; the novelty of native foods, hotels, waiters, the native people. And they appreciated one another. Great!

Question: What is this tour to Portugal-Spain the Courier is advertising?

Answer: Well, I am pleased to be the Tour Director. In 1950 Fr. Kress and I went to Spain and Portugal, with Fatima especially in mind. A friend, Fr. Del Olmo, who was pastor of Saffron Waldon, near Cambridge in my A.F. days, met us and was our guide. It was fascinating. My experience about High Lights is that they aren't planned. They just happen. The Sept. 25-Oct 8 tour to Portugal and Spain is only \$725. The reason so much can be given for so little is because of the efficiency of "package tours." With a guaranteed group air plane: reservations, hotels, dining rooms, tour guides, etc. are all surely guaranteed. I am hoping for a group of people who will enjoy one another as well as the sights and smells and food and lodging. For those interested, it is one of the finest times of the year. It should be a memorable trip to recall in the winter and the years to come. Drop a note to the C-J for details.

SPAIN-PORTUGAL FOR 15 DAYS

With FATHER PAUL J. CUDDY

PLAN NOW TO JOIN US ON THE NEXT COURIER JOURNAL TOUR SEPTEMBER 25th thru OCTOBER 8th

FOR BROCHURE WRITE

Father Paul J. Cuddy
Father Cuddy is Chaplain of St. James Mercy Hospital and author of the Weekly Courier-Journal Column ON THE RIGHT SIDE. See Fatima, the ornate Cathedral at Seville, the Cathedral at Toledo, the great monastery at Seville. See Lisbon, the water color city on the banks of the Tagus — the resorts of Estoril and Cascais — Spain, a world in itself with Andalusia's fascinating Seville, Moorish Cordoba and Granada — the bright and sunny Costa del Sol, Madrid with its famous Prado Museum.

TOUR DEPARTMENT
COURIER-JOURNAL
RICHFORD BUILDING
67 CHESTNUT ST.
ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14604

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
ZIP CODE _____
PHONE _____

\$725⁰⁰
Includes Everything
To and From
Rochester and
Scheduled Jet
Air Fare