

FR. HENRY ATWELL
**Toward
Tomorrow**



West Point is still licking its wounds after its Army team lost so helplessly to an overpowering Nebraska team, 77-7.

This year's game was scheduled when Nebraska was still a middle-size country college. And West Point is already arranging its schedule for 1985. The husky lads who will play those games haven't even started first grade yet.

More and more books and articles are being written about the future, including the best-seller "Future Shock," but, I think, there are always going to be limitations to the accuracy of our predictions, whether by projecting present statistics or by the less scientific, but long fascinating method of looking in the famous crystal ball.

There are, however, some present statistics which foretell a grim future unless we change their accelerating and frightening trend.

These statistics are readily available in any number of books such as the World Almanac or any other annual book of facts. I came across these statistics in an unobtrusive pocket-size book called "The Radical Bible" published by Orbis Books by the Maryknoll Fathers.

This "Bible" was first published in Germany with the title "Bibel Provokativ."

The editors have selected several quotations from holy Scripture and matched them with facts and commentaries from contemporary life.

The editors state, "Our hope is that the confrontation of God's Word with expressions of the problems and aspirations of peoples today will be provocative. We believe that God's Word should jolt us. . . . Our aim is not to prove to the skeptical that the Bible is relevant; rather it is to remind us Christians of what we have consented to."

The book's first quotation is from Genesis, how God made man in his own image.

Then it quotes a modern analysis of world poverty, so massive a situation that we can't begin to grasp its dimensions, so the author suggests, "Symbol-

ize the whole three billion people alive today by a village of 1,000. Only 164 of these can be said to be living a moderately satisfied life. 836 exist under varying degrees of desperation, poverty, disease, economic and political oppressions, conditions of degradation."

Could we really enjoy our golf and bar-b-ques if we lived in a community where over 80 per cent of our neighbors were sick, starving and desperate.

The little book then later makes another neat little break down. We frequently hear about our Gross National Product (GNP) which last year topped the trillion mark, again a figure we just can't imagine. The editors of "The Radical Bible" break this down to an average \$4,304 for every man, woman and child in our country — as if it were a bonus for each to spend.

What do we then do with this extra \$4,304?

We spent, each of us, \$231 for public education, \$401 for our nation's war machinery, but complain bitterly because we spend \$20 in foreign aid.

The Scripture quotation to match these statistics?

"If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? . . . Let us not love just in word or speech but in deed and in truth," said St. John in his first epistle.

Our Bishop has called the people of this diocese to "Respect Life." Yet we continue to endure the spending of our money for weapons which destroy life but complain and, when possible, prevent a trickle of pennies to assist the poor.

How much better it would be if we gave \$401 for the poor and only \$20 to our generals. Then we'd have less war, and less poverty.

"Let each one examine himself, to see what he has done up to now, and what he ought to do. . . . It is too easy to throw back on others the responsibility for injustices, if at the same time one does not realize how each one shares in it personally." Who said that? Pope Paul VI.



FR. PAUL J. CUDDY
**On The
Right Side**

After attending a lecture I frequently write a letter to clarify my own thoughts, but seldom mail it. Last week I found this letter written a year ago after a lecture by St. Bernard's rector, Father Joseph Brennan.

"Last week I attended your lecture on Scripture at St. Ann's. May I share a few observations and give you thanks for the lecture?"

"From the aspect of balance I do wish you would give the Old Time Catholics a break. While we were all amused about the nice old lady who told you with satisfaction: 'A Bible salesman came today. I slammed the door in his face and told him that I'm a Catholic and we don't read the Bible.' But do you think the incident was typical, whatever its humor?"

"I recall that Dr. Zwerlein used to tell us how the churches and monasteries of the Middle Ages would chain the bibles to keep people from stealing them, but this was twisted by anti-Catholic historians to mean the bibles were chained to prevent people from reading them.

"Here is another side of the Old Time Catholic coin. When I was a child my teachers — family, priests, Sisters — taught me the holiness of the Bible as God's Word. We did not read the Book at home; but we did know the Gospels well from years of repetition at Sunday Mass and from the sermons. We had a remarkably good grasp of the truths of the Bible because we learned our catechism well. After all, what is the catechism but the teaching of the Bible and Tradition, presented by the Church in capsulized form? We did memorize it; and I am confident that as we advanced in age and grace, we also advanced in our understanding of the teachings. The recently formulated legend: that 'pre-Vatican II catechized Catholics memorized the catechism but did not understand it' is sheer, contemptible calumny.

Regarding reverence for the Bible I was taught as a child such reverence for the Book, that to this day I am almost incapable of placing a letter or a book or anything on top of a Bible. In introducing Bible lectures, you might help to keep the balance of reality by telling both your experience with 'the nice old lady,' and my history as 'a nice old man.' Both she and I derive from the same religious traditions.

"Your lecture we all enjoyed as a refresher. Probably the two most valuable things you gave us were the exposition on the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the book list for future reading, which I would share with our OTRSide readers.

1. Reading Guide to the Bible. Text excellent, with commentary for most books.

2. Daily Bible Studies, by Dr. William Barclay, 17 small volumes on the New Testament. Available as a set, or as individual books, recommended strongly by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen to priests and religious.

3. Jerusalem Bible and American Bible, good text, good footnotes.

4. Jerome Biblical Commentary, Very scholarly. Costs \$32, price of a gallon of Scotch.

"You are a born lecturer, in the tradition of your good uncle, Msgr. Wilfrid Craugh, whose death has left a lonely gap in the lives of many of us. You have a nice easiness, so helpful to us who are non-scholars. And your love of the Scriptures emanates from you that like the virtue of Jesus, it reaches out to the souls of your teachers. Thank you for your lecture—and for the book list."

St. James Church Gets Parish Council

By DICK BAUMBACH

Waverly — A parish council for St. James Church has become a reality. The group held its first meeting recently and set about appointing officers and committee heads for the organization.

Earlier this year the parishioners of St. James had participated in the election of representatives to the newly formed council.

A special part of the council is a grievance committee. All members of the council are on the grievance committee. Parishioners may present any problems they have with the parish to any committee member, who will bring the grievance up at the council's next regular session. Parishioners are also permitted to give their grievances anonymously.

The council decided to hold its regular meetings on the first Sunday of each month at 8 p.m. The meetings will be conducted in the school library. All parishioners are invited to attend the regular sessions.

The newly appointed officers are John Cocco, president; Robert Hogan, vice-president and Anna Frances Payne, secretary.

Committee chairmen are Robert McNamara, St. James School Board; Robert Hogan, education; Robert Downs and Joseph Conroy, financial; Harry Schreck, building and property maintenance; Eleanor McQuillen and Margaret Barrett, liturgy; Mark Hogan and Anna Frances Payne, public relations and Nancy Simaitis and Margaret Bunao, human development.

The council members will serve terms of one to three years.

In order to become fully versed in the workings of a parish council the new members will all be participating in a special four session program at St. Patrick's in Owego. The program is aimed at assisting new council members in fulfilling their obligations.

Horseheads Installation

Horseheads — On Tuesday, Oct. 17, at 8 p.m., installation will be held for the officers of the four Knights of Columbus Councils in the 96th New York district, at a Mass of Installation at St. Mary Our Mother Church.

The Mass will be celebrated by the chaplains of Elmira and Corning Councils, and Precious Blood Councils of Bath and Horseheads.

After the ceremony, a buffet dinner will be served in the auditorium by the Columbiettes of Horseheads.

The public is invited.

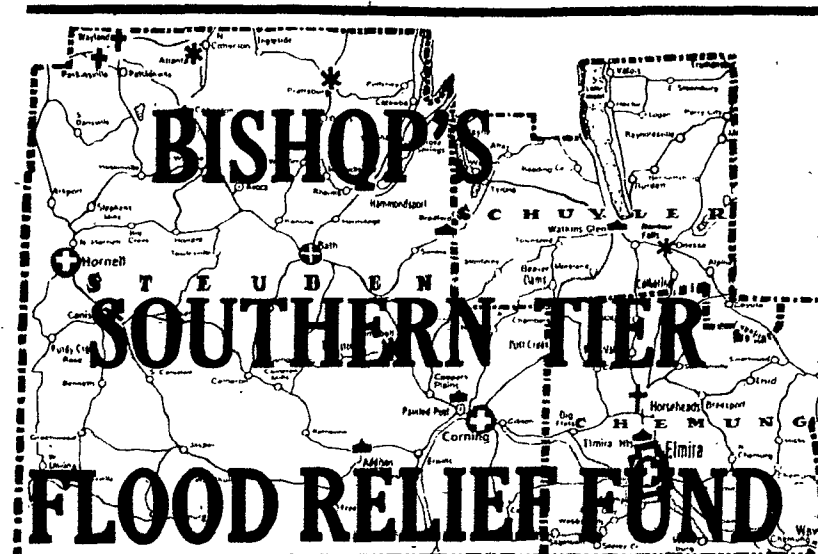
Rosary Celebrated In Watkins Glen

Watkins Glen — Susan and Patricia Cook performed the crowning at the St. Mary's Guild annual Living Rosary and Crowning of Blessed Mother celebration.

More than 50 children participated. Father Robert Donovan said benediction. Chairmen were Sisters Theresa and Frances, Barbara Specchio and Vi Savard.

Elmira Area Notes

VAN ETEN — The annual smorgasbord dinner at St. Pius X Church here will be held Oct. 15, 1-5 p.m., at the church.



**THEY STILL NEED
YOUR HELP!**

Send Contributions to:

**BISHOP'S SOUTHERN TIER
FLOOD RELIEF FUND.**

c/o Bishop Joseph L. Hogan
50 Chestnut Street
Rochester, New York 14604