

FR. HENRY ATWELL

Toward Tomorrow



Israel shoots an Arab passenger plane out of the sky. Arab terrorists terrify, torture and butcher two American diplomats and a Belgian diplomat.

We helplessly wait, even expect, another grisly headline from the Middle East.

Now that we are said to be out of Vietnam, speculation grows that our President will try to play the role of peacemaker in the Middle East. His recent conferences with Egyptian and Israeli officials are a strong clue to his intentions.

He is brave to attempt this task. Certainly someone must do it. No one else has either the vantage point or the leverage to do it. And even for him it can be a fatal trap.

Israel, no matter whether we look at it through either Arab or Jewish eyes, is a unique land.

Hilaire Belloc, a prominent English author in the early part of this century, a convert to the Catholic faith, in his book, "The Crusades," traces the long history of that narrow strip of land and concludes that whatever nation controls that area controls the world!

Egyptian pharaohs and Roman emperors, Assyrians and Greeks, from Cambyses to Napoleon, Turks and the British, Arab emirs and Jewish socialists, and, more recently, Soviet and American political strategists have all struggled, connived, pondered, and many have died, in their hopes to control that bit of land, hardly as long as the area between Boston and Washington.

The land is considered, by those who have faith, as "holy ground," a land set apart by God himself for his chosen people. Jews claim it was promised to them when God made his covenant with Abraham: "I will maintain my covenant with you and your descend-

ants after you throughout the ages as an everlasting pact . . . I will give to you and to your descendants after you the land in which you are now staying, the whole land of Canaan, as a permanent possession." (Genesis 17: 7)

Christians of the present time are certainly not as violent in their rhetoric as are the Arabs but the whole history of the Crusades is a three-centuries record that Christians have done what Arabs threaten to do.

Christians, despite notable exceptions, have a persistent record of bungling their relations with Jews in general and with Israel in particular. We have very much mismanaged both our theology and our conduct in this matter.

Just recently, a young Jewish mother told me when she was a pupil in school just 20 years ago, her classmates called her "Christ-killer" and, on more than one occasion, threw stones at her because, her classmates told her, "You Jews threw stones at Jesus." And they further told her that they learned that fact at a Catholic religious instruction class.

And just this past month, after Premier Golda Maier visited the Pope at Rome, a Vatican spokesman promptly reported there was "no change" in the Vatican's policy of not recognizing Israel as a nation, a statement which was taken as a virtual slap at the Jewish state.

All of which does not mean that Israel is the only "suffering servant" in today's sad and sick world. More than a million Arab homeless refugees and another million living in the territories occupied since the 1967 Six Day War are also suffering a humiliation and a frustration which breeds violence.

Such are some of the hazards Mr. Nixon faces when he ventures into any peacemaking efforts between such polarized and complex antagonists.

FR. PAUL J. CUDDY

On The Right Side



Last week the OTRSide column paused in Weedsport. So to continue. . .

After telling the delighted Chichello children this riddle: "Why didn't the animals play cards in Noah's ark?" Answer: "Because Noah was sitting on the deck". Father Kress and I went off to Auburn, eight miles away. "Will you drive on to Geneva? and tell the Fathers I'll be a little late? I hear my widowed sister-in-law, Florence, has the flu, and I should see her." Indeed, she was wretchedly but bravely sick, which was disconcerting to us who have always thought of her as unsinkable, and whose whole life has been one of service to others.

The visit was brief, as befits all visits to really sick people. So on to Geneva. My classmate, Father James Lane, was presiding at the table, with pious Father William Endres at his left, and Deacon Paul Ryan, as skilled in diplomacy as Kissinger, on his right. Father K. was holding down the other end of the table. Father Richard Tormey, pastor of St. Stephen's, was away.

Since the three had commitments at 7:30 I said, "Let's stop in on Martin and Margaret O'Brien." Martin was USO director in Geneva during my Sampson days, and I am always grateful for the help he gave us. Margaret McInerney, his wife, was secretary to Msgr. Mc Padden; then Father Raymond Nolan; and now to Father Tormey. Their devotion to the local and universal Church is a constant edification.

About 9 p.m. Fr. K and I left. I had decided to return to Hornell by way of Stanley — five miles from Geneva; and to stop in on Father Norbert Nolan, whose jocularity in no way neutralizes his piety and earnestness. However, not he, but a sixtyish White Father let me in. He was the supply for Father Nolan over the week-end, and most interesting.

The WF had spent 22 years in the African Missions. He holds a theory

that most religious orders have filled their purpose, and will dissolve rather soon. He based this opinion largely on the idea that the orders and congregations were established to serve people in specific ways; a personal religious apostolate through community. He thinks that now, efficiency and expertise will replace the wide personal service which was the raison d'etre of the congregations and they will just disappear. He was expressing the trend toward considering the Church as a kind of ecclesiastical General Motors rather than as a supernatural family.

I countered the theory with the example of Mother Teresa's Missionary Sisters of Charity, and how that community, faithful to tradition, grows and thrives; and promised to send him Muggidge's Something Beautiful for God.

But I am convinced that the Church will always need and will always have dedicated communities of men and women, bound together by a holy rule which will keep the members alert to Christ for the common good, rather than for their own personal fulfillment.

At 10 p.m. The White Father let me out of the Stanley rectory. I was glad Father Nolan was not at home because I should have missed the missionary and his observations. From the FM radio there flowed through the car a Bach concert, followed by one of Mozart, which made a nice background for 15 decades of the rosary during the return to Hornell.

I rolled into the "parsonage," a term I use to mollify mod Catholic clergy who have a mysterious inferiority complex, and who feel that refusing the title of "saint" to the saints, and who encourage embarrassed Catholics to "call-me-Joe" is aggrornamento and renewal, about 11:30, regretting that time had not permitted a drop-in on Naples Father Robert Smith and Co-hocton Fathers Francis Erbe and Herbert Sturmer.



White Haven Chapel and Garden Mausoleum

MAUSOLEUM ENTOMBMENT AVAILABLE TO ALL FAMILIES AT WHITE HAVEN

COST AND TERMS ARE WITHIN THE REACH OF ANYONE WHO PREFERS ABOVE GROUND ENTOMBMENT

Since the cost of almost everything continues to go up, the sooner this decision is made the less it will cost. This Mausoleum building will be next to the Chapel building and connected to it by a covered walk. The Chapel will be available to all crypt owners for services or just quiet meditation.

The cost of above ground entombment in the Garden Mausoleum is no longer the determining factor. If a family prefers above ground entombment to regular land burial they need only to reserve space in

advance of need. The low monthly payments are within the reach of anyone and there is never a charge for interest or financing. It is very possible that Mausoleum entombment could cost even less than a regular land burial. A wide choice of space is available to those who act now.

The beauty of the Chapel and Garden Mausoleum will always be assured through our Trust Funds for permanent maintenance. There is no additional charge for this devoted care.

All faiths are permitted

Send coupon below for full particulars including costs, terms, and availability. Of course there is no obligation.

WHITE HAVEN MEMORIAL PARK
210 Marsh Road, Pittsford, N.Y. 14534

Grantier Neville President

C-J-3/14



Dear Mr. Neville:

Please let me have full information on the new Chapel Mausoleum including prices, availability and details of our no interest or carrying charge payment plan.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE