



ON THE RIGHT SIDE Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

Father Leon Neu, pastor at Almond and Newman Chaplain at Alfred, is my neighbor five miles west of me, and in the Buffalo Diocese. In early March he said: "Bishop Head will be installed at the Cathedral on St. Joseph's Day. Would you like to come?" "Oh! I'd be delighted. Father Sturmer might take my hospital Mass at 5 p.m. Monday, and we could leave Sunday night." So it was arranged.

At 5:30 p.m. Father Neu picked me up. We stopped for supper at a quaint hotel at Portageville, just west of Nunda, and on the southern edge of Letchworth Park. If you have never been to the park, plan a summer visit there. It is one of the most beautiful spots in the world.

About 9 p.m. we landed at St. Nicholas rectory in N. Java. The pastor, Father John Bugman, a friend of Father Neu, welcomed us with great cordiality. Weariness sent me to bed about 10:30, leaving the priest-friends to hash over their mutual interests. About 8 a.m. we three celebrated the Mass of St. Joseph. We were edified by the number of people at the Mass. "Is it because of St. Joseph?" I asked Father B. "No. It's because it is Lent, and because this parish is composed of solid Catholic German stock. Wonderful people!"

The installation ceremonies and Mass were scheduled for 11 a.m. As we settled in happily to await the procession with Cardinal Cooke and the Bishops, a master of ceremonies tapped Father Neu. "We need a tall priest to be chaplain to an Eastern Rite Bishop." He left for the sacristy, and who should loom, tall and beaming, next to me, but a youthful friend, Father Pat Keleher. He was a neighbor from Canaseraga in 1968.

Father K. became my personal commentator all during the celebration. "That's my pastor. Great priest." "Oh, there's your friend, Msgr. Bernie McCarthy reading the appointment. Knows his stuff." Msgr. McCarthy, Fr. Tom Shea of Hartford and I shared an apartment in San Antonio, 1952-1954, when we were chaplains at Lackland AFB. He was the bursar of our celibate household, a significant preparation for his chancellorship.

The celebration was soul stirring. I had heard that a few agitated priests, Sisters and laymen had written to Bishop Head in New York, recommending that he not have a celebration, since this would be that "triumphalism" which they so neurotically resent. By "triumphalism" they mean the joyful and dramatic witness to the faith by the Catholic Community, and the enthusiastic welcome which surrounds the canonical installation of their new Father in God: the splendor of the liturgy with ceremonial,

ritual and beautiful music; followed by the happy banquet at 2 p.m.

I suppose if men are obsessed always to find fault with normal priests, bishops, Sisters, Brothers — indeed with the Holy Father himself — they will. Rather than share joy, they would impose anger and resentments into men's souls. Aside from the resentment of Judas at the woman's pouring the precious ointment on the feet of Jesus, I wonder why they are so unimpressed by the reply to the long-faces' complaint: "Why do the disciples of John and the Pharisees fast while yours do not?" Jesus replied: "How can the guests at a wedding fast as long as the groom is still among them?" (Mark 2:19)

It may be because of this joyless spirit of carping which every Bishop is subject to, that at the offertory of the Mass, the organist played a musical pun: "O Sacred Head, surrounded by crown of piercing thorns." I presume Bishop Head's thorns were absent, in protest, while the feast of love and community was going on. Such is life. The rest of us were happy in the Lord, welcoming the new Bishop of Buffalo.

Senior Citizens Urged to Form County Council

Hornell — More than 400 senior citizens attended a recent dinner sponsored by the Steuben County Economic Opportunity Program.

"This is the first known event of this type of such magnitude in Steuben County," Father John Widman, SCEOP director, observed in his after-dinner talk.

He urged the guests to choose representatives from their townships to organize a county council, which in time could be incorporated and recognized by the Board of Supervisors. Such a council would be "an efficient vehicle for vocalizing the needs and interests of mature persons of the county," Father Widman said.

The dinner, at Hornell High School, was prepared by the cafeteria staff, under the direction of Mrs. Joan Stassburg and Sister Mary Patrick. It was served by students from Hornell schools; student nurses at Mercy Hospital and members of the Catholic Daughters of America, under the direction of Mrs. Mary Milliner. Sister Elizabeth O'Brien was coordinator and Miss Patricia Eaton, mistress of ceremonies.

The Harris Survey

Amnesty Opposition 'Hardening'

New York [RNS] — American sentiment against amnesty for youth who left the country rather than fight in the Vietnam war has hardened since the cease-fire and the return of POWs, according to the Louis Harris Survey.

"By 67-24 per cent, most Americans are flatly against any kind of general amnesty for those who, for whatever reason, refused to serve in the armed forces during the Vietnam period," Mr. Harris reported on March 29.

In August 1972, the percentage against a general amnesty was 53 per cent, with 38 per cent in favor.

However, the Harris Survey found attitudes more favorable if amnesty required two years of non-military service. The percentage opposed was 49, while 43 per cent would accept the conditional amnesty.

The poll found that 62 per cent opposed general amnesty "after all the troops were home... and all the prisoners-of-war had been returned." Twenty-six per cent were in favor.

On qualified amnesty — two years of alternative service — 50 per cent in both the East and the West were in favor; only 40 per cent in the Midwest and 33 per cent in the South.

Fifty-nine per cent of the Protestants, 44 per cent of the Catholics and 30 per cent of the Jews opposed qualified amnesty; with 34 per cent of the Protestants, 51 per cent of the

Catholics and 61 per cent of the Jews in favor.

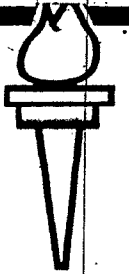
More blacks and Democrats have a positive attitude toward qualified amnesty than whites and Republicans. Persons between 18 and 29 years of age were

more favorable than those between 20 and 49 and others over 50.

Persons making under \$5,000 and those making over \$15,000 are more inclined toward amnesty than those in middle-income brackets.

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