



ON THE RIGHT SIDE Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

Every once in a while I re-read letters I have saved and prize because of some unconscious eloquence which reflects the magnificent hearts of the unpublicized great. Such a letter I recently read, and well recall the occasion. I was supposed to lead a Courier-Journal tour to Portugal and Spain last September, but was hospitalized instead. Fortunately Father Herbert L. Sturmer took over, and I was anointed on September 8 by Father Joseph P. Haffey. (No, I was not expecting to die. Anointing is the Sacrament of the Sick.)

The letter came with a tinted picture of a handsome family of a father, mother and eight wonderful children. I handed the picture to Sister Teresita Williams, my secretary, saying: "How proud those parents must be. The only one I ever met was the mother; and that was at a parish banquet where I was the featured eater and speaker. I remember her as a sparkling mother greatly in love with her husband, and happy in her motherhood. Let's send them some books. They look like readers."

"Dear Father,

Your note arrived on Thursday a day I really needed a lift inasmuch as I had just sent my seventh to kindergarten at St. XXX school. You'd think after that many I'd be accustomed to the shock of it all, but it doesn't get easier. That great climb up onto the school bus and out of the world of Moms and babes into the world of school kids and teachers always calls forth a mother's tears.

In any event, it was with great expectations that I awaited the arrival of the promised box of books... which arrived the very next day. The books are really great. I hadn't had the opportunity to see the Arch Books before. They are fine! The Children's Bible I had invested in some years ago and we've enjoyed it much. Now we have two, and I intend to pass one on to my sister who has two children and who I know will enjoy it much. The other books I haven't read

yet, but they look tempting. We do thank you.

"I really can't tell you how much your note meant to me. I'm certain that you couldn't begin to understand. But in this day when a large family is merely looked on as a great mistake and a threat to the ecology of the world and is no longer looked on as a blessing, it a nice change to receive an encouraging word. I am contented that we've done our best doing the work of the Lord. Yet it is gratifying to receive a note such as yours, and for this even more than for the books I do thank you.

"This year we have seven in school: three in Catholic high schools. Because of all these tuitions I'm looking for anyone who is throwing away food stamps! Seriously though, I do hope we are doing the right thing, scrimping to send them all to Catholic schools. I've taken three part-time jobs to help out, set up in such a way that they are all after my husband comes home to be with the kids. In this way, they are never left alone, which in my book is just not worth the risk of any financial gain for education or what have you. Anyway, to date, we're making the grade and what more can you ask?

"You can be assured that we ten will remember you in our family prayers. And we hope the days ahead are successful and happy for you. Again, thank you once more for your kindness

Comment: Such families as these are what I like to call The Unpublicized Great. And I am grateful for the prayers from such a little religious community, that beautiful family. The days behind have been happy for me, and the days ahead I expect to be equally so. To be a priest is so sublime a blessing that I am daily grateful, and happy in whatever work the Church wants me to do. And I am daily humbled by the great Catholic spirit, amidst many difficulties and challenges, exemplified by people who are typified in the above letter. May Our Blessed Mother continue to inspire such families.



OUR PARISH COUNCIL Bernard Lyons

I don't envy the preacher! Nearly everyone, from Father Andrew Greeley to the woman in the back pew, has taken a crack at and described the inadequate job done by most homilists.

I've talked about parish councils at quite a number of Sunday Masses in parishes in several different states. And I've listened to hundreds of different preachers in the course of living in several parishes and in my travels.

From this experience, I can offer some positive suggestions.

Prepare the homily. Frankly, little or no preparation seems to have gone into most sermons. The priest should begin preparing his next Sunday sermon on Monday morning. A review of the readings for the coming Sunday, and some jotted notes will make a good beginning. This early preparation will give him time to add strength to the homily by "mulling" over the meaning of the readings, and their relationship to the life in his parish.

The final preparation should be

either a complete talk, written out, or an extended outline, whichever the priest feels more comfortable with.

Rotate the responsibility. Several parishes, where a number of priests are in residence, rotate the assignment for the Sunday sermons. Thus, if there are four priests, one priest would give the homily at all the Sunday Masses once every four weeks. This allows an extended time for preparation.

Time the sermon. A congregation can only take so much quiet sitting, and each person can remember only a small percentage of the hundreds of words that are in even a brief homily.

Evaluate the sermon. After the homily, or the Mass, the priest should jot down any reactions noticed from the congregation, and write his own comments and feelings about the sermon. The evaluation might not be that helpful for an individual sermon but several months' collection of sermons or outlines will prove helpful. They will give him a feel for his direction and help him spot his strong and weak points.



Auxiliary Luncheon

Msgr. Joseph A. O'Connor, a native Auburnian, now working for hospital organizations out of Trenton, N.J., chats with Mercy Hospital administrator, Sister Joan Alice, Mrs. George Shamon, Mrs. John Doyle following a recent lunch sponsored by hospital auxiliary. Msgr. O'Connor spoke at the annual event.



MISSPELL

Aquinas Fills Athletic Post

David Missell has been named athletic director at Aquinas Institute to succeed John Uriah, who is assuming a new position in Pennsylvania in September.

Missell assumed his new duties July 1.

Missell has been varsity soccer coach at Aquinas for the past three seasons, winning the diocesan championship in '71 and '72. His over-all soccer record is 26-12-5. He has also been assistant varsity track coach for the past three years. "His dedication and ability as a coach and as a classroom teacher are outstanding," said Father Albert Caelens, principal. "I am impressed by his rapport with faculty and students, in every situation. I know he can do the job."

Eastridge High School and the University of Windsor were the schools where Missell played the two sports that he has coached at Aquinas. He graduated from the University of Windsor, receiving his Bachelor of Science Degree in their Honors Course before joining the science faculty at Aquinas in 1969. Missell will remain varsity soccer coach. He lives with his wife at 1888 Culver Road and is a member of St. James Parish.

His ambition as athletic director is "to provide an athletic program in which as many students as possible can participate in whatever sports the boys themselves are interested in—interscholastic and intramural.



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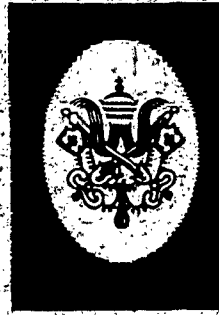
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