



**New Circle**

Members of the newly formed McQuaid Aide Circle, named for the deceased Jesuit Father Rene Menard, discuss plans for their first fund-raiser, a cocktail-dinner party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Presutti on Saturday, Sept. 29. Left to right are the Mesdames Presutti, chairman; Charles Salamone, treasurer; G. Keefe Jackson, public relations and Walter Maxwell, secretary. Fr. John MacDonald is moderator.



**ON THE RIGHT SIDE**  
Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

Father Charles Borgognoni is chaplain of the Newman Center of Syracuse University. He read in this OTRSide column Bishop Sheen's recommendation of Dr. William Barclay's Daily Bible Studies, and wrote asking for the address. I replied immediately, since orthodox collegiate chaplains are extra special, sending him both the address and a gift of Barclay's Corinthians, which I like especially well. My letter concluded: "When Bishop Sheen recommended Barclay I found Scrantom's and Trants, both of Rochester, carried the books, which can be bought singly or as a set. My enthusiasm is so great I have given complete sets (17 volumes) to the Carmelite Fathers at Waverly, the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse in Rochester and the Hospital Sisters in Hornell; to my nephew, Father Bill Cuddy, who is chaplain at Colgate; to the Trappists at Piffard, as well as individual copies to sundry priests and laymen, including a copy of Corinthians to each of our 18 members of Our Lady of Mercy Legion Praesidium in Hornell. The Trappists were so well impressed they ordered several other Barclay books, including The Creed and the Beatitudes.

"If you become an instrument to interest Syracuse priests and Sisters, I will die happy. Recently I listened to a pair of parents who were greatly troubled about the religious instructions in Catholic schools. The father, a convert to the Faith said: 'We sent our daughter to a Catholic High School expecting a deepening of the Faith. In the religion course Sister X told the class that Sunday Mass is a matter of love, not of obligation. Now our daughter no longer goes to Mass either from love or from obligation; and has rejected the authority of the Church. Something about freedom. So the girl is harmed; the parents are hurt; the Catholic Community weakened; and that same Sister, who is regarded as a post-conciliar Perita, floats around the diocese blithely giving her personalistic religion, instead of the doctrine and discipline of the Church. No wonder our people are puzzled."

Father Borgognoni, who is

famous as a producer of plays, as a fine speaker, as a raconteur extraordinary, and as a devout priest replied promptly:

"Thank you sincerely for your quick reply to my request. I deeply appreciate your gift and your thoughts. I remember well your zeal and commitment when I was a seminarian and participated in the Correspondence Course in the Catholic Religion which we had at St. Bernard's Seminary in the late '40s; and you enrolled so many collegians from Sampson College in the course. Evidently you have not lost the spark and continue even more zealously . . ."

Isn't that a nice way to be remembered? I think vocations will come when young men recognize the priest as a man taken from among men to do the things of God, instead of thinking of the priesthood as a sociological, psychological and counseling service. Anyone interested in the Correspondence Course, may write to Rev. Jerome Fortenberry, Religious Information Bureau, 3473 S. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63118.

In 1947 at Sampson, a handsome, 22-year-old black student came in. "Father, I want to be a Catholic." "Sit down. Good. Have you had any instructions?" "I was in the Army and we were an all black unit, so had no Catholic chaplain. One day I met a priest and he enrolled me in the Correspondence Course in Religion. Here is my certificate of completion." I put him through the questions which the Catechism so succinctly and clearly presents to any intelligent reader, and found he was better informed than most Catholics. And he had assisted at Mass regularly. I baptized him, arranged for his transfer to Iona College in New Rochelle. He was graduated from Iona and became one of the first blacks to enter the Navy as a commissioned officer. So cheers for the orthodox Father Borgognoni, for the Correspondence Course in the Catholic Religion; for Sampson and Iona Colleges; and for a wonderful black convert officer in the Navy of the United States.

**Religious Instruction, Too**

**Public School Prayer Urged by U.S. Bishops**

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — The Administrative Board of the U.S. Catholic Conference has proposed an amendment to the Constitution which would permit religious instruction in the public schools under private auspices.

The board, made up of 28 American bishops, also called for voluntary prayer in the public schools and public institutions.

This proposal goes far beyond the "limited" prayer amendment draft now being considered in hearings by the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments which permits only "non-denominational" prayer.

The USCC recommendation follows by almost two years a statement by the conference which opposed an amendment proposal then before a House subcommittee. That proposal — limited to non-denominational prayer in public schools — was considered inadequate by the USCC.

The Administrative Board meeting, chaired by Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, suggested the following wording for the amendment proposal:

"Section 1. Nothing in this constitution shall be construed to (i) forbid prayer in public places or in institutions of the several states or of the United States, including schools; (ii) forbid religious instruction in public places or in institutions of the several states or of the United States, including schools, if such instruction is provided under private auspices, whether or not religious.

States, including schools, if such instruction is provided under private auspices, whether or not religious.

"Section 2. The right of the people to participate or not to participate in prayer or religious instruction shall never be infringed by the several states or the United States."

According to a USCC spokesman, the intent of the new amendment proposal is to correct the situation created not only by the Supreme Court decisions of the 1960s, barring prayer from public schools, but also a 1948 Supreme Court decision against programs of religious instruction on public school premises by representatives of various religions.

In November 1971, Bishop Joseph L. Bernardin, then general secretary of the USCC, said the conference was not opposed to prayer in public buildings nor unconcerned about the "vitaly important matter" of meeting the religious need of public school children.

But, he said, the USCC felt the "limited" prayer amendment then before the House of Representatives "would accomplish nothing" with regard to the goals it sought to achieve and could be a "threat to the existing legality of non-denominational prayer."

Bishop James S. Rausch, current USCC general secretary, said the new action of the Administrative Board which covers religious instruction as well as prayer, is "fully consistent" with the conference's opposition to the earlier prayer amendment proposal.

"Many parents are deeply concerned over the fact that their children who attend public schools are being denied such religious liberty," the board asserted. "They are acutely concerned for the faith and morality of their children" and that the religious heritage of the nation not be supplanted by a "pervasive secularism."

The board also contended that many parents feel the religious training received at home or through "extra" school instruction is not adequate, and would like such instruction to be part of the child's formal education.

"Since the Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution to forbid genuine religious freedom in public education, the people of the United States have no recourse but to amend the Constitution. The question then is how the Constitution shall be amended," the board said.

"The USCC believes an amendment limited to allowing prayer would be inadequate to meet the national need. The amendment which is needed must cover prayer and religious instruction."



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**Triduum Slated At City Parish**

A Triduum in honor of Our Lady of Hope will be celebrated at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Oxford Street and Monroe Avenue, on Oct. 7, 8 and 9, at 7 each evening.

The Triduum will include Rosary, Benediction and Homily. Guest homilist for the first evening will be Father Edward Callens, S.S.C.C. The final liturgy will include a procession of the Blessed Sacrament. People of all ages are invited to come and pray to the Mother of God, to ask her protection for themselves and for the Church. The Triduum will be coordinated by the Rev. Mr. Ronald Antinarelli, deacon at Blessed Sacrament.

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