

**Cardinal Mindszenty**

**A Real Life Love Story**

By ERIKA PAPP

New York [RNS] — Can you be "loved" by somebody who has never seen you? By people who believe you are six inches taller than you really are? By people who were not born when, an eon or two ago, say the 1940s, you stood up and told the world, under fantastic pressures, that "freedom" does not exist when the right to worship God is not one of those freedoms?

I saw it in New Brunswick, N.J. I watched love leap out to a man who had NEVER been seen by thousands of people. I watched Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty, the exiled Roman Catholic Primate of Hungary, literally washed in love and respect by people who had never seen him before and, considering his age of 81, may never see him again.

They came from Washington and Cleveland, South Bend, New

York and Philadelphia to see their beloved Shepherd and to hear him speak. He in turn had traversed an ocean and a continent to be with them on this festive occasion.

And so, when the bells pealed out at 11 o'clock on Sunday morning, Sept. 30, from the steeple of the newly renovated St. Ladislaus Church in New Brunswick, N.J., Hungarian-Americans from around the country joined with parishioners to cheer Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty, Archbishop of Esztergom.

He had come to the U.S. via Canada from his exile in Vienna specifically to dedicate this church, originally built in 1905.

He addressed them from a podium set up at the corner of the newly-named Cardinal Mindszenty Avenue. Young and old, 5,000 strong, they stood in the brilliant sunshine to see the golden-mitred Prince of the Church and to hear that ringing voice proclaim the need to uphold the four sanctuaries bequeathed to the Hungarian people by St. Stephen of Hungary: the Church, the school, the cemetery, and a saintly home.

Holding his bishop's staff, he appealed to his audience to turn away from the materialism that prompts murder by abortion. It was the voice of a man not afraid to proclaim "unfashionable" convictions.

That same unflinching attitude led him to risk his own life in opposing the Nazis during World War II. He is said to have turned every religious house under his jurisdiction into a sanctuary for Jews hiding from Gestapo, following the Nazi takeover of Hungary in March 1944.



A Hungarian-American woman kisses the ring of Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty during the exiled Hungarian Primate's arrival at Kennedy Airport in New York. Cardinal Mindszenty paid a brief visit to New York City and went to New Jersey to dedicate a renovated church. [RNS]

His defense of human rights brought arrest and imprisonment first by the Nazis and then by the Communists.

Following the sermon, the 81-year-old Cardinal and his entourage proceeded into the small church. Only ticket holders, a fraction of all those wishing to attend, could be admitted for the concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving. The Gospel read at the Mass was the story of Zaccheus, who climbed a tree to see Jesus, which seemed particularly apt under the circumstances.

Father Julian Fuzer, OFM, pastor of St. Ladislaus church, compared the day to Easter Sunday morning. "Yesterday," he said, "we were like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, tired, sad, thinking that everything was lost."

Our cardinal was imprisoned, tortured and condemned."

Referring to the Hungarian uprising of 1956, when Cardinal Mindszenty was finally freed from the Communist prison in which he had been held since 1949, Father Fuzer continued: "Then the tomb opened for a few days, only to close again and to increase our sorrow. When the revolt was crushed by Russian forces, the Primate of Hungary took refuge in the American Embassy in Budapest. He lived there for 15 years until 1971 when he left Hungary at the Pope's request."

"But behold, he who had been condemned, cursed, tortured, is here among us, consoling, teaching, blessing us, as the Risen Christ consoled, taught and blessed his disciples."

**THE SLOT MAN**  
Carmen Viglucci

Ira Hill is back and his passengers are happy.

Two weeks ago his story appeared in this space. Ira Hill is a black bus driver who walked, or more specifically drove, into a messy situation — and cleared it up.

Briefly, a group of morning bus passengers from a practically all-white suburban community had been disgruntled over Regional Transit Service. They had become used to tender loving care from Trailways and were miffed when RTS took over their route.

And as would be the case, new drivers made mistakes. Buses often were late, some never showed up. Passengers were up in arms against the company.

At about this juncture, Ira Hill became the regular driver. In a very short time, he soothed the sore-spots. Using a combination of punctuality and friendly banter he won his passengers over, doing

a big job for RTS and interracial relations all at once.

The passengers, who had been griping to the company, now let RTS know that they were pleased. Letters of commendation for Ira Hill were sent in.

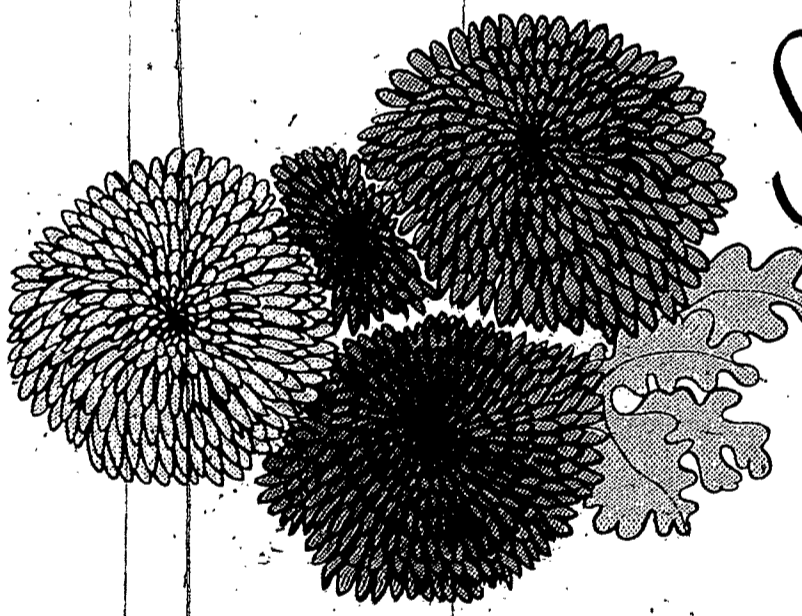
Then, Ira Hill was transferred. Just that suddenly.

We described the situation in this space two weeks ago and somehow it reached the top command at RTS.

Ira Hill then was asked if he would consider resuming his route. Naturally he complied.

And on the morning of Oct. 3 the bus crowd came alive again. Ira Hill was back. He was happy. His customers more so.

But most important, Regional Transit Service showed that even a big company can show concern at the grass roots level. And it deserves credit for it.



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