



ON THE RIGHT SIDE  
Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

Legion of Mary:

Tuesday night was the second night in Dublin, for our Courier sponsored tour. A dinner and entertainment was scheduled at the famous Tailor's Guild Hall. Thought I: "Better for me to attend a lively Legion of Mary meeting. Dublin is the home of the Legion." I was referred to an apartment house used exclusively for Legion meetings, five blocks away.

The Legion was founded 53 years ago by Mr. Frank Duff in Dublin. Its work is exclusively spiritual; to encourage prayer, Mass assistance, sacraments, catechetics, attention to the sick, etc. Historically the Legion's first work was reclaiming unfortunate street-walkers in Dublin.

I entered the Legion building at 7:10 p.m. and shared in three meetings. The first was the tail-end of a meeting of nine boys and girls between 15 and 22 years of age. They visit the sick, elderly, and lonely, and help the helpless, plus, of course, saying the prayers required of all Legionaries, including the daily rosary. At 7:30 p.m. I joined a different group: 12 women between 19 and 50. They were pleasantly aggressive. Their work was diverse. They reminded me of the Witnesses of Jehovah. They had gone from door to door in a specific neighborhood, to invite everyone personally to attend a special religious meeting in that neighborhood. I was struck by their business-like manner. The third meeting was unusual. There were seven young women from 20 to 30 years of age whose apostolate is to befriend prostitutes in Dublin's area of solicitation, to encourage them to come to the Legion building for a cup of tea and talk, with a follow-up when possible. Success is not great, but one member put it well: "These poor girls know that we are their only real friends. In time some do accept our help." They also run a nursery and recreation center for mothers and children in a poverty neighborhood. A fourth meeting, all young men, I missed entirely.

**Mass in Killamey:** Across from Great Western Hotel where we 66 tourists stayed there is a Franciscan Church. I went there Friday evening. The church holds 600 people. There were 210 present, almost equally divided between men and women. Of the 114 women, only 11 were without head covering. The rosary was recited at 7:15. The confessionals were kept busy. The Mass began at 7:30 p.m. The People's devotion would melt a stone.

**Kohoutek**

**The Iceberg Cometh**

By JOHN DASH

Comet Kohoutek, the flying iceberg that is paying its once-in-80,000 years visit to the Sun, should now be visible to skywatchers with telescopes.

It will be another month before the comet is visible to the naked eye.

For those with telescopes, however, Kohoutek may be located 20 degrees above the South East horizon in the vicinity of the constellation Corvus and Spica. 5:30 a.m. will be the best time for viewing.

A comet has three parts: a nucleus, a chunk of ice normally about a mile in diameter; a coma, which is a region of melted gas and dust surrounding the nucleus; and the tail, which forms under the pressure of solar radiation as the comet nears the Sun.

I was interested in the pamphlet racks which are part of every Irish church. The racks had many old standard pamphlets, e.g. An Hour with Jesus, Simple Prayer Book, etc. But I was struck by the ecumenicity of the books, which also included The Mind of St. Paul, by the Protestant Scripture scholar, Dr. Barclay; The Four Loves by Anglican C.S. Lewis; and Future Shock by the sociologist, Alvin Toffler.

Sunday we suggested to the Group: "Go to Mass across the road and get the 'feel' of Irish Catholicism." The Masses were packed. The singing was fair. The devotion was contagious. Reception of Communion was more reverent than in the States. No collection was taken up, but there was an offering box outside. (I strongly do not recommend this for American parishes.) After Mass, I asked a Friar: "Why no Sign of Peace?" He smiled: "That ceremony doesn't accord with the character of our people."

**Private Devotions:** Many American clergy and laymen are concerned by the spiritual malaise toward the Blessed Sacrament since Vatican II. Every church I visited had many people quietly praying in the Divine Presence. The stations, rosary, the Saints: all are still an integral part of the Irish devotions.

**Sisters:** Religious Sisters bustle among the people with an assurance of women confident in their traditions. They wear a neat, modernized Habit. Vocations have slowed down, but do continue. It may be significant that the most honored Sister in the world, the Albanian Mother Teresa of Calcutta, India, had her novitiate training in Ireland. Her more than 5,000 Missionary Sisters of Charity follow traditional religious life. They wear the holy habit. They have Mass, prayers, rosary, meals, recreation, all in community. They have no dearth of vocations.

I am wondering if the bend of the Irish toward a rigorous spirituality does not give strength and discipline to their religious community life, keeping them traditionally evangelical. Recently a priest was asked: "How do you justify counseling Sister X to leave her religious Community? The bible says 'He who puts his hand to the plough and then turns back, is not worthy of Me.'" The priest replied: "Sister didn't turn back. They turned the field around." It is a thought worth considering.

**Detroit Pastoral Council Stresses Social Action**

**Detroit [RNS]** — An emphasis on social action, more lay involvement, more prayer, and greater involvement of youth on all church levels were among recommendations coming from the first Detroit Archdiocesan Pastoral Council.

Some 400 delegates met for two days to come up with directions and goals for the archdiocese. They selected a board of 48 to work out specific goals which will be reported back next year.

Cardinal John Dearden, archbishop of Detroit, said he was "amazed" at the progress of the Church in Detroit since its synod of 1969 in which lay people had a voice in determining the future of the archdiocese in light of the Second Vatican Council.

The cardinal describes as "most heartening" the emphasis on service to the community found in recommendations of the various talk groups.

"This has been taught by the Church but it's not been achieved in all dimensions as thoroughly as it should have been," he said.

Cardinal Dearden suggested that the Church, with limited resources and funds, might start projects of community service which could be taken over by other agencies.

"This has been a remarkably positive assembly," he said.

Recommendations of the clergy, laity and religious called for more laity prayer centers and teaching in the methods of prayer; and maintaining and expanding the Catholic school system.

Members of the worship group also suggested that optional celibacy be allowed for the clergy and asked that the current age level for permanent deacons be lowered. They also requested more involvement of the laity in developing liturgies with services designed for special interest groups.

They asked accountability at all levels of the archdiocese and asked the cardinal to speak out on social issues and to make himself more visible to the Church and to the community.

Recommendations also included proposals in health care and for the aged, suggesting that parishes and higher levels

cooperate with existing programs in the community, while starting those needed.

Delegates also said youths should be included on the Pastoral Council and that they should also be members of parish councils and commissions.

They asked that Catholics be allowed to join any parish they

wish, rather than remaining in their geographical area. They also asked for more stands by the archdiocese on moral issues and for training of people in political action.

The Pastoral Council suggested at various Church levels by the Second Vatican Council, is an advisory board and holds no legislative power.



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