



ON THE RIGHT SIDE
Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

Recently I went to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester to see the ailing Father Haffey and a Webster parishioner. It is my custom to befriend anyone who will accept the offer of friendship, a custom from the New Testament.

For no particular reason I handed a little folder on the rosary to the woman. It is a colorful triptych with 15 attractive pictures of the 15 mysteries of the rosary which Legion of Mary groups frequently distribute.

In my left hand were four copies of the Rosary Novena booklet. So I gave her a copy and said: "Did you know that I wrote the article?" She gasped with astonishment: "Why, no! Are you the one?"

Now, don't you think that was a bit more than mere "concordance?" I have had more requests for the Rosary Novena booklet than anything I have recommended; and am hopeful that it is finding its way to the bookracks in the churches. I was pleased to see it on the pamphlet rack at the Franciscan Church in Killarney, Ireland, when the Courier tour was there in October, the month of Our Lady's rosary. Below is a letter from the woman whom I met for the first

time in my life, and have not met since. It is a beautiful letter. May it be another instrument to spread the rosary devotion to Our Blessed Mother.

Dear Father,

About a month ago I met you at St. Mary's Hospital with my husband. You gave me a leaflet on the Rosary. Whereupon I mentioned to you that just that week I had read about the Rosary Novena in the Courier, not realizing that you were the author of the column. I cannot tell you what a need it filled.

I was desperate not knowing which way to turn to resolve a problem. I must add that the Rosary never appealed to me, seeming to be just a 'bunch of meaningless prayers.' This time I really prayed the Rosary. Through each prayer, I pleaded with the Blessed Mother for help as a child asking its mother.

So far I have persevered with 3 novenas in petition. Yesterday was the 27th day and as it seems now, yesterday was the turning point in my problem. Throughout these 27 days I have looked forward to saying my Rosary and talking to the Blessed Mother. I felt a comfort in my prayers I have never known before. Please excuse this faulty letter. If I wait to re-write it I may never get this to the mail.

Isn't that a beautiful testimony to Our Lady's love? If you want the booklet, try to get it from your own parish book rack, or from the parish school or CCD program people, or from a member of the Legion of Mary. If all these fail, as a last resort send me one dollar and I will mail you two copies, with the hope you will put in a good word for me with that most gracious Mother Mary.



OUR PARISH COUNCIL
Bernard Lyons

We have closed more than 2,000 Catholic schools and lost almost two million pupils since the mid-1960's, and despite the pledge of many politicians to get financial aid to non-public schools, the U.S. Supreme Court has consistently held such public aid violates the church-state requirements of the Constitution.

Is shared-time any answer to this problem? A few years ago, shared-time was looked upon as one of the possible solutions to the financial squeeze on private education.

Shared-time is a program of dual enrollment. For example, students at St. Paul High School in Chicago, which has no gym, laboratories, or cafeteria, study math, languages, physical sciences, and physical education at nearby Kennedy High School, and English, history, religion and other social studies at St. Paul.

St. Paul is the only Catholic high school in the U.S. open solely to shared time pupils.

"An independent research study," says Bishop William E. McManus, director of Catholic education for the Chicago Archdiocese, "has confirmed my personal observation that the experience of dual enrollment in a public and Catholic high school has produced exceptionally mature graduates. They know their religion and they know how to practice it in the marketplace as they did in a public school situation.

"Despite diminishing nationwide enthusiasm for shared time, St. Paul High School stands out as a perfect example of the way pupils get the best out of both public and Catholic education. Further research on the St. Paul-Kennedy arrangement," says Bishop McManus, "will reveal many new values in shared-time. Present difficulties are no reason to lose heart in an innovative project with much promise for the future."

Shared-time was originally inspired by crowded conditions in the Catholic schools. That has changed. St. Paul's enrollment is down, also.

Because St. Paul is limited to accepting students within the public school's boundaries under the dual-enrollment arrangement, school officials are considering the possibility of expanding the St. Paul program to a nearby new public high school.

That would also bring a problem that has hurt other shared-time programs, though, the distance between schools requiring busing or some other form of transportation.

Despite his hope for shared-time, Bishop McManus brings up several other problems with it. "It would seem to go counter to our new emphasis in the schools — that of forming a community of faith, a place where children can live and grow. We're not so subject-oriented any more," he explains.

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