



**Popcorn for Christmas**

Thinking of using a substitute for Christmas three lights this year to save energy? Why not have an old fashioned tree like grandma and string it with popcorn. Area merchants can supply your needs from displays such as this one at a Star Supermarket. Star displays will also feature leaflets giving a brief history of popcorn tree trimming, how to do it and popcorn recipes.



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

**Q. Is on the Right Side column widely read?**

A. Yes, thank you. I am constantly surprised and pleased at the number of people who stop me in hospitals and other public places and say: "I recognize you from your picture in the Courier. I read you every week. It's great. Keep up the good work." To counterbalance, I am equally surprised at the number of people who do not know the column exists.

**Q. Doesn't that deflate you?**

A. Not all. I don't write to puff the ego but to propagandize for God, Our Lady and the Church. I quite unabashedly encourage people to read this column regularly.

**Q. You can be biting. Don't people get mad?**

A. Yes. Some do. They are mad at the ideas which do not conform to their own. The Bible says: "Would that you were hot or cold; but because you are lukewarm I will spew you out of my mouth." Dr. Bernard Lowman said: "One of the pitfalls of easygoing tolerance is neutrality. Trying to be open-minded enough to see both sides of the question, we are apt to attach ourselves to none; trying to be all things to all men, we may end up being nothing to any man." That is also the thought of G.K. Chesterton, who wrote: "The purpose of the open mind is to close it on something solid."

**Q. Do people write to you?**

A. Yes. Most in appreciation. Occasionally some blockbuster comes. One diocesan VIP wrote: "I read your column every week, first because I like you personally; then because your style is folksy and I keep informed about the activities of the clergy through your travels. However almost invariably I am in disagreement with you, theologically, liturgically and canonically. I remember reacting thus: "Well, that's

thorough. But I am quite contented to be on the same wavelength with Our Holy Father, who is the number one VIP."

**Q. What do you hope to accomplish?**

A. My hope and ambition has been from the beginning to keep alive many of the traditional Catholic practices and treasures which the revolutionists have worked to destroy or to bury; for example the rosary, devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, a love of the saints; use of the sacraments; the truths of faith brilliantly capsulized in the Catechism; loyalty to the Catholic Church and to the Pope. By recommending helpful books and magazines I hope some readers will buy and read them. In 1950 Basilian Father J. Stanley Murphy ran the Detroit-Windsor Christian Culture Series under the auspices of Assumption College, Windsor. One Sunday he had as guest lecturer, in Detroit, the Scot convert and novelist, Bruce Marshall, who began his lecture: "I am pleased that so many are here, showing an interest in literature, especially Catholic literature. However, may I suggest that if you are really interested, do not just go to the library and borrow a book; but go to the book-seller and buy one. Authors have to eat, you know." Inspiring reading is like grace and love and goodness. How does one measure those in cash?

**Q. Don't you give an undue amount of space to your diocesan travels?**

A. Not at all. The New Testament constantly teaches the doctrine of Community. The travelogues have as their object, strengthening community of the diocese. With intent, the column attends to people, parishes, cities and towns; all of which pertain to the Family of God in the diocese. Frequently people write: "Your mentioning Father X (or Sister Y, or Housekeeper Z) brings back wonderful memories." Don't you think this is part of the doctrine of the Communion of Saints?

**Warning Issued on 'Leper Letters'**

Father Joseph Reinhart, diocesan director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, warned this week that persons receiving letters from alleged leprosy patients begging money, should first check with his office to verify the letters before sending money.

Father Reinhart cited reports from Hawaii that some letters have been sent with fraudulent intent.

Father also noted that his office is now conducting the Society's annual Christmas Appeal to help missionaries and 15,000,000 leprosy patients. The office is located at 123 East Ave., Rochester 14604.

The following is an example of letters considered fraudulent. It was handwritten and received in the diocese this year.

At the out set let me greet you in the precious name of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus, Christ!

Having known American hearts and minds, I gathered all courage in writing you because of my dire misfortunes.

I am also addressing this poor letter of mine to all who will happen to read it. I pray and hope that it may find compassion from your benevolent hands.

I am a poor mother already in my 59th year. I was married in my home town in Inabanga, Bohol to a fine man who later became a leper. We have 3 children, all girls. In 1956 I had to follow my husband to this leper island of the unfortunates with two of my daughters to live and share with my husband's loneliness, poverty, and afflictions. Fate had indeed been so cruel and unkind to me. After one-year of living with my husband, he died leaving us nothing except loneliness, poverty, and gloom. My daughters also duplicated my poor and unhappy portion in this valley of tears. They were married

to leper patients who became destitutes living now on a hand-to-mouth existence. Each bore 4 children giving me 8 grand children. To survive, I became a laundry woman and later a maid. But old age had made me weaker and weaker; even my poor eyes are now getting dimmer and dimmer. Saddest of all is my right eye which has contracted cataract and could no longer see. My left eye now seems to be affected also with pain. Once an eye doctor commented: If soon my right eye gets ripe, do I have money to have it operated?

and grand children) to have, or clothes, or blankets, or shoes, or canned foods, or any small thing that could give us a bit of merriment as a gift on this fast approaching celebrated Birthday of our Lord. "He who shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, shall himself also call and not be heard." (Proverbs 21:31)

Thank you so much. Grace to you for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Very sincerely yours in Christ,  
Mrs. P.

I shall be very very glad for any little sum you would want us (mother, daughters, son-in-laws,

P.S. Please send by enclosing the dollar check in your air mail letter.

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**MILLER SHOW**  
Auburn — Don Miller, nationally acclaimed artist and illustrator, will display recent drawings at the Muggleton Gallery, starting Thursday, Dec. 6. The drawings reflect a recent trip through Africa. Miller has been mentioned among the most influential black artists in the U.S.