

# Ireland 'Delightfully Relaxing' A Christian Time Was Had by All

The May Courier tour of West Ireland was less history-oriented than October's, but delightfully relaxing. The tour of the South: Wicklow, Waterford, Wexford, Kerry, Clare and Killarney had more variety. But both tours had shops for the ladies; restaurants and hotels for relaxing; and the group became increasingly amiable each day.

Christ certainly was in the midst.

Mrs. Steve Riley was on both tours. She said, "October was more interesting but I am glad my husband Steve and I could come on this too. It gives us a full view of Ireland."

From Dublin the route went to Sligo, a village of 6,000 people. The hotel ran out of water. The rooms were cold. The appointments were no great shakes. But everyone adjusted in style. To Joe Macasey, our courier, I said, "To get the feel of the people, our group should experience a pub." A pub is a social center where people sit and drink stout or spirits. They listen to and participate in the singing. They argue and tease one another. Were it not for the weakness of many Irish with drink, the pub can be a grand place. Unfortunately the Blue Lagoon where we went had gone "American" with blaring electronic speakers roaring out second rate American Western songs, Elvis Presley music, and almost no native music. Nevertheless we were glad to get the "feel" of the pub, and were compensated two days later in Galway by another, where the humor and music were Gaelic, and the patrons themselves were Gaels. It was a look into the Irish social soul.

Next morning was First Friday, and our liturgist, Father Lane was arranging for Mass in the hotel. I legged it up to the Sligo cathedral to see if the Sacred Heart devotion continues. It does. I interrupted a Sister in her prayers to discuss the state of the Church. There are 58 Ursuline nuns in her convent. Most are teachers. She does social work among the poor, sick and aged. Her lovely earnestness gave a glow to her face.

## Camp Silver Birch Accepting Names

Camp Silver Birch will accept registrations through June 21, according to camp director, Sister Sheila Stevenson.

Located on the Mercy High School campus, Silver Birch is a summer day camp run by the Sisters of Mercy for boys and girls, ages 5 to 11.

Scheduled from July 1 to Aug. 2, it will meet Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Business In The Diocese

Harvey E. Anderson has been elected president of the Rochester Griffins Professional Lacrosse Club.

Vice president of the Rochester Coca-Cola Bottling Corp., Anderson will serve as president of a 12 man board.

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## ON THE RIGHT SIDE

To my queries she replied, "We've had our troubles, Father but things seem to be levelling off. That peculiar uneasiness which had invaded many religious communities hit us too. But thank God, things have settled down." Thought: "Fifty-eight nuns in one convent! And I'm out of Sheen tapes!" Then aloud: "Sister, have you ever heard of Bishop Sheen?"

"Indeed. He gave a retreat in this very cathedral to the people of Sligo, and stayed with his lordship."

"I would like to send you a cassette of 15 taped conferences he gave. Do you have a machine for cassettes?"

"We do. But I should give you the money for them."

"How can a holy Nun with vows pay for them?" I teased her. She tossed back: "We could pay for them."

"No, Sister. It is a privilege for me. But you must promise me to have them used extensively."

"Ah, Father. Thank you. Our Sisters will love them." Then a shadow swept over her face as she added: "They will mean so much to our poor old people. God bless you." That night I wrote Mrs. Kasarda the "Tape Lady" at Gary, Indiana: "Please Air Mail a Sheen set to Sister Mary Vianney Kennedy, Ursuline Convent, Sligo, Ireland."

About 4 p.m. of the sixth day we landed at Great South Western Hotel in Galway. It was plush, exciting and located in the center of the 30,000 population city. The evening and morning were free. That was the siren call to the women for move shopping. Near the hotel was a modern Church of St. Patrick, only 4 years old, built much like St. Charles

Borromeo Church in Rochester. About 10:30 a.m. I stopped for a visit to the Blessed Sacrament and found a 33-year-old priest deep in prayer. I interrupted his prayers and asked him to the hotel for coffee and discussion. If he is typical of the Irish clergy, God be praised. He is highly intelligent, takes Father Karl Rahner as his theological guide. He teaches at a non-religious technical school for teen-agers, and does regular parish work. He is secretary of the County Galway Football Association. And he wears the tiny Sacred Heart button which is the badge of the Pioneers, who are total abstainers.

Earnestly concerned with youth, he said: "We have fine youngsters, but with affluence now so common, drink is become a great problem. A few years ago Ireland had 600,000 Pioneers in a population of 3,000,000. Not so today." He is interested in every instrument: technological, psychological, devotional, to deepen the religious faith and practice of the people. That he is secretary of the County Football Association speaks volumes. I told him about movements in the States: Cursillos, Marriage Encounters, Charismatic movements, Legion of Mary, and added: "But I think what would be most valuable for your work would be the Teen Seminars," and promised to send him material about them, and the other movements. When he left I breathed: "My God, what a fine priest! So unconcerned about himself; so profoundly concerned about You and Your people."

Since we were leaving Galway Sunday for Shannon Air Base and home, we had breakfast at 8:30 while our luggage was loaded on the bus. We stopped en route for 10 a.m. Mass at the new, magnificent cathedral of Galway. Galway is a center for the preservation of the Gaelic language, and one Mass each Sunday is in Gaelic. You guessed it. We landed at the vernacular Gaelic Mass. It was interesting, but I think that an equally singular Latin Mass would solve some of the problems of ununiversality of language for foreigners in a foreign land.

Tours end with a banquet and a good night's sleep to prepare for the usual frustrations of return: boarding passes, passports, money exchanges, final purchases. It was great to see the lovely "Island of 40 different shades of green." And it was great to return home to our own beds, with a thousand memories, and with new friendships.

Watkins Glen — A combination of beautiful weather, great food, good fellowship and tourists on hand turned the recent parish picnic of St. Mary's of the Lake into a kind of minor but wholesome Woodstock.

More than 1,500 men, women, and children, including tourists from all over the Eastern Seaboard (Boston, Flushing, the Bronx, Baltimore) and Rochester and Elmira were attracted to the picnic at the Community Center.

Typical picnic food included ham, escalloped potatoes, beans, salads, home baked cakes, coffee, soft drinks, and beer.

There was music, there were prizes and contest, but "no raffles, no tickets, no charges," according to Father Joseph Dailey, pastor.

Father Dailey said credit belongs to cochairmen David Bartone and Patrick Franzese; to

food chairmen Philomena Vitale and Josephine Salvatore and to the hundreds of others who formed calling committees, set up crews, supervised parking and first aid, served, worked on games and cleaned up.

Father Dailey quoted a young parishioner ("who proved himself to be a better dentist than shortstop") as summing up the day — "Beautiful... this is really Christian community."

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