

**ON THE RIGHT SIDE**

**Father Paul J. Cuddy**

Dear P.,

Thank you for your letter and the kind expression: "You are one of the few people who seem to understand me. If I am candid with you will you still believe that I do understand you?"

When studying Moral Theology, we seminarians came to the subject of Fraternal Correction. Msgr. Goggin used to teach us that in charity we are bound to correct our brother. Then he proceeded to qualify the obligation by the virtue of prudence, adding: "If you think the correction will do any good." My experience is that few persons accept fraternal correction very well. Probably that is the reason Pope John followed the policy: "See everything. Overlook much. Correct little." As a friend I will risk a cautious candor.

God has given you many gifts. You are personable. You are good at your work. You are generous with your time and skills. I can still recall the afternoon you spent on crusty Mrs. X's car so she could get to work to support her insufferable brood of potential hoodlums. That was a labor of pure unselfishness for which let us bless the Lord. And you are blessed with good health, a great gift. However, as you examine your soul do you not suspect a weakness shared with most men, viz. a great desire to be acknowledged and to be praised?

Thanks to Adam's fall we all suffer from temptations to Pride, to Envy and to Jealousy; and to that sneaky sin of Sloth. Pride, Envy, Jealousy make us over-anxious about our own Ego; too anxious about the credit line. Yet Scripture is clear: "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your Name give glory."

And Sloth — that subtle poison which makes us indifferent to the good of others, as well as to the things of God. I think Sloth is a key problem in the contemporary Church.

We are over-organized. Each organization and bureau tends to be concerned about its projects; its ambitions; its responsibilities. As a result there is a frequent competition for power and recognition rather than the primary concern for the glory of God and for the Common Good.

It seems to me your present discontent is not that you are unable to do God's work in your vocation; but rather that while you do it, you are not getting the recognition your bruised Ego wants. Why not just thank God that the good work is done; that God is glorified; that the work is fruitful? Isn't it enough to know that God and Our Lady are pleased?

In May, I was in Dublin, Ireland, and picked up a 35-cent Holy Year Prayer Book, printed for the people of Scotland. The preface by Cardinal Gordon Gray, Archbishop of Edinburgh, says: "In order to assist the people of Scotland to enter fully into what the Pope has called 'Operation Fervour' in 1974, this little prayer book has been compiled for use on visits to the churches designated as Holy Year churches, and for private use in church and in our homes."

The book has a collection of traditional prayers, and some

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others. Here is one I like in particular, by the prayer-writer, Michel Quoist:

**MEDITATION ON A BRICK.**  
 The bricklayer laid a brick  
 on the bed of cement,  
 Then with a precious stroke  
 of his trowel,  
 spread another layer,  
 And without a  
 by-your-leave,  
 laid on another brick.

The foundation grew visibly,  
 The building rose,  
 tall and strong,  
 to shelter men.

I thought, dear Lord,  
 of that brick buried  
 in the darkness at the base  
 of the big building —  
 No one sees it,  
 but it accomplishes its task,  
 and the other bricks need it.

Lord, what difference  
 whether I am on the roof-top  
 or in the foundations  
 of your building,  
 as long as  
 I stand faithfully  
 at the right place?

Keep me in your good prayers.  
 And keep smiling. It helps  
 everybody."

**Nazareth College, 11 High Schools Plan College-Credit Program**

Nazareth College of Rochester will initiate this Fall a broad-scale, tuition-free college-credit program with 11 area secondary schools which could entirely eliminate the freshman year for some high school seniors and save up to 25 per cent in college tuition costs. The announcement was made yesterday by Sister Marion Hctor, vice president for Academic Affairs at Nazareth.

Students will receive up to 30 hours of freshman-level credit for approved courses taught by high school faculty in their own schools. The teachers will be considered "adjunct faculty" of Nazareth College which will coordinate and review all courses and approve credit which may be used at other colleges as well as Nazareth.

"We applaud this cooperation," said Edward F. Carr, director, Division of Academic Review, State Education Department. "Your program successfully addresses itself to the need to reduce the time required for acquiring the baccalaureate and also the cost to parents. Happily also your plan does not disrupt the social patterns of students in the high schools. May we wish you every success with this enlightened program."

Four private schools and seven public schools will be involved in the program which will include courses in seven subject areas.

"There have been two pilot programs in the area of a somewhat similar nature," Sister Marion said, "but none precisely like this and certainly none of this scope."

Schools already engaged in working out appropriate courses for the Fall are: Bishop Kearney, Brighton, Cardinal Mooney, East Rochester, Fairport, Our Lady of Mercy, Penfield, Pittsford (both high schools), St. Agnes and Webster (Schroeder). School officials and Nazareth department chairmen are discussing possible courses in seven subject areas: biology, chemistry, economics, English, foreign languages, history and mathematics.

**AL-ANON HELPS DRINKERS' KIN**

Assistance for families that have to cope with problem drinkers is offered by Al-Anon, 442-2290. A member pointed out this week that the organization's purpose is to give hope to people who live with alcoholics, to show them "how to make things more tolerable for themselves." Al-Anon can be reached also by writing to P.O. Box 643, Rochester, N.Y. 14620.

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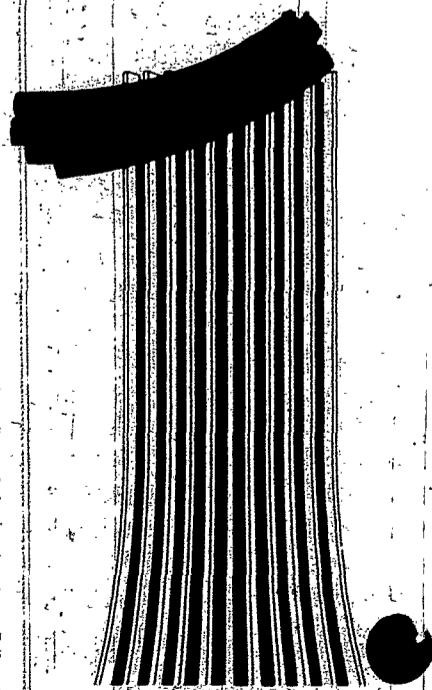
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