

ON THE RIGHT SIDE

Father Paul J. Cuddy

Do you read Ann Landers?

The columnist who solves universal human problems? Yes. I read the morning paper at breakfast, and always conclude with her column.

Why do you read her?

First, because in a sense she is the most influential writer in the world. She has a reading public of 60,000,000 each day, and is believed by most of her readers. Priests who are teachers should know what is being absorbed by The People.

Second, because her column reflects the intimate concerns of The People: sex, marriage, money difficulties, personality adjustments, honesty. She reaches into the problems and anxieties and joys of Every Man.

What do you think of her advice?

Her counsel is usually on the side of the angels. Not always. But even about divorce, extramarital relations, money problems, honesty, personality, jangles, etc. she is sound, as a rule. More sound than some Catholic authors and lecturers who have loose rein, thanks to tolerating canonical superiors. Compared to some Catholic authors who write against the Pope and the Magisterium with impunity, Ann Landers comes off akin to Teresa of Avila.

There you go again. You exaggerate.

Hyperbole is a valid literary technique. The fact is, however, that some reputed Catholic authors attack the Church, but won't leave it. For example, the Feb. 3, 1974, New York Times Book Review records theologian Mary Daly's latest attack on the Faith. The reviewer writes: "In what must be regarded as a new, candid re-examination of Christian theology, Miss Daly, who teaches theology at Boston College (Jesuit) raises the question whether women can find a whole existence within patristic establishments like Judaism and Christianity. The author does not suggest that leaving the church is the only solution for women. She holds up the possibility of non-cooptation, suggesting that women find 'new space' for a 'creative existence' on the 'boundary of these structures.' I would wager that Ann Landers with her sense of decency would opt for Dr. Daly's official leaving the Church she undermines.

But A.L. doesn't deal with theology.

But she does! She frequently advises on morality and ascetical theology. And she frequently brings in gems which have the ring of the New Testament. Too many Catholics are so hung-up on dogma that they don't do what dogma directs. Like men who study maps, but never go anywhere. Consider these gems given to 60 million readers:

"Just for today, I will be agreeable. I will look my best, speak in a well-modulated voice, be courteous and considerate.

"Just for today, I will not find fault with friend, relative or

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colleague. I will not try to change or improve anyone but myself.

"Just for today, I will have a program. I might not follow it exactly, but I will have it. It will save myself from two enemies: hurry and indecision."

For a hard-nosed Priest, you give great praise to a non-believer.

Let us praise and be grateful for truth and goodness, wherever they are found. In parallel, Dr. Barclay's Daily Bible Studies, and Archbishop Sheen's cassette tape conferences could stand some elisions; but for over-all guidance they are very good. Why, do you realize that there are readers of OTRSide Column who are not always in complete accord with all it says? Hard to believe, but we live in a real world and have to accept reality as it exists. So, benedicamus Domino!

Vatican Prepares For Gypsies

Vatican City [RNS] — Special preparations are under way to provide accommodations in Rome for European "gypsies, tinkers and other itinerants," who are expected to make pilgrimages to the city during the 1975 Holy Year, the Vatican announced.

The preparations, in conjunction with civic officials, are under the jurisdiction of the Pontifical Commission for Migration and Tourism, the Vatican agency set up by Pope Paul in 1970 for pastoral assistance to migrants, nomads, tourists and travelers.

them, "especially as most of them are very religious people."

Archbishop Clarizio also said that a special meeting on the pastoral care of nomads would be held in Rome during February, 1975.

Archbishop Emanuele Clarizio, pro-president of the commission, which is under the general supervision of the Congregation for Bishops said here that the Holy Year was expected to bring "many thousands of nomads to Rome," and that his agency was making "special preparations" for

RIGHT TO LIFE

Port Byron — Two representatives from Syracuse Right to Life committee addressed 60 people gathered at St. John's Church to consider the establishment of a Port Byron Right To Life group.

Informational slides reviewing normal development and abortion procedures were shown. Suggestions on how to establish a Right to Life committee were highlighted.

Mrs. Ann McCarthy of Port Byron was nominated temporary Right to Life chairman of the parish committee. The committee will conduct a membership drive open to all faiths.

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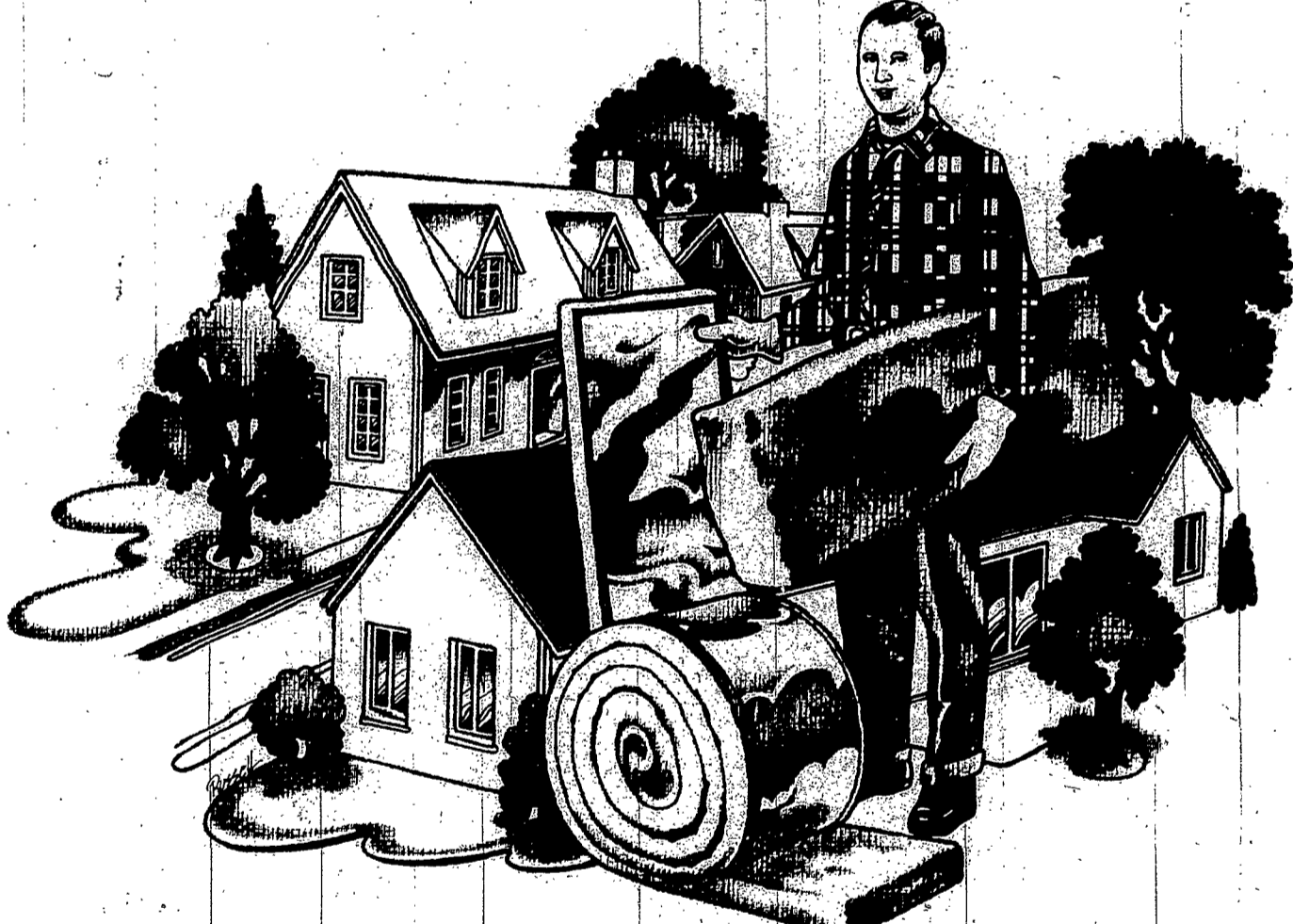
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