

## ON THE RIGHT SIDE

Father Paul J. Cuddy

### Where is Webster?

Some people call it Xerox-town. It is 10 miles northeast of Rochester, and 8 miles from Lake Ontario on Route 104. I reported to Holy Trinity parish, Webster, one year ago, June 28. After 39 years of priesthood, with the last 5 years save one: as hospital chaplain in Hornell, it has been a curious year.

### Curious? How?

Because my best work has been done outside the parish. By grace and nature I am a huckster. Since my duties call for very little parish work, I have specialized in huckstering books and religious tapes to extend the Kingdom. My best work has been huckstering the cassette tapes of Archbishop Sheen's retreat conferences.

### Why are you so hep about the Sheen conferences?

Tell me, are you satisfied with the Sunday homilies? I do not know anyone, priest or parishioner, who is. What can be given in 7 to 12 minutes that can satisfy an active intellect and healthy emotions? That can inspire men to holiness? The priest is frustrated because he has no time to adequately develop a thought. The people are frustrated by the necessary shallowness of our homilies. However, the Sheen conferences are 40 minutes each. They develop a theme decently. They are master-pieces of rhetoric. They are spiritually inspiring. And they can be repeated and repeated. I myself frequently sit alone and listen many times to a 40-minute conference. How can we treat decently The Lord, the Mass, Sin, The Holy Spirit, Our Lady, in a ten-minute homily?

### Why do you say your best work has been outside the parish?

Because by spreading the Sheen conferences, the Word of God is widely extended in the States, the Orient, Europe, as well as in our own diocese. Thus, tens of thousands are being instructed and are being inspired to holiness. For example, while leading the Courier-Journal tour to Ireland last May, I met Ursuline Sister Mary Vianney Kennedy in the cathedral of Sligo. She was such a beautiful soul, I had a set of Sheen conferences air-mailed to her. This good letter from her, written June 14, illustrates what I mean.

"I was really delighted to get your very welcome letter. A thousand thanks both for your letter and for the magnificent series of Abp. Sheen's lectures on cassettes. Words fail me in trying to convey to you what it means to me and to my Ursuline Sisters in Sligo, to receive such a gift.

"They are a real spiritual tonic. Rest assured they will be put to very good use. May God and Mary bless you a hundred-fold both in this life and in the next, and I will pray for you very specially. Goodbye, Father, and God bless you. And a thousand welcomes to Sligo-Ursuline Convent, if you visit Ireland again."

Isn't that a moving letter? Now, add to Sligo, the Orient, the States, and a special apostolate, to the Military. Msgr. (Col.) Gerard Geffell, who is in charge of American Military in Hawaii, is using the conferences with his chaplains and military personnel. Father (Lt. Col.) Fred Straub just got a set of conferences for his station in Germany. So many priests are bogged down by the modern virus of "meeting it," isn't it good we can get God's message proclaimed so simply through the cassette tapes?

### Where can I get a set?

From Our Sunday Visitor (Gary Edition) 3855 Broadway, Gary,

Ind. 46409 (Cost: \$20) From Rev. Paul J. Cuddy, Holy Trinity Church, Webster, N.Y. 14580 (Cost: \$20.25)

The tapes are low price but high quality, because this is a non-profit apostolic work of the Gary Diocese, Benedicamus Domino. (That extra 25c is for postage, not profit).

## For Poor: Dog Food

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — Despite increased federal spending on food programs, needy people in the United States have become "hungrier and poorer," according to testimony before the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs.

Noting that expenditures in federal food programs increased three-fold from fiscal 1970 to fiscal 1974, the director of the Food Research and Action Center of New York declared, "I would be pleased to tell you that we have made substantial progress in

the effort to eradicate hunger." "However," said Ronald Pollack, "to do so would be untruthful. For the sad and tragic truth is that, over the past several years, we have moved backwards in our struggle to end hunger, poverty and malnutrition."

The Senate committee was hearing reports of a four-month study by about 100 specialists from universities, business and the professions.

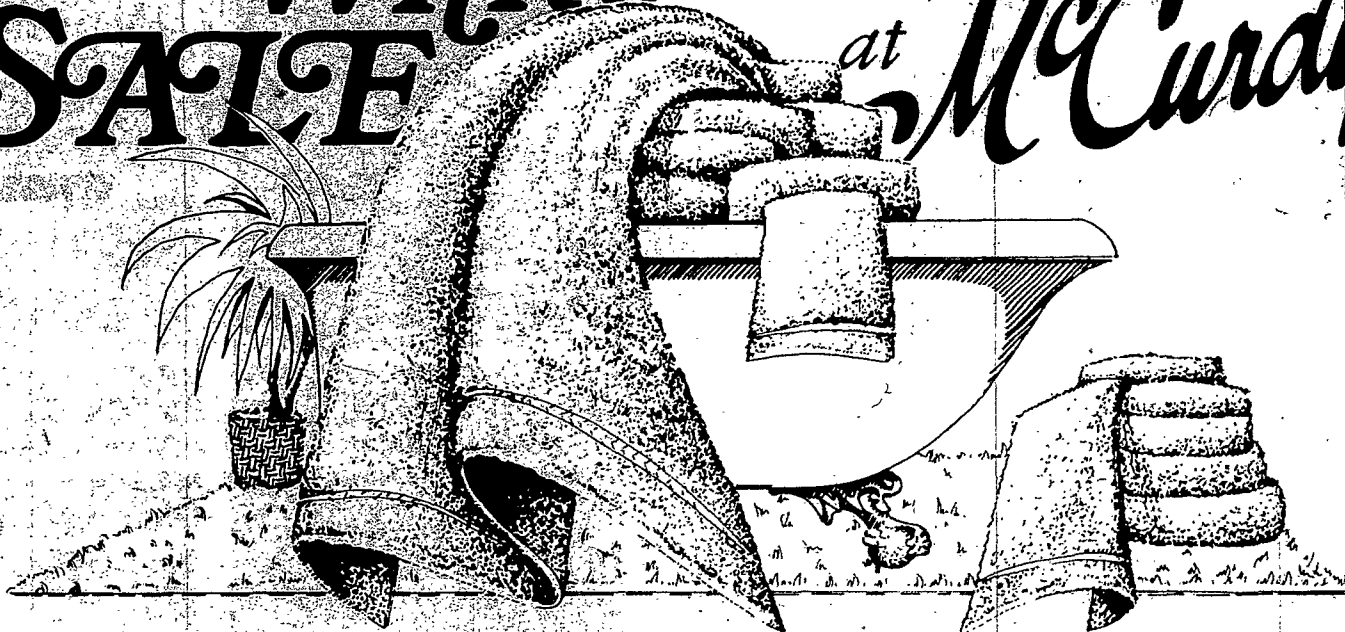
Pollack's report was based on the work of a 26-member panel studying "nutrition and special groups."

The study group found that some low-income families had switched to buying dog food for protein, and that others apparently did not even have the money for that.

"Several Indian families were found surviving on chocolate bars and stale coffee," according to the report. "In Walton County, north Georgia, we visited a family who had been illegally denied food stamps."

According to the report, only 35.7 per cent of those eligible for food stamps are receiving them.

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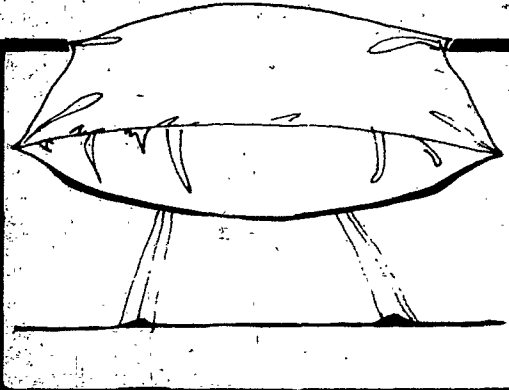
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