



Time Out Photo by Susan McKinney
Sisters Mary Andrew, [sitting] and Mary Daniel enjoy a quiet chat in the cloistered garden at Mercy Motherhouse recently before attending an outdoor Mass concluding a scripture study course taught there.

ON THE RIGHT SIDE

Father Paul J. Cooley

To a nun friend:

"Cheer up, Sister. There will always be breakdown in communications, in convents, rectories, offices, et al. The breakdown comes from many sources: inattention, introspection, fatigue, apathy, and frequently just from plain stupidity. When Our Lord said: 'The poor you will always have with you,' I think he also had in mind those whose poverty is in the upper story.

"In 1956 I was being transferred to Biggs A.F. Base, El Paso. En route I stayed over night at the Trappist Monastery at Gethsemane, Ky. The next morning I picked up a 29-year old Jerseyite. He admired my Volkswagon, which I bought the year before, and which was a novelty in the States in 1956. I said: 'I bought it in Africa in Morocco.' He pondered, then asked cheerfully: 'Did you drive it back to the States?' 'No, Sent it by boat.' After weighing that information he said: 'Of course! That would be a long drive, wouldn't it?' I decided to leave it at that.

"Patience with communication breakdown will prevent ulcers, neurosis — and sins against charity."

From the mother of a priest.

"I have finished listening to the Bishop Sheen retreat tapes, and found them profitable. I should like to pass them along to some group who would care to use them. Perhaps you know of such a group. I don't like things gathering dust."

"Doesn't that letter manifest thoughtfulness and generosity? I phoned a convent in Rochester and asked the Sister who answered if they had a set of Sheen tapes. She said: 'No, Father. We wish we did.' I told her about the offer. She said: 'Oh, we should be very grateful for the loan. We've so wanted to hear them.' 'But it's not a loan. It's a gift.' That Mother will get some good prayers in return.

To Melle J. Carlier, Laon, France.

"Your welcome card from Lourdes came yesterday. I did not know that I had not written at Christmas time — the time when

I usually salute friends. It was not a matter of disregard, but of disorganization.

"Probably my most important contribution to spreading the Catholic Faith this past year has been done vicariously. By that I mean that I have worked 'in season and out of season' propagating a set of cassette taped conferences given by Archbishop Sheen. There are 15 talks on 8 cassette tapes, 40 minutes each, with solid doctrine and inspiration. Bishop Sheen puts a bite into some of them, in which he expresses his discontent with priests and Sisters who have left their vocations, and with Sisters who have discarded the religious habit. It is a pity that the garb which was once considered a sacramental, the Holy Habit, is now held in scorn by some. However I do wish Archbishop Sheen has passed over these things in silence, because some priests and Sisters so resent his bluntness as well as his views in these matters, they close their ears to the wonderful truths he does present.

"I frequently recall our meetings at the Cathedral in Laon in 1944, with my assistant Joe Fazio. He is married, has seven children, and became a successful business man. I recall the blind organist and the French choir which sang Sunday vespers so beautifully. And I blush to recall that awful day when I was so curt with the children collecting alms from the GIs to keep their Catholic school going. How ashamed I have been all these years for my tartness with these innocent, lovable children. Years mellow tough people. I think of the nice visit Father Kress and I had with you in 1950, and of Father Don Cleary (RIP) and of so many others associated with the Laon area, and that magnificent cathedral on the hill.

"Coincidental with your letter is the arrival in Webster of a Sister Gabriel from a Catholic High School in Rennes, Brittany. There are 120 French High school students who have come to spend a month with American families in the diocese, and Sister Gabriel is a kind of custodian. She is in her forties, charming and demure. Our parish Sisters love her. She exemplifies the wonderful traditions which have made religious Sisters precious to us."

Hatfield Cites Mother Theresa, Lashes Food Aid Priorities

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — Sen. Mark Hatfield, citing a conversation with the famed Mother Teresa of Calcutta during which he was told that surplus food to her order is being decreased, lashed out at U.S. Food for Peace program priorities which he said are actually supporting economies geared to war.

In a Senate speech concerning U.S. overseas food distribution policies, the Senator said that during a visit to India earlier this year he was told by Mother Teresa that the limited commodities of surplus food her religious order had been receiving under Public Law 480 (Food for Peace) were being cut down.

On his return to the U.S., he checked with the Agency for International Development (AID) and others and was told that shrinking surplus commodities, as well as inflation, were limiting the amount of food to be distributed under the program.

For this reason, AID officials informed him, guidelines were drawn up directing that such aid should not go to the old and dying (such as Mother Teresa and her Sisters of Charity care for) but rather to those programs working primarily with children, and providing maternal care.

"But it is my understanding," Sen. Hatfield told the Senate, "that such aid is not given to those who have survived the earliest years of childhood, but who are not yet old enough to enter the work force. In effect, we are helping children survive

infancy only to cut them adrift to an uncertain fate, and we are also saying, 'Let the old die, it's no use trying to help them.'"

"One of Mother Teresa's main missions," he added, "is to work with the elderly and those near death, providing them with physical care and spiritual love. But the Public Law 480 commodities previously given to this work will have to cease because of the policy guidelines which I have mentioned.

Noting that more than \$450 million in Food for Peace funds was allocated to Indochina in fiscal year 1974, only \$50.5 million was earmarked for India, which alone has 20 times the population of South Vietnam and Cambodia and which is faced with the threat of famine," Senator Hatfield said.

The priorities governing the Food for Peace program are clear: they are to support economies

geared to war rather than relieve famine and starvation. Almost half of the last year's Food for Peace allocations turned out, in fact, to be food for war."

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