

**ON THE RIGHT SIDE**  
**Father Paul J. Cuddy**

Irish Catholics have a reputation throughout the world for deep faith, and a special fidelity to the Church. This fidelity is the result of God's grave, strong traditions, and a soul-strengthening crucifixion from centuries of persecution. As a result of the persecutions, priests and people became closely knit together. The shepherds cared for their flock and as almost the only educated men (educated in Spain, France, Rome because they could not be educated in their own land) they became the leaders who cared for their people in temporalities as well as with the Mass, Sacraments and catechism. The people held their priests in reverence both as men of God and as their advocates in civic and educational things.

**But times have changed. And Ireland is changing.**

With political freedom, education, economic security, and the secularizing influence of TV, radio and the press, the reliance of the people on their priests has waned. Unfortunately some of the priests have yet to discover this. The result? Tension between some of the laity and the clergy, alienation of many of the youth and the educated toward the Church. For example, most influential Irish authors of Catholic roots are men who have lost the Faith, though remaining strongly influenced by it, or have kept the Faith but filter a humorous but baleful cynicism in their writings. Among these are James Joyce, Frank O'Connor, Sean O'Faolain, and the more recent John B. Keane. The spirit of Church-loving Irish authors like Canon Sheehan and Alice Cur-tayne is rare. Though Mrs. Elaine Rice of Geneva handed me a paper back called God Made Sunday and Other Stories, saying: "This is an encouraging set of stories. They have a happy ending." I was glad to be introduced to author Water Macken.

Some of this anticlericalism is the fault of the clergy. A salesman who travels widely said: "Father, instead of the gospels and the parables we get diatribes about the Church's need for more money." A middle aged merchant said: "The older clergy don't know that Ireland has changed. They live in the finest homes. Their table is the best. They drive the best of cars. They enjoy holidays few parishioners could afford. They preach money rather than Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother. The younger clergy, thank God, seem to be sensitive to the mood of modern Ireland." I have met only a few of the clergy, older or younger, in Ireland. Those I have met convince me that the pique which is widespread enough, comes from a bit of idealistic exaggeration. This is not to say that the sentiments of the people regarding worldliness is without foundation. But it is to say that I have found great concern among the clergy for their people. Irish Catholicism has had a great regard for rugged asceticism, and their saints who are their heroes were usually men of violence and selflessness.

**Nazareth Student Honored**

A student at Nazareth Academy has been awarded the 1974 NCTE Achievement Award in Writing and was recognized by the National Council of Teachers of English as an outstanding student writer.

Laura Cushman, a junior, was judged by the Council on her ability to write a one-hour impromptu essay along samples of her best writing and an autobiographical sketch.

In Dublin, Killarney and Cork we visited churches, and all of us were impressed by the devotion of the people. At any time of the day, people stop in to visit the Blessed Sacrament. Their prayerfulness is moving. Even the vigil lights, candles and statues are preserved in most churches. The Stations and the beads are practiced devotions. At Killarney, I went to Mass at the Franciscan church across from our Great Southern Hotel. It was Friday evening at 7:30 P.M. There were 224 people there, and almost as many men as women. About 90 per cent of the women wore either a hat or chapel veil. They participated in the Mass with an unself-conscious energy. Four Franciscans heard confessions from before Mass up to the offertory, and the same was true the next evening, excepting they heard up to the Consecration.

In the back of the church was a literature rack full of devotional and instructional pamphlets and books. Including that lovely Prayers of an Irish Mother which many readers of this column ordered last June, and in the spirit of ecumenism, there were many paper backs of the Protestant scholar, Dr. William Barclay, C.S. Lewis, and Malcolm Muggeridge. Which reminds me I took nearly two pounds (\$5.00) worth of books and booklets, and did not get back to pay for them. I will mail them a check since I have no ambition to put in extra time in Purgatory for cheating venially the Franciscans in Killarney, especially since they do such holy work.

The final article will be next week.

**Music Workshops Slated in Auburn**

Auburn — Three workshops for the benefit of choirs, song leaders and organists are in the offing under the sponsorship of the Diocesan Music Commission. All workshops will be held at Holy Family School and Church.

The workshop for choirs, song leaders and organists will be held Tuesday, Oct. 29, from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. It will be of particular interest to those involved in the selection of seasonal hymns and concerned with hymnology.

A workshop for guitarists and folk groups from the region will be held Thursday, Nov. 7 from 7:30 to 10 p.m. It will include examples of music and appropriate usage in the liturgy.

There is no charge for the above two workshops.

The first in a series of 7 liturgy lectures for those enrolled in the Diocesan Organist Training Program will begin Monday, Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in Holy Family School. The initial lecture by Father Benedict Ehmann will focus on "The Why of Music" and its use in the liturgy. Other lectures will be announced shortly. This series will be helpful to representatives from liturgy committees and music sub-committees.

The 7 lectures may be audited at a cost of \$10 per person. Checks may be made out to the Rochester Diocese Organist Training Program.

Advance registration is not necessary.



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