



**Rolling Home**

Msgr. Albert L. Simonetti says goodbye to Kathy Melnick and Jo Ann Keyser at Annunciation Church. His modern church, with doors at ground level, is one of a limited number of public buildings accessible to wheelchairs. (See centerfold).

**ON THE RIGHT SIDE**



**Fr. Paul J. Cuddy**

**Weren't you in Mexico recently?**

Yes. After the May pilgrimage to Ireland, the Courier-Journal suggested a fall tour to Mexico. I said, "I'd rather return to Ireland." Had some unfinished business there, regarding the Archbishop Sheen tapes, and the Legion of Mary. They said: "Let's do both." On Oct. 21, sixteen set out for Mexico.

**Who went?**

It was a small and fine group. Seven had been on one of the Ireland trips, so formed a nucleus of friendships at once. Auburn sent Ray Casper, Dorothea Nolan, Marie Sutterfield, Margaret Hawelka Swan and Margaret Toomey, the banker. Hornell sent Earl and Bertha Logan, Madeline Brohm, Mildred Delaney, Beatrice Mahoney, and the delightfully candid Margret Carey. Elmira sent Sister Louise from St. Joseph's Hospital, the only one who knew any Spanish. Our liturgist was the well known Father James Lane of Geneva. Father Atwell's Avon sent a retired Latin teacher, Mary McCarthy, who did not drink a drop of water in our 11 days. (Which reminds me: a letter came today from a Latin teacher who reprimanded me gently: "In your column last week you had 'Laudemus Domino.' It should be 'Laudemus Dominum.' Takes the accusative case." Latin students, please note.) Marcella Wahl, sister of Fr. Ray Wahl of Auburn, represented Rochester. St. Margaret Mary parishioners, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Cean, had to cancel out three days before because Mr. Cean fractured his heel.

**What impression did you get of Mexico?**

A great surprise. Over the years I have read many things about Mexico, but I think the impression I really had was based more on the fritos advertisement, with the cute little sombrero-ed Frito the Bandito than on the books. So, points for Marshall McLuhan.

Father Lane spent a summer in Mexico city, with Mexican cousins, in 1932, when the Church was under persecution. The churches were closed, any home where Mass was celebrated was liable to confiscation; the

religious habit and the clerical garb were forbidden by Mexican law. Archbishop Sheen reminds us that when the enemies of the Church would destroy any symbols of religious life. So the holy habit is contraband in Mexico, even today. An interesting thing. In Mexico City we were lodged in the elegant Fiesta Palace. On the first morning we met a group of 75 Americans, including 15 Sisters in habit. The group was non-denominational, and had come from a convention in San Antonio for a study pertaining to Homes for the Aged, like Rochester's St. Anne's Home, and the East Ave. Friendly Home.

**Did the Sisters wear the religious habit?**

They did. I became quite well acquainted with three from Wisconsin. They reminded me, not in looks but in personality, of St. Joseph's Mother Agnes Cecelia Troy; and Mercy Sisters Jude and Scholastica at Hornell. I said: "Why, Sisters, aren't you violating the law trotting around in a religious garb?" They laughed: "The law doesn't apply to foreigners." Later I discovered they received the Red Carpet treatment by several officials because they are Sisters.

**What about Mexican nuns?**

Our Sisters met a Mexican Sister returning, in habit, from a conference in Los Angeles. But she had to remove the habit when she returned to Mexico. I am intrigued by the religious habit stripping in the States, and the stripping of the habit by law in Mexico. It makes an interesting psychological study. One evening I met a CCD Sister at St. Anne's rectory in Hornell. She wore a neat secular dress, a nice hairdo, a cross on her breast. We chatted for a few minutes. The next day I asked pastor Fr. MacNamara: "Who was the nice Sister in the parlour last night?" He roared with laughter: "Why, that's Mrs. M. She is the wife of a big potato farmer in Arkport, the mother of five children, and has charge of the Arkport CCD."

**Do you think Sisters should wear the religious habit?**

I keep out of it. The big survey the CJ had about the thoughts and desires of the laity last year indicated that 73 per cent wish the Sisters would wear the religious habit. Why should I get into trouble advocating what so many of them are rejecting. Don't get me involved; and we'll continue next week with Mexico — where sugar is only six cents a pound.

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**New Magazine On Near East Published**

New York — Msgr. John C. Nolan, national secretary of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, announced today the publication of the first issue of Catholic Near East Magazine.

"The purpose of the magazine," the monsignor said, "is to bring Catholics in the U.S. and Canada closer to their brethren in the Near East by giving them a clearer insight into the history and heritage, the rites and customs of peoples in these far off lands."

He pointed out that the first issue, which is the Christmas Issue, is profusely illustrated with four-color pictures of historically and religiously significant sites in the Near East. It features such articles as Christmas In India, Our

Lady's Advent, and Christmas at Bethlehem, as well as regular departments, Prayers from the Eastern Liturgies, Readers' Rite, and the National Secretary's Letter.

"It is hoped," Msgr. Nolan added, "that the new magazine will give the association's benefactors and friends a better picture of what their contributions are accomplishing for homeless children, the aged, the poor, the refugees, the physically and spiritually handicapped, and for native clergy and religious in famine-ridden Ethiopia and India, war-torn Cyprus and the Holy Land, as well as in all 18 countries in the Near East which the association serves."

Cardinal Terence Cooke is

president of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, the Holy Father's mission aid to the Eastern churches. It is in the New York Catholic Center, 1011 First Avenue, New York, N.Y.

Copies of the first issue of the Catholic Near East Magazine are available from this office, without charge.

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