



Siamese Twins Baptized

Clara (left) and Altagracia Rodriguez, the Siamese twins separated in a historic operation in Philadelphia last September, pose for a picture after their formal baptism into the Roman Catholic Church at Children's Hospital. Father Gabriel Rea, CM, of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, baptized the children. The girls, who were born in August 1973, have been taken home to the Dominican Republic. (RNS)

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

Is December 12 something special?

Yes. The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, commemorating the 5th appearance of Our Lady to the Indian, Juan Diego, in 1531. It was then she gave the famous picture of herself that appeared so mysteriously on Juan's long, coarse tilma, as a sign to the Bishop of her presence and wishes.

Have you seen the picture?

On two occasions. Recently, during the October C-J-Mexico tour, and in 1953, when I was stationed at Lackland A.F. Base. Joske's department store in San Antonio advertised a four-day and three-night trip to Mexico City and Taxco for \$72. This included air flight, hotel, meals, and a guided tour of Mexico City and Taxco. I had always wanted to visit Our Lady's shrine, and this was a good opportunity. The thrill of the Guadalupe Shrine comes from the devotion of the people. Even after 20 years my memory retains clearly many images. For example, a large Indian mother sitting quietly in the middle of the church in mid-morning, nursing her chubby baby from her great breast which overflowed with milk. The baby was sucking away with zest, and the mother contemplating the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe with the easy confidence of a trusting and loving daughter. Again, the great throngs of farmers, who came with quite good fiesta bands, unloading from the buses and devoutly marching into the church to the tune of the band music. Especially beautiful were the individual families, mothers, fathers, children, going up the center aisle on their knees, carrying lighted candles, with little children walking along side, nuzzling close to their parents. Mexicans love their children greatly. In the 12 days we were in Mexico I saw only three baby carriages! The fathers and mothers prefer to carry their children on their bosoms. It seems to me this must give a great emotional security both to the children and to the parents. This is genuine "togetherness."

Did you go up on your knees?

That's an interesting study. I watched the Mexicans going up on their knees, and admired the devotion. But the idea of doing it personally congealed my soul. However, I thought: "When in Guadalupe, do what the Mexicans do." And I did. But it took me half a day to screw up the courage to go up on my knees.

How can I get more information about Guadalupe?

After the burial of Mr. Heberle at Holy Sepulchre Nov. 23, I went to Our Lady of Sorrows rectory to see Msgr. Duffy, and Fathers Wood and Malley. Msgr. Duffy had a paper-back on his desk entitled "Handbook of Guadalupe." It is published by the Franciscan Marytown Press, Kenosha, Wisconsin. The book is a collection of articles about Guadalupe which is easy reading and historically illuminating. I have sent a copy to each member of our Mexican Tour. This will help to compensate for the short shrift our Mexican guides gave to our Lady at Guadalupe.

What about Lourdes, Fatima?

Better add Paray LeMoniale too, where Our Lord revealed His Sacred Heart. Private revelations are made for some reason. But we have to be cautious and follow the guidance of the Church. For example, that 70,000 people were present and witnessed the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima in 1917 is a historical fact. The apparitions to Bernadette were seen only by Bernadette, but her reactions during the visions were witnessed by hundreds. These are historically certain. However, we must not put the reputed revelations, whether to the Fatima children or to St. Margaret Mary on the same level with the New Testament. While I should encourage the devotion of the Nine Fridays or the Five Saturdays as a pious discipline, we should not regard them as we do the divine revelations in the Scriptures, e.g. the necessity of baptism, the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. To reverence the statue of Our Lady is commendable devotion, but more urgent is the devotion to the Eucharistic Christ present in the tabernacle. This is not a statue, but the Lord Himself. True devotion to Our Lady brings stronger devotion to her Son; and that's the purpose of private revelations, shrines, statues, medals, novenas, pious exercises. Do get a copy of the Handbook of Guadalupe. It is inspiring. And if you go to Mexico, don't let those guides give you only an hour at the shrine. Take at least half a day. You might even get the courage to approach the altar and the picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe on your knees.

Fatima Statue Draw 85,000

A total of 85,000 men, women and children came forward to venerate the National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, Father Edward A. Shamon reported last week.

Father Shamon, director of the reception committee for the Nov. 2-27 tour, said that despite less than two months' notice, the committee had managed to fill as many as four churches a day. Some schools and other institutions also were visited.

Many who came to hear about the significance of Fatima were glad and relieved. Father Shamon said in a statement, "just to know that so many priests and nuns still believe in Fatima and Our Lady's promises about the Brown Scapular, the First Saturday devotions and the Rosary."

The director had the assistance of Fathers Robert Meng, Donald Lux, Vincent Collins and George Wood. Lay leaders were John Yacone, Clifford and Mary Harris, John and Carole Leary and Mary Kelly, all of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima. Al Williams, custodian of the statue, accompanied it, as he has done for nearly a decade on its journey through the United States.

Xavier's Relics To Go on View

Panajim, India (RNS) — The remains of St. Francis Xavier, pioneer Jesuit missionary to the East Indies and Japan, have been exposed here for special public veneration through Jan. 5, 1975.

The Basque saint, one of the original seven Jesuits, landed here in the former Portuguese enclave of Goa in 1542, two years after the Society of Jesus was formally established.

For the next seven years, he labored in Goa, and among the Parvas in the extreme south of India and in Ceylon and in the Malay peninsula and Molucca islands. After two years in Japan (1549-1552), he set out for China, but died in 1552 on the island of Sangchwan while waiting for secret transportation to the mainland.

St. Francis's body has been enshrined in Goa since 1554. Public exposition of his relics, enclosed in a hermetically sealed glass case in a silver casket was last held in 1971. He is the patron of all missions of the Catholic Church.

Winter Weather Cancels Meeting

Icy runways and roads postponed a meeting of the members of the Rochester Center for Theological Studies Monday, Dec. 2. Arthur McGill, professor of theology at Harvard University, was to have addressed the ecumenical group at St. Bernard's Seminary. Professor McGill is expected sometime in January to deliver his message, "The Gospel and the Pernicious Challenge of Western Affluence: The Task for the Western Church."

Last Tuesday's scheduled meeting of the Diocesan Priests Council also was cancelled due to poor weather.

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Deaths

R. Belliotti

Homell — A Mass of Christian Burial was held Nov. 23 in St. Ann's Church, for Russell J. Belliotti who died Nov. 21, 1974, at St. James Mercy Hospital where he had been a patient for six weeks.

A native of Buffalo and graduate of the University of Buffalo School of Pharmacy, he came to Homell in 1939 to manage the former Liggett Drug Store. At the time of his retirement, he was employed at Card's Drugs.

He was a member of Hornell Council Knights of Columbus, Hornell Lodge of Elks, Loyal Order of Moose, Kiwanis Club and St. Ann's Church Holy Name Society. Survivors are his widow, Mrs. Maud Audette Belliotti; a son, John, of Wappinger Falls, and two grandchildren.

Sr. Marita, SSND

Sister M. Marita Miller, SSND, who taught Rochester school children for 54 years, died Nov. 28, 1974, at the Motherhouse of her order in Wilton, Conn. The funeral and burial took place there.

On Nov. 30, a Mass was celebrated for Sister Marita at St. Helen's, Gates, by her cousin, Father Richard Shtatzel, and Fathers Edward Steinkirchner, Donald Murphy and Daniel Hogan.

Born in 1889, Sister Marita was 18 years old when she entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame, in 1907. She studied in Baltimore for three years and spent the next 45 years at St. Joseph's, Franklin Street. There she taught the boys

of the orphanage and the parish children, organized a boys' choir and took charge of the altar boys. In 1955, she went to St. Michael's, where she taught until her retirement to Wilton in 1964.

She is survived by two brothers, Arthur and Norbert Miller; three sisters, Mrs. John (Mary) Bauer, Miss Martha Miller and Mrs. Joseph (Clara) Entress, and several nieces and nephews.

F.A. Tschiderer

The funeral of Frank A. Tschiderer was held Nov. 27 at St. Charles Borromeo Church. Father Robert Donovan, his nephew, concelebrated the Mass of Christian Burial with Fathers Robert Ritz, John Hedges and Donald Haycock.

Mr. Tschiderer, of Bayberry Lane, died Nov. 25, 1974.

Surviving are his widow, Veronica, a daughter, Mrs. M. James (Mary) Lenhard, and six sons, Gerard, of Florida; Charles and David, of San Diego, Calif.; Richard, of Medina, O., and Philip and John, of Rochester; 32 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, a sister, Mrs. Mary Bott, and several nieces and nephews.

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