

Hospitality Center Drive Tops the \$2,500 Mark

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn — Contributions totaling more than \$2,500 in specific pledges have been received by the WAUB radiothon sponsored by Father Edward Shamon of St. Aloysius to benefit the Auburn Hospitality Center.

Additional pledges have been made, but the totals are not yet completed.

In a telephone interview during the radiothon, Bishop Joseph O. Hogan recalled his participation at the dedication of the Hospitality Center two years ago.

He said, "You know, so many times we are reminded of our obligation to take care of the needs of our neighbors, yet we realize at the same time there is only so much that you can do. But this weekend you people have a very special opportunity to help ease a very hard time in the lives of many people, most of whom you will never meet."

"This effort to help in the support of the Auburn Hospitality Center gives a real opportunity to follow the words of our Lord, who assured us that whatever was done for the least of our brethren

was done for him. There is no better expression of our faith in Jesus than to express the need we have for one another, in joining with other members of the community in giving support and encouragement to such a program as the house of hospitality."

The center is located in a converted service station across from the Auburn Correctional Facility. Open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the center provides shelter for persons visiting the prison, especially before and after visiting hours, during lunch break, and while waiting for transportation. There are rest rooms as well as coffee and snacks, babysitting, information about prison regulations, help with visit related problems, emergency loans and coordination of chartered buses from metropolitan areas.

The majority of visitors are from distant areas and are more likely to be from families with limited resources.

The radio broadcast was St. Aloysius' response to the Diocesan Office of Human Development's (OHD) offer to

match funds up to \$2,500 raised locally to support the center which it feels is fulfilling a desperate need for prisoner's families. Increasing awareness of the center's function was an important aspect of the project and a criterion for the matching funds.

There is also a grant from the Episcopal Church Women of New York that will also match funds raised in the community up to \$2,500. The radiothon, in addition to money raised in other Cayuga County parish projects, assures the matching funds available from OHD.

A \$500 pledge was received through Robert Homer, superintendent of the Methodist Conference of Geneva, Auburn and Greater Finger Lakes. He said the contribution showed that the people in the United Methodist Churches feel the Hospitality Center is serving a valuable purpose and they want to be of help.

Approximately 250 individual pledges were received.

Among the board members of the Auburn Hospitality Center interviewed throughout the two day radiothon was Willietta Welch, who said, "Many people would be strangers in a strange place, no way to find the things they needed and are necessary, if it weren't for the center. Auburn is a place with heart and homes big enough to accept these visitors."

Ms. Welch shared her experiences of opening her home to stranded visitors or those in need of housing so they could take advantage of accumulated visiting time.

She also pointed out that one of the center's functions is to give family members information about the prohibitions and rules and regulations, so that they will better understand and accept the reasons behind the regulations.

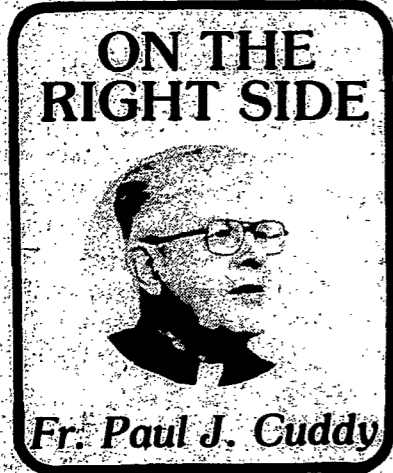
Volunteers from the St. Aloysius Altar and Rosary Society manned the telephones at WAUB. Pledges may be sent to the Hospitality Center Radiothon, in care of Father Edward Shamon, 160 Van Anden St., Auburn.



Msgr. Joseph Gefell, pastor of St. Alphonsus, presents a check for \$364 to Keith Batman, director of the Auburn Hospitality Center. The money was raised through the St. Alphonsus Altar and Rosary Society bakeless bake sale.

"It is gratifying to know that many of the contributors were representatives of other faiths who joined in this project sponsored by St. Aloysius — to extend that helping hand to strangers in their midst. The response has been genuine and reflects a real caring for others, most of whom we will never personally know," said Father Shamon.

INSTEAD of sending Christmas cards to our friends and relatives, we are giving a donation to the needy children's fund. Warmest wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a happy new year.
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Ciarfello



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

Dear Mr. Sheed,

Christopher Notes printed this ditty: "A drop of ink makes a thousand think." Let me share a happy effect of your latest book, *The Church and I*. I bought three copies at Mt. Carmel Book Store in Rochester three months ago, and got around to reading a copy a month later. It was a Sunday evening about 10 p.m. that I began to read, and at midnight I was roaring with laughter at the chapter, *Princes of the Church*. Father Andrew Greeley, I suspect, will enjoy the tales of human strengths and weaknesses of the cardinals. He seems to have a thing about bishops generally.

The chapter I liked best was *The Catholic Intellectual Revival*. Why? Probably because it is of a period of spiritual and intellectual lushness which was at its lushest in the early days of my priesthood. It is in such contrast to the spiritual and intellectual wilderness of this decade's self-centered, sensate anti-intellectualism.

Just to read the names of Britain's Greats which your publishing company propelled into the intellectual world: R.H. Benson, Ronald Knox, Christopher Dawson, J.B. Morton, Chesterton and Belloc, Baring, Arnold Lunn, Sheila Kaye-Smith, Bruce Marshall, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, and the continent's contribution of Mauriac, Maritain, Bloy and Peguy, Gheon, Papini, Gertrud von Lefort, Sigrid Undset — is like beholding the Promised Land from our present desert. Thanks be to God, this Promised Land can be re-entered simply by re-reading.

While reading of Chesterton in the chapter *Five Writers and a*

Sixth I kept thinking of my classmate, Father William Gaynor, who has been a Chesterton buff for nearly 50 years. I decided to send a copy with the note: "I think you will like the book, not only because of Chesterton, but also because of Sheed's evident love of the Church."

A few weeks later I met Fr. G. at a clerical gathering. He said: "Many thanks for the Sheed book. I haven't enjoyed anything so much in a long time. Now let me tell you of a practical result of reading the book. Sheed wrote that he had not heard a sermon on the divinity of Christ or on sanctifying grace in years. So last Sunday I gave the homily on the divinity of Christ, and told our people why: because of the Sheed book. Next Sunday will be on sanctifying grace." So you see, "a drop of ink makes thousands think." And part of the thousands are the parishioners of St. Patrick's Church, Moravia, in the Diocese of Rochester.

Will your book come out in a paper back? It troubles my soul to have to shell out \$7.95 for a hard-cover book, when a paper-back would be what today? \$2.00? A few years ago I wrote the Image Books department of Doubleday, requesting a reprint of Father Martindale's *What Are Saints?* I recall Arnold Lunn said that while he was intellectually convinced of the Catholic Faith, he did not budge until he read Martindale's short account of St. Peter Claver in the collection of the saints. Then God's grace struck. He said: "What am I waiting for?" And promptly applied for admission to the Church. I do wish Martindale's *Saints* would come out as an Image paper-back. Again, "a drop of ink

May your *The Church and I* have great readership. It is greatly needed by many Catholics, and non-Catholics too. They are troubled by the contradictions foisted on them all in the name of "openness." I like Chesterton's remark: "The purpose of the open mind is to close it on something solid." What a correct point you make on the cover. "An increasing number of Catholics find the Church as they meet it a trial to their faith. It is no trial to me. I know more than most about its day-in day-out reality yet not only can I not imagine myself outside it, I delight in being in it." To which I say a resounding Methodist Amen! And wish you a Happy Christmas.

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