

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

To: Courier Journal - Subscription Department

I do hope that the gift subscription which I sent to Sister Martina Laumann, Cenacle Retreat House - 318 Lawrence Ave. East, Toronto, Canada, M4N 1T7, is being mailed to her under her correct title and name. The reason for my concern is this: your bill came, and in it Sister M.L. is denominated: "Soster, artoma :au, emm." It is probably a computer mistake rather than a change of name on the part of a good religious. Will you kindly check on it? Also I note that an extra \$4 is charged for postage to send the Courier to Canada, making the bill a fat \$10. I do not underestimate the joy Sister will have in receiving the Courier, and cheerfully add the extra \$4. But that extra does mean that it will take me longer to buy another copy of The Church and I by Frank, Sheed, a book which I should like gently to suggest that you read. I am not sure if Mr. Frank Crociata is head of the subscriptions department, but if he is, - and he is an estimable man - even the most estimable people can profit from the latest Sheed book.

May I make a suggestion? Might it not be good to suggest to readers, that they might have a friend, especially a Holy Nun, who has moved from the diocese and who would be grateful for a subscription? Why not send one along? Even in local convents, sometimes a Sister Dismas cops the Courier when it comes, keeps it in her cell, and the other Sisters rarely get a chance to read it. Why not send a subscription to some individual Sister?

From John G. Lentricchis:

Bob Kalb let me hear his Sheen tapes. They are fantastic! I would like a set of my own to share with as many friends as possible. Enclosed is \$25 check. Please forward the change where you think it's needed most. Thank

you, and God bless you.

To John G.L.

Evidently you believe in practicing the Gospel. "Preach the gospel to every creature." The taped conferences are sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor - Gary Edition - 3855 Broadway Gary, Ind., 46409. It is a non-profit apostolic venture on the part of the Gary OSV.

However, they do not know how to merchandise. They do not advertise. They do not solicit the patronage of parishes, priests, Sisters, K of C, CDA, AOH, CCD, or what have you. They just mail out a set to anyone who happens to hear about them, and has the gumption to write for them. In December I did write to them:

"I am heartsick that the Christmas season, which would have been a great season for sending hundreds of sets throughout the States, passes by with no advertisement in the Homiletic Review, Register, Reporter, Our Sunday Visitor, Priest Magazine, Sisters Today, Review for Religious, or even the Rochester Courier-Journal. But if God permitted the crucifixion of His Son, I suppose in His Permisive Will He permits the losses of opportunities of grace for the people. So I sit with Our Lady of Sorrows at the edge of the crowd who were fed by Our Lord, and hear His words to the disciples: 'Collect the fragments lest they be wasted'; and I wonder sadly: 'Why won't they advertise?'"

They did not acknowledge my observation; but they did correct my running account with them to inform me I owed them \$100 more than I thought I did.

At a priests' Institute at St. John Fisher College eight years ago, Father Henry Atwell and I were walking, together, down the corridor to the coffee room. Paternally he patted my arm and said: "You worry too much about the Church. After all, we have the guarantee of Christ to be with the Church even to the end of the world." To which I replied somberly: "I know that. But I also know many people in hospitals who are suffering dreadfully from diseases, broken bones, emotional upsets. They will live - but in what agony!" That is why I feel so strongly about opportunities lost to the people and to the Church.

So, friend, when you write: "I would like a set of my own to share with as many friends as possible," I exhale a hearty: "Deo gratias!"

Education Bill Would Help Handicapped Children

By KATHLEEN POWERS, Capitol Correspondent

Nearly one out of ten children in New York is handicapped - physically, mentally or emotionally - and needs special teaching that is not given in a regular school program. Yet 45 per cent of these children - more than 200,000 youngsters - do not get the education they need for their handicaps.



The reason is simple: the education of handicapped children, especially severely handicapped children, costs more than many local school districts are willing to pay. Specially trained teachers, smaller classroom groups, unusual classroom equipment, tutors, therapy rooms, etc. are expensive. School districts can't afford everything. They budget for common disabilities, but when it comes to unusual problems or to handicaps affecting just one or two children out of thousands, their money runs out.

This situation may change next year if a proposed law before the State Legislature is passed. The bill (S12) would require local school districts to provide appropriate education to all its residents aged 3-21, regardless of disabilities. The districts would pay no more than for any other child, with the state paying the balance of the costs. Overseeing the program would be a proposed new Office of Special Education within the Education Department.

The sponsor, Sen. James Donovan of Chadwicks, chairman of the Select Committee on Mental and Physical Handicaps, believes it is the responsibility of local school districts to educate all children, no matter what their needs.

The bill has two sections. One establishes an Office of Special Education, headed by a person experienced in the education of children with special needs. That office would assist local boards of education in identification, referral and placement of children; administer all special education programs supported by state funds; coordinate services of other state agencies; compile data on children with special needs; develop public information programs; assist colleges in training teachers; involve parents; develop cost accounting and reporting procedures; and withhold state funds for certain districts which do not comply with the law.

Each school district would form a committee on children with special needs, composed of professionals and parents. The committee would supervise the diagnosis and evaluation of all children with special needs in the district and insure confidentiality for all children.

Each region of the state would have an advisory council. Half of the members would be parents of children enrolled in special education programs; and at least two of the members would be parents of children who are not in public school programs. The regional councils would advise all

the local districts on special education programs within the region.

The state would have an advisory council consisting of both parents and professionals who would report to the Education Department annually on the quality and adequacy of special education programs in the state and who would recommend improvements.

The bill also would provide for a statewide system of instructional materials centers for special education teachers and administrators. The centers would gather research findings, new teaching techniques and materials; offer teacher training courses; create curriculums; and deliver materials, training, etc., all over the state.

The second part of the bill goes into the details of educational programs for children with special needs. It requires school districts to provide special education "sufficient to meet the needs of children with special

needs." It urges that children with special needs be educated in classes with children who do not have such needs "to the maximum extent possible."

The bill defines what children have special needs and lists the various types of instruction acceptable - from full-time class teaching to teaching in hospitals to small group instructions. Boards of education are instructed to identify children with special needs at the age of three, to evaluate the children, prescribe a program for them, notify parents at various steps in a special education program, allow independent assessments of a child's abilities and provide complete records to the parents. Testing, transportation and school aid formulas are also detailed.

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Rev. Paul J. Cuddy Holy Trinity Church, Westchester, New York 14580 December 21 Gentlemen: Please send the Courier to Soster, artoma :au, emm Cenacle Retreat House 318 Lawrence Avenue, East Toronto, Ontario Canada M4N 1T7 With a note: Gift of Father Cuddy. Happy New Year. Editor's Note: How it all began.

Cenacle Retreats

The Cenacle Retreat House recently released a schedule of events for the next five months which includes: Sisters' Retreat, Father James Ruddick, SJ, Feb. 7-9; General Retreat for Men and Women, Father Noel Scanlon, OFM, Cap, Feb. 21-23; General Retreat for Men and Women, Father Albert Bartlett, SJ, March 7-9; General Retreat for Men and Women, Father William Poorten, SJ, March 11-13; Experiences in

Prayer for Women, Sisters Mary Walsh and Joan Fitzgibbons, April 11-13; Our Lady of Mercy Parish and General Retreat for Women, Father Donald Hinfey, SJ, April 18-20; Retreat for Parish Liturgy Committees, Father Benedict Ehmman and Sister Margaret Mary Mattle, April 25-27; General Retreat for Women, Father Louis Hohman, May 23-25; General Retreat for Men and Women, Father John Wlachars, SJ, June 6-8.

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New Hours for BROOKWOOD RG&E's Brookwood Science Information Center will be open Sundays only until further notice! Special tours may be arranged for Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays by contacting the Corporate Communications Department at RG&E, 546-2700; extension 2225. RGE ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC 89 EAST AVENUE, ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14649 • 546-2700