

**ON THE RIGHT SIDE**



**Fr. Paul J. Cuddy**

The last week of February seems to have been "Sisters of the Catholic Church" week in my young life. The Feb. 27 TV drama, "In This House of Brede" I had been anticipating with curiosity and some apprehension. Why apprehension? The novel from which the drama was made was written by the English woman, Rumer Godden in 1969, and was on the Best Sellers list for 20 weeks. She is a convert to the Catholic Faith, and one might expect kinder treatment of the Benedictine Nuns of Brede. But the book was full of mean conflicts among the Sisters. I gave the book to a Sister of Mercy to read. She returned it saying: "My! Isn't it terrible? I suppose there are sisters like these, but the book implies that the exception is the rule."

In 1939, Godden wrote "Black Narcissus", a story about a weird community of Anglican nuns in Africa. The book, written before her conversion, was made into a movie. I watched an interview between Godden and Robert Cromby, shortly after Brede, was published, on the Channel XXI Book Beat. She had the grace to say that Black Narcissus was very unfair, and she regretted that she had ever written it. While regrets are commendable, the poisons continue to hurt people. It would seem to me that the author might compensate by writing something edifying, e.g. about the work of Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

However, in the Brede drama, Diana Riggs did a nice bit of acting. And the meanness portrayed in the book were down-played. The attractiveness of religious life: the Holy Habit, the ritual, the Gregorian chant, the community spirit, were nicely up-played. It is regrettable that the purpose of the Benedictine life, like that of our Rochester Carmelites and Elmira Dominicans: a life of prayer, praise and reparation, would be lost to most people.

Shortly after the Godden drama, the Rochester Catholic Daughters of American decided to donate a set of Archbishop Sheen cassette conferences. They had donated a set to the Carmelites a year ago, even as the Pius XII K of C donated a set to St. Ann's Home a month ago. Since I am chaplain of the CDA they asked for suggestions. Brede reminded me of the movie. Come to the Stable, in which Loretta Young and Celeste Holm portrayed the founding of Regina Laudis Community in Connecticut. So I phoned Connecticut on Saturday, for lower rates. A firm, feminine voice with a strong German accent answered: "Regina Laudis Monastery." "Good. This is Father C. of Rochester, NY; to whom am I speaking?"

"One of the sisters," said she, not identifying which one.

"Very good, Sister. Our CDA want to donate a set of Bishop

Sheen conferences to some group. Do you have a set?"

"I think we have, Father. Just a moment."

When one is paying for long distance, those moments seem longer. Finally she returned: "Yes, Father. I just spoke to the librarian. We do have a set. Thank you for the offer."

"Fine, Sister. And how is Regina Laudis doing?"

"Very well. You know we are very traditional. Our Mass is in Latin. We sing the Divine Office in Gregorian and Latin; and we follow the traditional religious life."

Anyone interested, the address is: Regina Laudis Monastery, Flanders Road, Bethlehem, Conn. 06751. There are 29 Professed Nuns; 4 novices; 3 postulants.

Next I phoned Sister Oliva at St. Mary's Hospital. She exclaimed: "Oh, they would be fine for our Seton Hospice. The patients there are convalescent, and would get a lot out of them." So the Word progresses.

The finale of the week was a tape from the Pastoral Office, with inserts from Mother Teresa of Calcutta, to be used for the Bishops Relief Collection. I was shocked that so many Catholics, adults and school children, who seem to know about Martin Luther King and George Wallace, are utterly unaware of the existence of the internationally most revered woman in the world. If you are among them, will you get on the stick, and read "Something Beautiful for God," by Malcolm Muggeridge? The author is a commentator on the British Broadcasting Corporation. He is not a Catholic. He is an admirer of Mother Teresa. It is mystifying that those outside the household of the Faith should be so impressed by holiness in the Catholic Church; and those inside should be so indifferent.

We have many wonderful, dedicated, selfless sisters in the Church, carrying on the traditional works of prayer and love and charity. Love them in the Lord.

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**Film Seminars Scheduled**

The Office of Religious Education has scheduled Film Seminars, an opportunity for those interested to preview new and classic materials, at Nazareth Academy from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, March 22.

Parents, education committees, teachers and parish staffs are invited to preview material from XXIII Publications, Alpha, Klise, Gospel Films, Pyramid Films, Teleketics and many films available free from the Rochester Public Library. Because eight audiovisuals will be shown concurrently each parish is advised to send at least eight persons.

Among those making presentations will be Joseph Badamy, teacher of the deaf, RII;

Sister Margaret Brennan, film studies instructor at Nazareth Academy; Sister Mary Ann Carroll, St. Thomas More; Sister Alice Cooney, St. Mary's, Canandaigua; Sister Mary Dennis, audiovisuals coordinator, Nazareth Academy; Leonard Dezelski, St. Mary's, Elmira; Lawrence Frank, distributor for eight major media publishers; Martin Palumbos, consultant for

Youth Ministry; and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Stanley, St. Catherine's, Ithaca.

Reservations may be made through Mary Travaglini at the Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Payment is \$3 per person or \$10 per parish. Child care will be provided by reservation, again through Miss Travaglini.

**ITALIAN CLUB DINNER**

Nazareth Academy's Italian Club will host a dinner-dance at the Mapledale party house beginning 7:30 p.m. on March 15. Proceeds will help send the club on a trip to Washington. Music will be provided by Bob Russo.

**BIRTHRIGHT**

Lyons — Anyone interested in forming a Birthright organization in the Lyons-Newark area is invited to a meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 20, at the home of Aubrey and Donna Schuldt, 91 Phelps St. (Route 34).

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1970 GLUBWAGON Van, 6 cyl., white, radio, 8-track tape player, rear speakers, carpeted throughout, cabinets, and 110 electric hookup. Ideal for camping. 247-4625.

3 FRENCH provincial cherry tables, oval cocktail and step ends. Mint condition. \$75. 266-3206 after 4:30 p.m.

BEDROOM Set — Maple, double dresser, mirror, chest, double bed, complete. \$150. 426-2827.

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Tours for 1975

Tour No. 1

Memorial Day Weekend, Endfield, N. Hampshire — Our Lady of La Salette and Ste Anne Shrine in Island La Motte — Leaving Saturday, May 24th, return 26th.

Tour No. 2

June 28th-29th—Three Rivers Our Lady of the Cap; June 30th-July 1st—St. Anne De Beaupre; July 2nd-3rd—Montreat St. Joseph's Oratory; July 4th—Vermont Our Lady of LaSalette.

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