

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

With some irritation a priest asked: "Why do you keep talking about the Sheen tapes, when there are so many other things to talk about, especially social issues?" The answer is that I do know of the great good the Sheen tapes have done in bolstering the Faith and the confidence of the people in the Church. I do not consider myself qualified to decide who should be boycotted in union conflicts, or about pants and lettuce. "Shoemaker, stick to your last" is wise advice.

This letter from Father Charles Kraft, SVD, written from Divine Word Missionaries, Bangued, Abra, Philippines, dated May 14, 1975, illustrates the reason for my enthusiasm. Father Kraft is from St. Charles Borromeo Church, Rochester.

"Dear Father Cuddy,

"I have been meaning to write to you for some time, knowing that you will be interested to hear that the apostolate to spread the message on the Abp. Sheen tapes has reached the Philippines.

"My parents forward the Courier-Journal to me, and I learned about the tapes from your column. I order a set. It so happens that I am connected with our small diocesan radio station in the province of Abra in the northern part of the Philippines. The Abp. Sheen conferences seemed ideal for trying something new — a Radio Retreat. We did it — in Advent 1974. At 9:00 p.m. Each night for 16 successive nights we played one of the tapes. The missionaries listened in their stations to the conferences — and not only the missionaries.

"After the Retreat I had to order seven more sets, for the missionaries who wanted their own set to listen to at their own leisure, or because they could not catch all the conferences over the radio.

"I also ordered the record of the Mass of St. Francis, sung by the 110 children's choir in Cork, Ireland, which you wrote about. And played it over the radio during our classical hour one Sunday afternoon. Again with happy results. If the tapes of the conferences of Dr. Arkin become available, I would like very much to get a set. Please send a set, air mail, and I will refund the expenses as soon as you tell me how much they are.

"Dear Father Kraft,

"Many thanks for your dandy letter. With great enthusiasm, and without getting your permission, since you are a Missionary, I just had 500 copies of your letter mimeographed, to give to our priests and Sisters, Brothers and interested laity, of whom, thank God, there seem to be more and more. It will mean more orders for the Sheen Conferences, and the Word will continue to reach out to souls.

"Glad that you like the Cork Children's choir. It was composed by an Englishman, Philip Green, who went to Ireland some years ago, became a Catholic and settled there. He is a gifted musician, and he loves the Mass. Recently when in Ireland I found a similar Mass, "The Mass of St. Finbar," sung by 150 children from Cork. It is thrilling. I will send you a copy as a gift — and praise the Lord that such exquisite music will float about the northern section of the Philippines.

"I am very glad that you are working with radio. I often say: If St. Paul were around he would own 80% of the radio stations, 50% of the TV, and God knows what he would do with tapes, newspapers and paper-backs. Our own diocese has been developing a fair Communications Center, but like most places, is hurting for money to develop. When you return to Rochester please phone me. I should like to meet you; and also introduce you to Father William Call, who has a special gift with electronics. You two should have a ball together. He has charge of our diocesan communications.

"I will send you the Arkin tape. There are two conferences which are good; but the reproduction on the tape is not very good. Also Dr. Arkin is a bit earthy, and you may have to edit some of the conferences. Our priests found him about the most refreshing speaker we've had in years. Which also shows the value of combining humor with substantial doctrine. It's the old story: what's the use of preaching, or writing, or broadcasting if no one listens.

"God bless you in your apostolate, and let us pray for one another."

Bicentennial Rite Set For July 3

Local observance of the nation's bicentennial will get underway Thursday noon, July 3, with an outdoor interfaith rite at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh.

Patriotic and fraternal organizations are scheduled to participate in the service, which will be conducted by clergy of various denominations. Rev. Gordon Gilbert, president of Genesee Ecumenical Ministries (GEM); Rev. Melvin Hoover, interim director; Rev. Bruce Hanson, rector of St. Luke's, and Rev. Henry Atwell, GEM consultant, will present Scripture readings, prayers and a statement on the religious significance of the bicentennial celebration.

The eve of July 4, opening date for a year of celebrating the birthdate of American independence, is itself the 200th anniversary of George Washington's assuming command of the Continental Army.

NOTE TO CAMPERS

Campers in the Letchworth Park Area are invited to the Sunday Liturgy at St. Patrick's in Mt. Morris. Weekend Masses are scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 8:30, 10 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday.

Institute to Focus On Parish Worship

The Diocesan Liturgy Institute scheduled for Aug. 22-23 at Keuka College in Penn Yan will focus on the goals and problems of parish worship. According to Father Robert Kennedy, newly appointed Director of the Liturgy Department, "That's where the action is — in the parishes. They are the places where God's people listen to his Word, live his message and worship him in faith."

Father John Gallen, SJ, president of the North American Academy of Liturgy, will keynote the institute Friday evening at 8 p.m. with the topic, "Parish Worship, American Style. Father Virgin Elizondo, president of the Mexican-American Culture Center in San Antonio, Texas, will lead a special section for the Spanish-speaking of the diocese on The Sacraments of Initiation and Their Meaning for the Christian Life.

The Institute will culminate in a bilingual eucharistic liturgy celebrated on Saturday by Bishop Hogan. Musicians for the Liturgy will include members of St.

Mary's Choir, Auburn; St. John the Evangelist Folk Group, Rochester, and the Spanish Apostolate Folk Group, Rochester.

The institute, geared to priests, liturgy committee members, and others involved in planning and leading parish prayer, will include three-part mini-courses covering such pertinent topics as The Prayer of the People of God, Symbols for Celebration, and Music in Liturgy. Personnel from the Diocesan Liturgy and Music Commissions, the Diocesan Departments, St. Bernard's Seminary, and parish leadership will conduct the courses. A panel discussion with the Diocesan Liturgy Commission, displays of resource materials, and time for prayer, leisure and sharing are planned to round out the program.

MISSION GUILD

The Catholic Mission Guild's garden party is scheduled for Wednesday noon, July 9, at the home of Mrs. Walter Seleski, 56 Colony Lane. Details may be obtained by calling 334-5628 or 621-7166.

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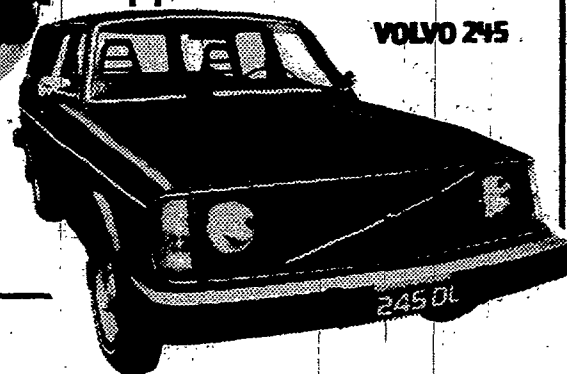
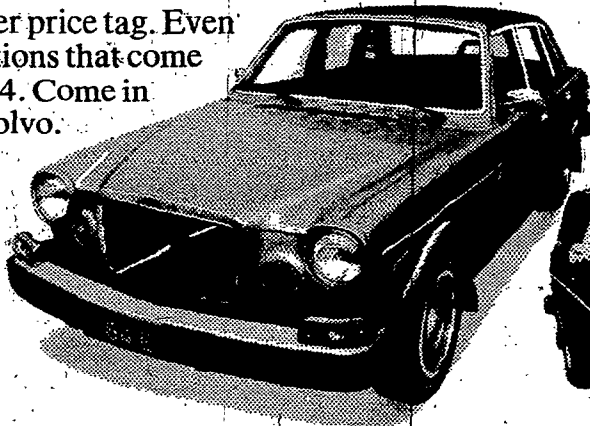
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