



Scholarship Winners

Five graduating students from St. Mary Our Mother School in Horseheads stand with Sister Gervase, their eighth grade teacher, as they receive congratulations for winning scholarships to Notre Dame High School for 1975-76. The scholarship winners are (left to right) Suzanne Hull, Anne Danaher and Andrew Watts in the first row and Peter Bamford and Kathleen Healy in the background. It was the largest number of scholarship winners in one class at St. Mary's.

Social Agency's Cupboard is Bare

The Monroe County Department of Social Services has clients who have been waiting for more than a year for such necessities as beds, refrigerators and gas stoves, Director James Reed reported this week.

"It's not unusual," he said, "for our caseworkers to find families sleeping on the floor or storing food on window sills because they do not have beds or refrigerators."

The department cannot purchase furniture or appliances for families on public assistance or for the aged, blind or disabled people who receive financial aid from the Social Security Administration, Reed explained. It depends on donations of used equipment, but these have diminished to a fifth of what they were last year at this time, he said, noting that the Home Economics Division has a waiting list of more than 200 families.

Reed speculated that economic conditions accounted for the decline in donations. He stressed that anything given should be in good condition, because recipients would be unable to afford repairs.

The Home Economics Division, which takes care of pickup and delivery, can be reached through 442-4580.

PARISH PICNIC

Elmira — A parish picnic will take place at 6:30 p.m. July 29 at the Harris Hill Administration building for members of St. John the Baptist Church here. Each family is asked to bring a dish to pass, plus rolls and table service. Soft drinks and coffee will be furnished.

Church Bazaar At St. Cecilia's

Elmira — A church bazaar will be held starting Thursday and running through Saturday at St. Cecilia's Church here.

The bazaar will open Thursday at 6 p.m. with a children's parade, while a jitney supper will be held on Saturday at 5 p.m. in the church hall.

On all three days games for all age groups along with food.

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SATURDAY JULY 19th

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

Recently I read a list of reminders which a priest wrote to himself on the occasion of his transfer to a new parish and a new pastor. He was then in his thirties. I have the vantage point of 40 years in the priesthood: nine years as an assistant, to Fathers J. Curtin of Clyde, William Byrne of Ithaca, and Msgr. William Naughton of Rochester; 10 years at the other end of the spectrum, as a pastor of Clyde-Savannah parishes, serving with four assisting priests: Fathers Adamski, Gaynor, Gormley and Egan. And add to that, years of assisting weekends in many parishes, including five consecutive years at Canisteo-Rexville, under Fathers Vincent Collins and Otto Vogt. The "Reminders" manifest the magnanimous mind and priestly heart of the one who wrote the directions:

Since they were written over a dozen years ago, many things have changed. Assistants have become "associates", a term which has different meanings in different places and to different priests. Seminary training, both in academic content and spiritual formation has greatly changed. Structural relationships among the clergy have changed. For example, not infrequently the newly ordained priest — or even a deacon — approaches his new pastor with a bolshevik egalitarianism: "Hello, Bill, I'm Jake Parvisiens, the new associate." The over-rigid discipline and protocol of yesterday frequently has given way to a kind of self-directing free-wheeling.

But human nature has a certain constancy. That is why the Bible, Shakespeare, Jane Austen and Newman are perennially appreciated. Years ago at St. Andrew's Seminary, Father William Bergan remarked: "When people refer to a priest as a 'good Joe', it

is no compliment." A priestly priest cares for his people in Lacordairian terms. He "is a member of every family and yet belonging to none; who heals all wounds; goes daily from man to God to offer Him homage and petition in the Mass; who teaches, instructs, pardons and consoles; who blesses and is blessed forever." Below are a priest's reminders to himself on his new charge, with comments from the vantage point of multi-varied service over 40 years in the priesthood.

1. Show by your attitude that you are happy to be there and eager to do good work. This becomes obvious in a priest who is happy and working.

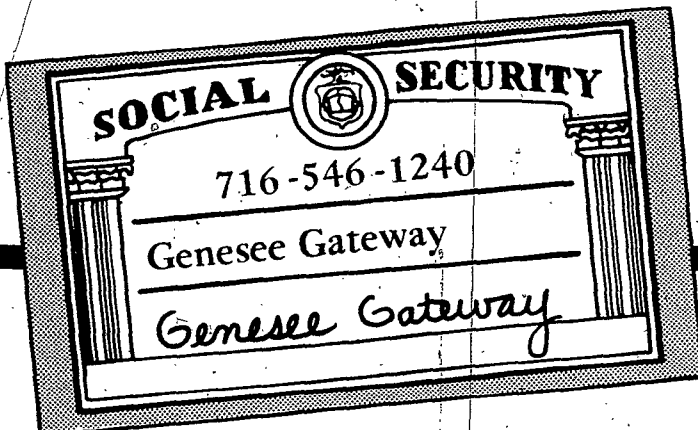
2. Respect the traditions of the parish, both those of the pastor and of the people. People have traditions, customs and things which they cherish. Treat reverently.

3. Show the pastor at the start that you want him to know all that you are doing. The greatest danger in the priesthood is jealousy. To share is to dissipate jealousy. To play the cards exclusively close to the chest fractures the Gospel and the rectory.

4. Make an all-out effort to know the people: the sick, the children, the neighborhood, the public school children, the very poor. Msgr. Francis Burns taught us in Old St. Bernard's: "Know all that you can about your people. The more you know them, the better you can serve them."

5. Take care of the sick!!! Whatever else you do or may not do, visit them in the hospitals, follow up with a home visit, seek out the shut-ins and those in nursing homes. The Catechism records the seven Corporal Works of Mercy: to feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to harbor the harborless, to visit the sick, to visit those imprisoned, to bury the dead. You also bring comfort to many by attending wakes.

6. Remember: a small field well tilled yields more fruit than a large farm neglected. Lacordaire wrote: "A priest is not his own." As long as we remember what we are, and act as complete and loving slaves of the Lord, even as Our Blessed Mother and St. Paul did, our concern will not be with our Ego, but with the Church, the parishioners and the parish.



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