

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

Letter to a Southern Tier friend:

"Now for a confession. Your check for \$50 for a favorite charity has been in my desk for a month, because I could not find the New Guinea address of Brother Ignatius, SVD. Now the address is recovered, the check and a letter to him will be dispatched at once. If you have trouble balancing your check book, remember this check probably won't be back from N.C. for over a month.

Did you see in the *Courier-Journal* the proposed C.J. Grand Tour of Europe, beginning September 20? Because the tours are advertised two and three months ahead of time to give people a chance to ponder over the program, many people think I am gone all during the months of advertising. I do wish that it were less all-embracing, and more time for some of the more important spots: e.g. Florence, Naples, Heidelberg, London. I guess the theory is that this is a one-shot thing for most people, and they want to see as much as they can. Father Lane is coming, Army Mass kit and all, and I am delighted. The response is very good.

Come July 27 I will spend a week in Hornell helping out at St. Ann's. I am glad because it will give me the opportunity to see a lot of people who have become very dear to me. Hornell is like the rest of the Southern Tier in its Catholicism: a deep loyalty to the Church, with a grateful reverence and jealous regard for the past as well as an intense interest in the present in all things which pertain to the Church. I have always considered a kind of "Catholic Possessiveness" of their priests and Sisters" as a healthy sign of a genuine spirit of community.

To Brother Ignatius DiSanto, SVD.

"Mea culpa! A month ago a friend sent me a check for \$50 to be used for some favorite project. God knows that "the favorite project," like the little old lady who lived in a shoe and had so many children she didn't know what to do with them, is really many projects. Anyway, I remembered your work in New Guinea, and put the check in an envelope. But not until yesterday did I find your address. So butter

up your Superior and may he let you use the check for some project which is your favorite.

Last May I took a group of pilgrims to Rome, and got in touch with your Father Ralph Wiltgen and his secretary, Rose Brown, whom I had known in Morocco in 1956. You will remember Rose from the year — 72-73 wasn't it? — that she spent at your Mission as secretary to your Bishop Noser at Alexishafen. Fr. W. took us out to dinner in an Italian restaurant which catered to Italians instead of to tourists. It was fine, and inexpensive. Rose recalled you with great honor, and said she doesn't know what the Mission would do without you. All you DiSantos seem to have a gift with machinery which is not given to all. About a month ago I stopped in Clyde to see your Aunt Catherine Salerno. She is not well, but continues to be interesting, edifying and prayerful.

I left a set of Abp. Sheen tapes with Father Wiltgen saying: "Brother Ignatius got a set for the Mission at Alexishafen, and several of the missionaries used it for their retreat. Perhaps you can use it in Rome." He did. So the message of Abp. Sheen continues to fill the earth. Deo gratias.

Have you heard the joke to illustrate priorities? Eight year old Jimmie went off to a summer camp for three weeks. His parents nearly died of loneliness for their boy. When he came home his mother hugged him tenderly and asked: "Jimmie, were you homesick at camp?" "Oh, no, Mama. But some of the kids were — those who had dogs at home." As one ponders over what seems to be important to people in their lives, one concludes that the world is full of adults whose priorities in life are about the level of an eight year old. What a gem of wisdom is in the old catechism! "Why has God made you?" "God made me to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in heaven."

Well, God bless you, Brother. My best greetings to Bishop Noser and your confreres. And let us pray for one another.

Parish Education Director Named

Mt. Morris — James Mulcahy has been selected by the parishioners of Saint Patrick's to be the Religious Education Director for the coming year. Plans have been formulated for a comprehensive program covering pre-school through adult classes.

Mulcahy was educated by the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Jesuits. He is seeking the help of parishioners and has promised to work closely with all who will assist in the program.

Agency Helps Retarded To Live in Real Homes

By BONITA BALDWIN

"Our guiding philosophy is to deliver services within the least restrictive setting possible," Denton Durland explained at Monroe Developmental Services recently.

"Retarded people learn experientially, just like the rest of us," he said.

Monroe Developmental Services, on Westfall Road, is an agency of the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene serving 1,800 mentally retarded people.

In a normal setting a retarded individual learns the same lessons that everyone does, although perhaps not so thoroughly, Darland continued. Institutional life, however, would teach him something quite different. Since the inception of the agency in 1969, retarded people in institutions and their families in the county have had the option of bringing the person back to the community. So far 137 have chosen "repatriation."

Monroe Developmental Services seeks to find the most suitable living and training programs for such clients and others who have never been institutionalized. Living situations vary according to the degree of supervision needed by the client. A few live independently. Twenty live at the agency itself, but most live in group homes, halfway houses, family care homes, or with their own families. More family care homes are needed.

Carolyn Canori, homemaker at the center, reported that 40 retarded clients presently live in family care homes. More are waiting to be placed. She described John, a severely retarded 14-year-old, who can dress and feed himself and has some expressive language, and Tom, a mildly retarded adult who spent 18 years in an institution and now needs someone to care and encourage him, as typical of those waiting for family care homes.

After a person is placed in a home the state agency continues to offer services to both the client and his family, Durland said. The best day program for the person is found. Transportation to the program is provided if needed, and if the person is placed with another agency, Monroe Developmental Services will continue to provide resource consultations. Recreational experiences are available, using a normal environment and

community facilities whenever possible.

For the family, there is homemaker service to assist in the care of the client and respite service during which the client may spend up to four weeks in residence at Monroe Developmental Services.

Families interested in becoming certified family care homes should contact Carolyn Canori at 461-2800, ext. 332.

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BENEFIT HELD

Interlaken — On Sunday, July 20, a chicken barbecue was held for the benefit of St. Francis Church. The site was the Capuchin House on Cayuga Lake.

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For only \$200 in India you can build a decent house for a family that now sleeps on the sidewalks. Simply send your check to us. Cardinal Parecattil will write to thank you also.

SEE THE HOLY LAND IN THE HOLY YEAR

Our Holy Father has proclaimed 1975 as a Holy Year. He encourages more pilgrimages to Rome and the Holy Land during this time of reconciliation. In keeping with his wishes, Catholic Near East is sponsoring two-week tours for just \$1,133 per person. Write for information.

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