



### R.Ed. Workshop

Mrs. Virginia Gradl of Guardian Angels Church instructs religious education coordinators during workshop at Mercy Motherhouse last week.

## ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

### How did you get into this Tour conducting?

Through the OTRSide column. At the invitation of then editor, Father Atwell, this column began on Oct. 13, 1967. The Church was being badgered and beleaguered so violently by leftists within the Catholic Church that my Confirmation promise "to be a soldier of Jesus Christ" burst forth: to defend the Church against its enemies; to extend the Church whenever possible.

### What has that to do with tour conducting?

The OTRSide column found many interested readers, and it developed a loyal readership. In December 1971, the business editor of the C-J phoned me at Mercy Hospital in Hornell, and with the swoosh of the super-salesman he exclaimed: "This is Tony Costello of the Courier. Father Cuddy, how would you like a free trip to the Holy Land?" By nature I am prudent; and with charming salesmen, even more so foolishly I wondered: "Is this a reward for writing the weekly column?" However, nature and experience warned a careful reply: "Well, what is it all about, Tony?" "The Courier is putting together a tour to the Holy Land; and we would like you to be in charge." "Let me sleep on it. Will phone you tomorrow."

### Did you know what it involved?

Not even vaguely. So with more trust than confidence I did phone the next day: "Fine, Tony. But let me know what is involved." I think he didn't know what was involved either, but it worked out well. The first C-J pilgrimage group had 47 people. With large groups, the costs are less, because air passage, hotels, restaurants, guides et al are guaranteed, so a definite number can be prepared for.

### What do you do?

The title is elegant: "Tour Conductor." That's just a fancy name for baggage man, who also coordinates the plane tickets, passports, information; keeps an eye on the people's health and directions; acts as trouble shooter as far as he can, and of course as a priest, acts as chaplain to the group and celebrates Mass each day.

### What do you find best on tours?

The people who form the groups. Many of the pilgrims are senior citizens who have an energy and resiliency which is astonishing. When people are away from the security of home and relatives and friends, they quickly form a camaraderie which makes for a "family unit." I have found our people very comfortable, among themselves.

After the people, travel itself is mind-expanding and enjoyable; and wherever I go my first interest is in the Church in that

place. For example 13 sets of Abp. Sheen tapes are continuously at work in Ireland, thanks to our C-J tours. After our Holy Land pilgrimage, each pilgrim received a special edition of the Gospels, edited by the biblican scholar Msgr. Enrico Galbiati, which has excellent plates of all the places we visited, printed alongside the relevant Gospel texts. One pilgrim wrote: "With the beautiful Gospel book I relive the pilgrimage to each place, with its sights and smells and history. And hearing the Gospel at Mass now is a new experience." Mexico with Guadalupe and the great churches and the devotion of the Mexican people, and Rome with its history pulsating in the heart of Christendom both added an appreciation of the Faith.

### What about the Grand Tour of Europe?

Well, it looks strenuous, but I think we are prepared. We leave Sept. 20 and return Oct. 12. The tour is filled: 40 people. Many are friends from previous trips; others are new friends to become. A professional guide will meet us in Paris, and will remain with us throughout the whole trip, in our own bus. From Paris we go south to Nice; on to Italy with a couple days in Rome, including Wednesday, the day of the Pope's audiences; onward north to Florence, Padua, Venice; to Austria, Switzerland and the Rhine River; Holland, Belgium and over to London. We fly home from London Oct. 12. It will be Sunday. The trip is skimming, but one of the best things about skimming is the memory which retains the sights and smells and people, and which we enlarge upon by pictures, books, magazines, TV and movie presentations, and of course, conversation. As St. Ignatius so wonderfully put it: "All to the honor and glory of God."

## Be Cautious On Braceros, U.S.C.C. Says

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — The leading labor spokesman for the U.S. Catholic Church has warned against the revival of a government-sponsored program of importing alien farm workers, terming it "completely unacceptable" as a means of stemming the illegal alien tide and labeling it a dire threat to American farm workers.

Msgr. George G. Higgins, secretary for research, U.S. Catholic Conference, asserted that the renewal of the so-called bracero program "might well be the end" of Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers Union, which the priest described as the "only viable union" established in the history of American agriculture.

In the USCC's annual Labor Day Statement for 1975, Msgr. Higgins declared that with the advent of the California farm labor law this year there is a good chance that the farm labor problems of the nation are on their way to solution. But, he said, a new bracero program would be a serious setback.

Admitting that the problem of "illegals" is serious and that there is "no simple solution," Msgr. Higgins explained that the USCC and a number of Catholic organizations have recommended "across-the-board amnesty" to illegal aliens. He said this recommendation is based on the rationale that the U.S. "bears a heavy share of the responsibility for the aliens' situation, that the prospect of a "permanent sub-culture" is growing, and that it would preclude the need for "internal passports."

## K. of C. Decries Social Gospel

Miami Beach — "Avant-garde missionaries," Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, and Mrs. Betty Ford's views on abortion, premarital sex and marijuana, came in for a trouncing at the Knights of Columbus 93rd annual convention here.

Supreme Knight John W. McDevitt called on Catholic laymen to display a zeal for the Gospel that would spread even to the pulpit, if it is lacking there. And he said it seems to be lacking among some priests and missionaries whose emphasis is on social action.

He particularly decried "the drastic change of emphasis from the spiritual to the social by some professional missiologists" who seek to spread the Gospel "by building roads, planning housing, promoting political parties, establishing credit unions and providing comforts for the people."

Speaking at the States Dinner of the meeting of the Knights' Supreme Council McDevitt told some 400 delegates and 1,500 visitors and guests that missionaries should be "proud of our faith and our Church."

In his major address, besides examining the Church's missionary outreach, the Knights' leader criticized the liberal elements in the Catholic Church which he said were muting the Church's message of salvation for the sake of ecumenism, and succumbing to the secular humanist views on abortion, euthanasia and sexual behavior.

Later top leadership of the Knights included in a plethora of resolutions denouncing abortion a verbal rebuke to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), who is a member of the Catholic fraternal society, and reprimanded Mrs. Betty Ford for her views on abortion, pre-marital sex and marijuana.

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