

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

Two kinds of boys have my special admiration: paper boys and altar boys. When I see our paper boy putting the paper into the newspaper canister early in the morning the thought comes: "What an exercise in dependability." For the most part, paper boys have measured up to that estimation. Likewise the altar boys. Our daily first Mass in the local parish is at 6:30 a.m. Despite the early hour, the servers are faithful, prompt, and even cheerful.

Engaging the servers in conversation is an education to me. The youngsters reflect the current thinking. They express themselves with a knowledge and confidence which was quite foreign to us oldsters in our younger days. Recently I said to a 13-year-old boy, as we waited for the Mass bell: "What do you want to do when you are older?" "I haven't decided yet." "Would you like to become a politician?" With great positiveness he said: "Oh, no!" "Why not?" "Because politicians are crooked." "Oh, not all of them. Abraham Lincoln was a great politician," but honest. Almost disdainfully the boy said: "Why, father, he's been dead 100 years." *Touche!* Well, Governor Al Smith was honest but you would hardly know of him. "Oh yes, I do. But that was long ago." "What about our local county legislator, Deac Beh? He's honest." The boy granted that, but as an exception.

It was instructive to me that I could not immediately call to mind any present day politicians who were outstanding for their honesty. Since then I have recalled several, both active and retired. And whatever one may think of President Ford's politics, it seems to me that any man who could stand the scrutiny of 25 years in Congress without a blemish certainly is honest. What is a difficulty for youngsters is that they tend to equate necessary compromises as a form of dishonesty, without realizing that the democratic process demands alternatives to proposals.

While our children have become cynical, many of our oldsters have become disheartened. Watergate opened the Pandora's Box. The monkey shines in the FBI and CIA unsettled many people. Unfortunately the communications media have publicized the monkey shines so strongly that many people lost sight of the value and the services of both the FBI and the CIA. I do not know any CIA people, but the FBI men I have known have been men of superior intelligence and integrity.

Then we have the tragedies within the Church, especially during this past decade. When that White Knight of the Traditionalists, Father Dan Lyons, recently abandoned his priesthood and his tremendous following, my charity took such a dip that until recently I would not even say a Hail, Mary for him; though I have said many rosaries for those he has so badly hurt.

Well, where does this lead us? Recently a friend sent me a copy of *Lamy of Santa Fe*, written by Paul Horgan. It was on the 1975 Best Seller list. Willa Cather's popular *Death Comes for the Archbishop* was a good prelude to prepare for

the popularity of the book about Archbishop Lamy. If we think the Church is suffering hard times today, read "Lamy of Santa Fe" which is a historic description of venal and fleshly priests, yet also about holy and generous priests. Yet the people preserved the Faith. Archbishop Lamy developed a strong diocese and a faithful people despite the recalcitrant priests and with the help of docile and dedicated clergy. But I think he would never have succeeded so well if it had not been for two great Sisterhoods: The Sisters of Charity and the Sisters of Notre Dame, who gave their lives to Christian education in the Santa Fe diocese. They not only formed a core of educated, devout Catholics, but they also gave a presence of the Church, and a confidence to the people of the goodness of the Church, even in the midst of turmoil.

So rather than exaggerate the troubles which do truly afflict the body politic let us bless God for the good men and women who work for virtue of our Country, and let us bless God that Christ continues His teaching, sanctifying and salvation in and through the Church which is His Mystical Body.

Pastoral Council to Meet Saturday

The Diocesan Pastoral Council will meet Saturday, Jan. 31, from 1 until 5 p.m. in the Sheraton Motor Inn, Main Street, Canandaigua.

Following is the agenda:

- Opening Prayer and remarks (Bishop Hogan).
- Reflections on the Mission of the Church (Father Douglas Hoffman).
- Approval of agenda; Executive Committee report; recommendation to meet six times a year; nomination process in regions; DPC budget report (Sister Mary Ann Binsack).

Preliminary Report from Task Force on Organization of the DPC, and discussion; description of the responsibilities of the Executive Committee, officers, liaisons and appointed members; liability for goals not implemented; communication procedures.

Break.

Open Forum — response to Bishop Hogan's Pastoral Letter of Nov. 28.

Hospital Unit Launches Drive

"Come and Be Counted" will be the theme of the annual membership drive of the auxiliary at Monroe Community Hospital, which began Jan. 26.

MCHAUX Board members will meet at the hospital and the campaign will be inaugurated by the co-chairpersons, Mrs. Rose M. Gorsica and Mrs. Berwin W. Jacobs.

With the completion of the building and renovation program at the Monroe Community Hospital on East Henrietta Road, the need for active volunteers has increased.

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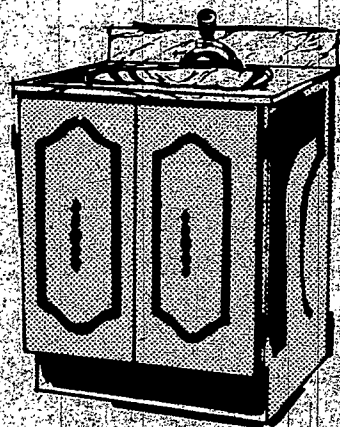
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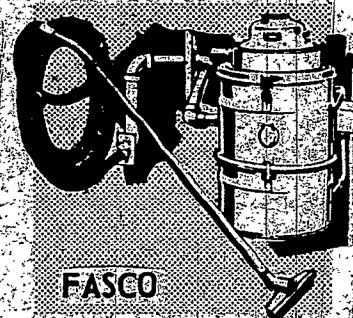


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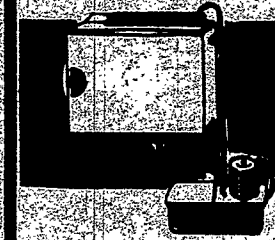
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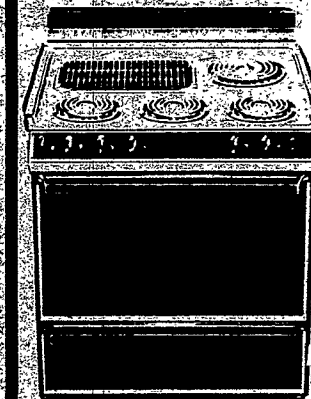
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