

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

To visit the places made holy by the presence of Our Lord, His mother and the apostles has been the ambition of many Christians from the beginning of the Church. Until the late 60s, I myself had no desire to visit the Holy Places. Why? Because I thought I would be disappointed. The fact is that the things I expected to be disedified by, did so. Here is an example.

The historic site of the crucifixion and entombment of

Jesus has a violent history. This spot is within the Church of the Holy Sepulcher outside Old Jerusalem. Pilgrims from earliest times came to this spot to venerate it. In order to destroy the memory of the site, the Emperor Hadrian built a temple to Venus in 136 over the site of the crucifixion. His intention boomeranged, because his Venus temple served to identify the very spot of the death of Our Lord. The 80-year-old Queen, St. Helena discovered the site. Her son, the Emperor Constantine, built a noble church on the spot which was consecrated in 335, in the presence of united Christendom: Greeks, Syrians, Armenians, Egyptian Copts and the Western Latin Churches. In 612, the Persians ravaged the Holy Land and destroyed every church building excepting the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. When they left, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher was rebuilt, and it was destroyed again in the 11th century by Caliph Hakim. In 1149 its reconstruction was completed for the 50th anniversary of the Christian Kingdom of Jerusalem, established by the Crusaders.

Who owns the Church of the Sepulcher? Greek Orthodox, Latin Catholics, Armenians, Syrians and Copts share the premises, along with the right to hold services, to maintain a chapel and to live there. These rights were acquired by virtue of having been present at the consecration more than 1600 years ago.

There is a curious development from this 1600 years ago, of course, there were no Protestant denominations which came into being only 400 years ago. So for devout Protestants to come to the Holy Land and find all the sacred spots occupied by Catholics, (mostly Franciscan Friars) and by Greeks, Copts and Armenians, and none of their own, is spiritually traumatic. Now, "the wish is often the father of the thought." So the English Charles "Chinese" Gordon found a hill shaped like a skull, with a tomb nearby and decided this was the true Calvary. He bought the property, and Protestants go there for services, prayers and to have some sense of presence in the Holy Land. While Gordon's Calvary has no historical authenticity, it does serve a good purpose. The authentic Calvary and tomb are undoubtedly within the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. But there is so much commotion and contention all over the building, among pilgrims and incumbent denominations, including Catholics — all jealously guarding their positions and rights, that it takes heroic concentration to relive Good Friday at the genuine Calvary. At least the Gordon spot is a place where Christians can hold services, pray and read the Scriptures without the commotion and jinkiness which mar devotion at the genuine spot.

When our 20 pilgrims arrived at Ben Gurion Air Base we were met by Mohammed, our Muslim guide. When I told him that we wanted to celebrate Mass each day at one of the shrines en route, he was surprised. "I did not expect a Catholic group. Usually the groups from the States are Protestants." Thousands of American Protestants, mostly from the South, come to the Holy Land in droves. Their devotion to Our Lord is truly edifying. They sing with zest, and are greatly moved by their visitation. I asked a friar: "Do they come to your shrine?" "Oh, yes. And they are devout." Then he grinned: "And some leave tracts in the shrine, especially against confession and devotion to Our Blessed Mother." Well, God love them all.

Pope John did not expect ecumenism to make much of a dent for a hundred years. And, as St. Paul puts it in I Cor. XIII, we must have toward all a genuine charity which is both patient and kind. More of the pilgrimage next week.

CENACLE EVENTS

The Cenacle Retreat house has listed the following events for its April Program. A general retreat for women will be led by Father Albert Bartlett, SJ, April 2-4. Father Bartlett is a noted retreat master and the former rector of McQuaid Jesuit High School. On April 11 the retreat house will host a Palm Sunday Day of Prayer for men and women. The event includes two conferences, lunch, time for private prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist. Further information is available through Sister Marie Halligan, RC, 271-8755.

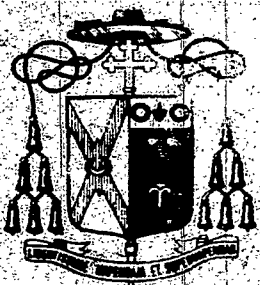
PILGRIMAGE FORMING

A pilgrimage to St. Anne de Beaupre, Our Lady of the Cape and St. Joseph's Oratory in Canada is again this year being organized by Mrs. Margaret Colasurdo of Clyde. The group will leave July 1 and return July 6. Persons interested have been asked to contact Mrs. Colasurdo (315) 923-3261.

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The Bishop's Public Appointments



April

- 1— Social Ministry Lecture, St. Agnes High School — 10:15 a.m.
- 1— Celebration of the Eucharist and Homily for Task Force on Permanent Diaconate, Pastoral Office Chapel — 5 p.m.
- 2— Celebration of the Eucharist and Homily, Convent of Missionary Sisters of Guadalupe — 9 a.m.
- 2— Priesthood Ordination, St. Mary of the Lake Church, Ontario — 7:30 p.m.
- 4— Confirmation for Newark Valley and Catatunk at St. Francis Church, Catatunk — 3 p.m.
- 6— Confirmation, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Churchville — 7:45 p.m.
- 6— G.E.M. Executive Meeting, Episcopal Diocesan House, 935 East Avenue — Noon.
- 7— Priests' Spirituality Meeting, Becket Hall — 12:30 p.m.
- 8— Pastoral Office Staff Meeting — 9 a.m.
- 8— Confirmation, St. Mary's, Bath — 7:45 p.m.
- 9— School Planning Assistance Program Meeting — 9:30 a.m.
- 9— Confirmation, St. Thomas More Church — 7:45 p.m.
- 12— Executive Committee Meeting of Clergy Relief Society — 10 a.m.
- 13— Celebration of the Diocesan Chrism Mass, Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Elmira — 8 p.m.
- 14— Luncheon Meeting, Newman Center, Cornell University, Ithaca — 1 p.m.
- 16— Eddie Meath TV Show, WHEC, Channel 10 — 8 a.m.
- 17— Easter Radio Message, Family Rosary Network — 7 p.m.
- 18— Celebration of the Eucharist of the Resurrection, and Homily, WHEC, Channel 10 — 8:30 a.m.
- 18— Celebration of the Eucharist of the Resurrection, and Homily, Sacred Heart Cathedral — 10 a.m.
- 25— Fiftieth Anniversary of Camp Stella Maris, Celebration of the Eucharist and Homily at the Camp — 5 p.m.
- 26— Joint Executive Committee Meeting, Pastoral Office — 7:30 p.m.
- 27— Celebration of the Eucharist and Homily, Society for the Propagation of the Faith Office — 12:05 p.m.
- 27— Confirmation, St. Mary Magdalen Church, Wolfcott — 7:45 p.m.
- 29— Goal-Setting Meeting — 9 a.m.
- 30— St. Bernard's Seminary Board of Trustees Meeting, Pastoral Office — 10:30 a.m.

10 COURIER-JOURNAL

Wed., March 31, 1976

ST. ANTHONY NOVENA

Auburn — A novena to St. Anthony began on March 16 at St. Hyacinth Church. It will continue each Tuesday at 5:15 p.m. until June 7.

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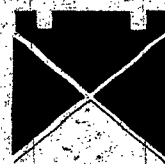


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