

### Wanted: Priests For Scout Camp

Because of the recent death of Father James Cross, CSB, described by a spokesman as the "kingpin" of priestly services at the Catholic Boy Scout Camp Massawepie, the Scouts are putting out an urgent appeal for help.

The camps are divided into four 2-week periods — from July 3 to 17; July 17-31; July 31-Aug. 14; and Aug. 14 to 28. Priests to serve as chaplains from one-week periods up to the whole summer are urgently needed, according to a Scouts spokesman.

Duties will include Saturday and Sunday Masses, plus just generally being on hand to help boys with spiritual advice and comfort. The spokesman said pay meals and lodging will be provided and that Mass stipends will belong to the priest.

Anyone interested should contact Edward Sloan, office 328-5760; home, 473-4782.

### ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

#### What of religion in Ireland?

Well, I can give only impressions from observations and from conversations with Irish people. South Ireland is over 90 per cent Catholic. It has a traditional loyalty to the Church, and an excellent record of good will between Catholics and non-Catholics. But religious attitudes are changing.

Divide the Republic of 3 million people into three parts: the West, Dublin with its 600 thousand souls, and the rest of the 32 counties, east, south and middle. The West is rocky and boggy, with none of the lush farm lands which compose much of that agricultural country. Industries are developing, especially in Galway. The city of Galway has 30 thousand people. I spent two hours with the chaplain of the Regional Hospital, an amiable Father Carroll. The hospital has 650 beds. It is affiliated with the University of Galway Medical School, and has a nursing school of 300 student nurses. The course is three years with an additional year for pediatrics.

As we toured the hospital and met patients, employees, doctors and nurses I was struck by the easy cordiality of all toward the priest, who wore his cassock. I asked him: "How is the Faith holding up in Galway?" "Very well. Our people are good." "What of the doctors?" "Fine men of strong Faith. Sound and good." "The nurses and the medical students?" "The nurses are fine. And the medical students are good. Oh, occasionally some medical student goes through an occasional immaturity — which eventually passes. They are good." "What does a private room cost?" "15 pounds (about \$30) a day." "What of insurances?" From what he explained they seem to be much like our own insurance plans, though not so lavish, and the government has something like our Medicare.

The hospital is owned by the Region, but about every citizen in the region is Catholic. The hospital has just finished a chapel, which is Catholic. It seats about 250 persons, and houses the Blessed Sacrament. But there are no statues or religious paintings; and instead of the traditional crucifix on the wall back of the altar, there is a big, brassy, ten-foot cross, seeming to belie St. Paul's gospel: "I preach Christ and Him crucified."

Wondering if the chapel was incomplete or a victim of some Reformation-slanted priest, I asked Father Carroll whether the chapel would be completed with a crucifix, statues and symbols so precious to the ordinary Catholic. He was vague about it. Considering

Cromwell's hatred for Catholic symbols — statues, crucifixes, religious paintings — and his vandalism of our churches and convents, it seems ironic to find this Cromwellian triumph in Galway. Even the ecumenical chapel at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira has preserved the symbols of the Communion of Saints.

We had tea with six student nurses, three of whom smoked. There is something disconcerting to me to see a beautiful woman smoking, something like viewing a Raphael Madonna with a cigarette stuck in her mouth. The girls were charming and at ease. Father Carroll brought in a local pastor who was visiting his people to join us at tea. He did not seem to me to be one passionately sold on parish democracy. I remarked to him: "Galway seems strong in the Faith." "Indeed it is, thanks to our bishop, Dr. Browne. He has been a Shepherd who has led his flock for 30 years with great vigor. He will be retired soon because of age. I wish we could keep him for another 30 years."

That night I sent Father Carroll a set of Bishop Sheen tapes, with a note: "Will you use these as widely as possible? They have helped many people. Thanks for the tour."

Next week: Religion in the rest of the Republic.

### Cotillion Set In Auburn

Auburn — The 20th annual Mercy Hospital Cotillion will begin at 7 p.m. on June 19 at the Springside Inn. Proceeds from the event, sponsored by the hospital auxiliary, will benefit the hospital.

Committee members include Mr. and Mrs. John Grzasko, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Bauso, Mr. and Mrs. James Cuddy, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Shamon, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Stapleton, John Karpinski and Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Karpinski.

#### BOOK FAIR

Penn Yan — A Home School Association Book Fair was held on Tuesday, June 1, in the library of St. Michael's School.

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## Aging to Be Topic Of Albany Meeting

Albany — Everything from the spiritual need being met by parishes to the physical needs being met by government will come under discussion at a wide-ranging conference on the problems of the aging June 13-15 at St. Rose College here.

The conference is being planned by the State Catholic Conference of Bishops with Msgr. Charles J. Fahey,

Charities chief for the Syracuse Diocese, chairman.

"The increasing aging population has been of special concern for the Catholic Church in the State since it is committed to the helpless and the needy as a matter of Gospel teaching," said James A. Cashen, state executive secretary of Catholic Charities.

Among topics will be:

The Church, Politics and the Aging; Responsibility of Government to Elderly; Involvement of Elderly in State, Local Politics; Spiritual Ministry to Elderly through Parishes; Special Liturgical, Prayer, Social Needs of Elderly; Older American Act; Housing and Community Act; Meals on Wheels and other means to provide food for the elderly in their own homes or at institutional settings.

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