

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

To a Saleswoman in Limerick:

"Do you remember the American priest who stopped for religious recordings in your shop, and bought a tape of John McCormack's ballads and the Mass, 'Men of Galilee' by Philip Green? At the time I asked you: 'How goes the Faith in Ireland?' With a challenge in your voice you replied: 'I myself am fighting with God!' Oh? 'Yes. My daughter is sick in the hospital. I have other troubles, and I don't know why they are happening to me. Oh, I know that God knows best in the long run, and I continue to pray to accept His Will' even as I continue to fight with Him. I smiled to think how like to Jacob fighting with God, and how similar you were to Zero Mostel in 'Fiddler on the Roof'.

I promised to send you a little book which has helped many people: 'Acceptance' by Father Vincent Collins. Here it is with my prayers for your peace.

After leaving your store I found a meek appearing girl in her early twenties asking for donations in the middle of the business section, and giving a fresh tulip to any donor. I stopped. 'What is your cause?' 'International peace.' 'That's a good cause. What do you do to accomplish it?' 'Oh, we send doctors and nurses to needy places. There was something strange about the girl, and I blurted out: 'Say, do you belong to that Rev. Moon outfit?' 'Why, yes. Have you heard of it?' 'Good heavens, How did you ever get tied up with them?' 'Oh, when I was a child I always wanted to help people. And when I went to school in Dublin I thought to become a Missionary Sister, but I also wanted to travel. So when I became of age I went to Europe and met these people. I think they have the answer.'

Thirty years ago I would have exploded. But with amiability we parted as I said: 'You are a nice girl, and my prayers will be that you will return to the Church, which has offered the answers for centuries. The Church's problem is to have people respond to the answers.' She smiled gently and I am wondering if there is not some strange kind of hypnosis possessing these zealous people, whom we call at home 'Moonies'.

To Father MacNamara, Hornell.

"The promptness of your reply is worthy of Father Heisel. Yes, I should like to give the triduum in honor of St. Anne. I think that one thing which made the Triduum so successful last year was the music: traditional things which were familiar to older people. The way they zoomed out the Latin Tantum Ergo demonstrated they had neither forgotten nor lost their love for the ancient hymns nor for Benediction.

I should like to spend Monday through Monday with you: July 19 through July 26. You probably want to coordinate the time with your Staff vacations. I will make out a Triduum program with the prayers and music, and work out the music with your organist, John Bartell.

Your 25th anniversary celebration was glorious. Properate to you and to all the silver celebrants. To frost the cake, just as I was leaving the dinner at the K of C, Al Chapman stopped me, handed me \$21 and said: 'Will you send me a set of Abo. Sheen's tapes?'

To the Sisters at Notre Dame, Elmira.

"The first word given us at the Air Port when we returned from Ireland May 22 was: 'Father Mike Reagan died suddenly and was buried this morning. My first thoughts were of his folks, some of whom I knew from Mercy Hospital in Hornell, and others from Addison visits. I recall his describing his Mother's death so tenderly. We were 14 children with wonderful parents. Our Mother died in my Father's arms. Then I thought of you and how much he meant not only to Notre Dame High School, but to the whole Elmira area. We can ill afford to lose a priest of such gifts, but God's Will be done. We have lost splendid priests through death. Father Woloch was the latest. Death, departures and retirements are squeezing the service to our people. God bless you all for your own great goodness, service and fidelity. And my sympathy to all for the loss of Father Reagan. I hope the Personnel Board will send you an equally magnanimous priest.'

Spiritual Rally Set for Elmira

Elmira — A Spirit in '76 Jesus Rally this weekend at the Chemung County Fairgrounds is expected to attract 2,000 people according to the Interfaith Committee, sponsors.

The Saturday program, from 1 until 9 p.m. June 26, will feature a number of musical groups, including Celebrate Life from Horseheads, and the Sawyer Family from Ithaca. The Sunday program runs from 2 until 8:15 p.m. There is no admission charge.

EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION

Eucharistic devotions will be held the afternoon of Thursday, July 1, at Blessed Sacrament Church. The vigil begins at noon and continues through Benediction and Mass at 5:15 p.m. The devotions are a regular monthly practice of the parish.



Special Award

A special achievement award was presented to chairpersons of the 1976 Bloodmobile, sponsored by the Catholic parishes in Auburn, at the annual meeting of the Cayuga County Chapter, American Red Cross on June 10. Robert Maier, volunteer director for blood recruitment, presents the award to Kathie Fox, center, and Christine Flanigan, right, both members of the regional human development committee, who accepted in behalf of the seven participating parishes.

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