

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

What do you think of the Bicentennial Celebration?

Which one? The national, local, diocesan? The Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia? It is a good thing to celebrate happy events. The Church has always done so with her liturgical feasts and her saints' days. Many countries have kept the custom of celebrating Name Days among their people. Recently I was reading Chancellor Conrad Adenauer's Memoir, 1945-1953. He mentioned with pleasure the celebration of his name day, i.e. his patron saint. What a pity that this custom, which reflects a lively realization of the Communion of Saints is uncommon in this country. I celebrate mine on June 29, and a few people, including Mother Murphy who founded the Cenacle Retreat House in Rochester, send a card. These remembrances have always pleased me.

Well, let's get back to the Bicentennial.

The anniversary recalls 200 years of republicanism, wars, immigration, of depressions and unemployment, of affluence and expansion, of a consciousness of our opportunities and responsibilities, and now the frightening development of communications with their powers of manipulation. Our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution with Bill of Rights recognize the Sovereignty of God and our own inalienable rights. But in the course of recent years both have been under attack within our country.

Where do you get that idea?

When a country becomes as complex as ours there has to be some curtailment of liberties; but terrible things have happened recently. The very agencies which were established to protect us have been corrupted to some extent, to undermine our rights and liberties. The Supreme Court, which should protect all persons, has consistently sided with the secularists, so as to permit the destruction of unborn children, and so as to permit the deprivation of citizens of their right to a just share in their taxes. In practice it persecutes the religious schools by depriving them of their people's own tax-money, services, etc. During WW-II, I was stationed for three months in England, and visited a Catholic school in Cambridge. It was run entirely by Catholic laymen: a headmaster and his staff. The pastor, a convert from Anglicanism, was the vicar general of the diocese. I asked the headmaster: "How do you finance the school?" He explained in crisp English style the English system: that the government paid the salaries of the teachers and maintained the buildings, etc. (if we had these we could do without Bingo.) With the complacency of

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Irene and Frank A. Guenther of McNaughton Street, Rochester, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 5 with a reception at the Mapledale Party House. They were married in Holy Family Church June 5, 1926. Guenther worked for Eastman Kodak 39 years before retirement in 1966.

PARISH PICNIC

St. James' annual parish picnic will be Sunday, July 11 from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Sycamore shelter at Ellsboro Park. Light refreshments will be available; families are invited to bring their own picnic baskets. There will be games for young and old.

an ugly American I shrugged my shoulders and said: "Oh, we don't bother with that in the States. Our people pay the entire costs." He gave me a look which would freeze boiling water and retorted: "In the first place we could not afford it" and he added acidly: "Furthermore, don't you believe in fighting for your rights?" That was the first time it struck me that we were slackers for not insisting on justice for our people. We are paying for our apathy now with our frantic efforts to keep Catholic education afloat with Bingo, solicitations and tuition fees.

You don't sound like a patriot.

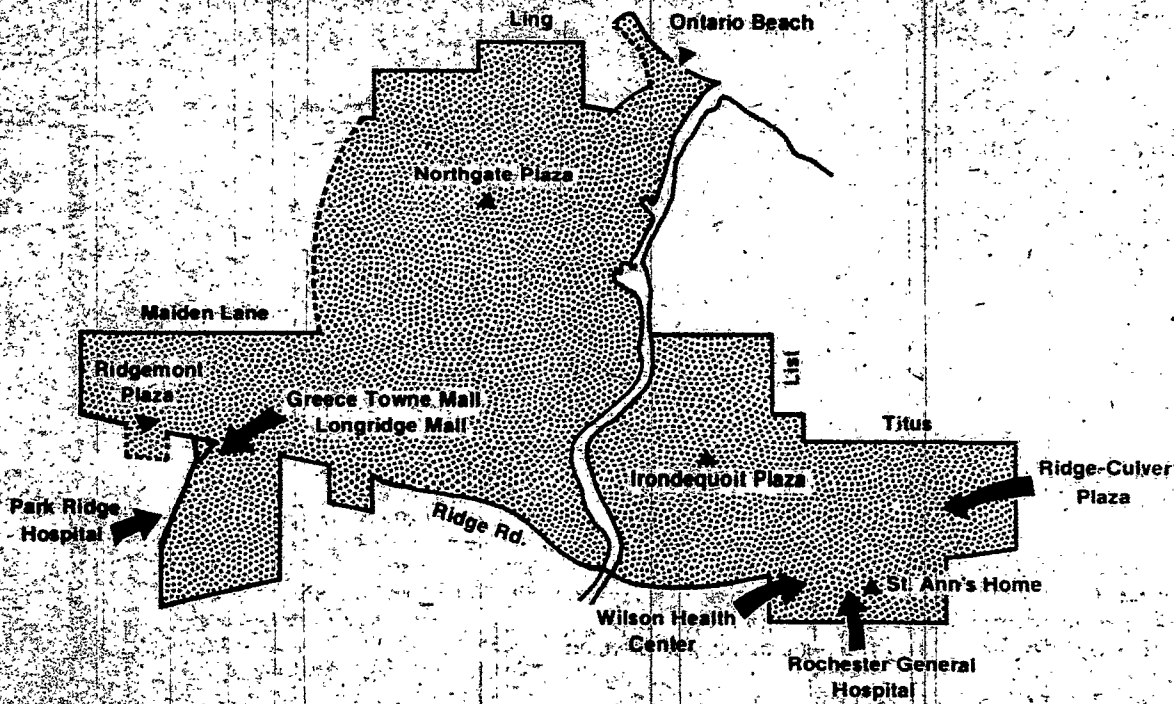
On the contrary. A true patriot works for the perfection of his country. "My country, right or wrong" does not mean to support injustices and evil; but to recognize wrong, and to work to correct the wrongs; to be faithful to one's precious inheritance. The awful scandals have left deep scars of scepticism in our people; but if we have had the wrong-doers, we also have splendid people. Think of Mike Mansfield, so calmly correct. Look around our own villages and cities. While we find much that needs correcting, we find much to be admired. Our job in this bicentennial year is to reaffirm our struggle for justice and goodness. These include a just distribution of taxes for education, and saving the lives of unborn babies.



Aloha!

Leis are placed around the neck of Msgr. Joseph G. Gefell, pastor of St. Alphonsus, Auburn, who is leaving his pastorate this month for advanced studies. The hula dancer was part of a "Your Life in Review" skit put on by the students of Blessed Trinity School, depicting the time Msgr. Gefell spent in Hawaii as chaplain to the US Armed Forces. From left to right are Mrs. Francis Sullivan, Mary Gefell, Sister Walter Anne, SSJ, principal of Holy Trinity, Msgr. Joseph Gefell, Laurie Johengen, Msgr. Gerard J. Gefell, Father Raymond Wahl, pastor of Sacred Heart, Auburn, and Msgr. Joseph J. Sullivan, pastor of Holy Family Church in Auburn.

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