

# ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

Dear Sister Judith, SSJ

Recently Mrs. Bernard Steve of Clyde stopped at our Webster Rectory. She is the Grand Regent of the Clyde CDA and her husband is Grand Knight of the Newark-Clyde K of C. She was the manager of our school cafeteria when I was in Clyde, and a better manager never lived. Not only was she a shrewd buyer and an adept keeper of the books, needed by all the government regulations, but she brought together a staff of helpers who presented fine meals, and they brought to the children and faculty a greatness of heart and concern for each individual which made our school luncheon a daily Catholic agape.

Both her parents are now invalids. The father, Mr. DiStefano, is bedridden at Hill Haven Nursing Home. The mother is at St. Ann's, a semi-cripple from a stroke. Neither can be cared for at home, but both have the constant love and attention of their families. After we had regaled one another with reminiscences, Mrs. Steve said: "The reason I am here is this. I'm looking for a large print prayer book in Italian for my Mother. I was visiting friends in Waterloo some time ago, and they had an old Italian prayer book so tattered they were going to burn it. The print was large and deep black, so I said: 'Let me take that for my Mother. Her eyes are poor, and the print will be good.'

"Mother loves the prayers and reads them every day. But I want a new prayer book for her. I called Trant's, but they were out of them. Do you think you can help?" "Oh, I'm sure I can. The Daughters of St. Paul in Buffalo carry foreign language prayer books. I'll phone them." Over the phone the Sister said: "The particular one you want has been out of print for years, but we have a similar one, 'Massime Eterne.'" "Good. Will you send me four? And toss in any other things in Italian which you think might be useful." In a few days the large print prayer books came, plus a few other Italian books about the saints, and also the Gospels and Acts in Italian, edited by Msgr. Enrico Galbiati. The Gospels and Acts are in ordinary print.

I brought the books to Mrs. DiStefano at St. Ann's. The delight in her eyes would make the angels weep for joy. In typical Mama Mia Italian style, she wheeled herself in her wheelchair to a dresser, opened a drawer and insisted that I have some cookies which the family had brought her. If you would even casually observe my middle, you would know that I do not need cookies, but who could, or would be willing to gainsay a beautiful Italian Mother?

Now to get to the point. Your especial field regarding hospitals and nursing homes makes you more expert on the needs of the patients. Would it not be good to promote providing foreign language prayer books and devotional books and

magazines for non-English-speaking people? In our diocese besides Italians, we have many Poles, Ukrainians, Lithuanians, even more Spanish speaking, and less of other nationalities: Slovaks, Hungarians, Germans, French, and now Vietnamese. Each person is a precious soul.

I do not suggest that Human Development Bureau pay for the books. Most of these people or their relatives are glad to furnish them. But they must be made available to them. I said to the nurse in charge of the 7th floor: "This would be a good project for your people here at St. Ann's. Maybe Father Hempel, the chaplain, would take it over." She agreed. Then I asked: "Will you suggest it to him?" She paused, then smiled: "I think that it might be better coming from you." On second thought, your department seems most likely for the project.

Please let me know what you think can or cannot be done, and if you think it should come under the section of that new big umbrella which is yours. I do not let go easily, and if it is not in your department, I will cheerfully persist until action is taken by someone, somewhere, somehow.

## Nazareth Artist a Judge For Craftsmen's Exhibit

Sister Magdalen LaRow, SSJ, chairman of the Nazareth College Art Department, will be one of the three judges for the Lake Country Craftsmen 6th Annual Members' Exhibition. The show will be presented at the downtown Sibley's Ward Gallery, from Friday, July 16, to Saturday, July 24.

Pottery, weaving, woodworking, jewelry and sculpture by more than 400 member artists will be judged. Jurors include Tom Markusen, metal worker and associate professor of Art at SUC Brockport, and potter Carl Shanahan, associate professor of Art at SUC Geneseo.

Sister LaRow is completing a Ph. D. in Art History at New York University. She holds an MFA in

Design from Notre Dame University, and an MA in Art History from Boston University. She did her undergraduate studies at Nazareth College in Art Education.

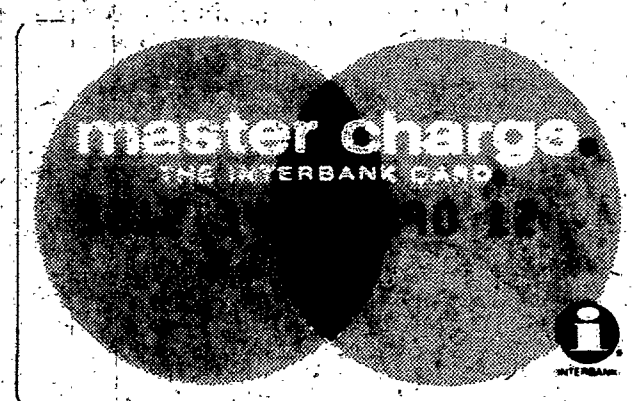
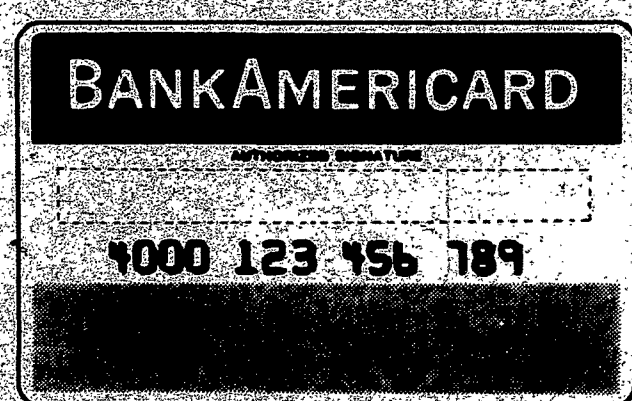
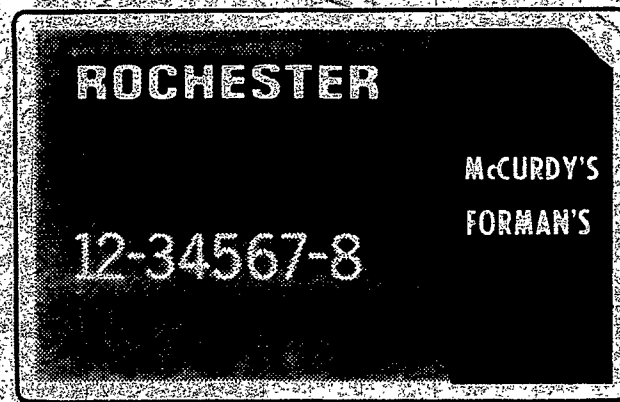


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