

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

A month ago, while Corning Father Joseph F. Hogan was escorting a group to the Holy Land, his associate, Father Jerry Moynihan wrote inviting me to preach at St. Vincent's 40 Hours Sunday, Sept. 19. Now invitations made by associates while their pastors are absent can be suspect. With Father M's invitation came the thought: "Is this invitation bona fide, or is this just circumventing the absent Fr. Hogan?" Considering the honorable character of Fr. M, I decided it was bona fide, and happily accepted.

It is two and a half hours drive from Webster to Corning, but my car is equipped with a cassette recorder, a boon I recommend to all who travel much. With a box of cassette lectures on the front seat, the time passes profitably and quickly. This trip specialized in a set of Retreat Conferences given by the witty English Jesuit, Father Bernard Bassett. It was a "Bicentennial Retreat", given to 60 men in Maryland, the state which established the Catholic Church in the Colonial days, and expanded it after Independence. Instead of the usual themes of sin and sacraments, Church and charity, the retreat revealed those remarkable persons responsible for establishing the Church in Eastern U.S.A.: St. Thomas More, Edmund Campion, Father Parsons; Lord Calvert, who became a Catholic in the midst of the awful persecution of the Church in England; Father White, who was so John Birch-like as a teacher of Scripture at St. Omar's Seminary for exiles that his superiors encouraged him to go to America to the Indian Missions, where he served heroically; Mother Elizabeth Seton, the Fellici and Bailey families.

Mr. John McKiernan, principal of St. John of Rochester School in Perinton, near Rochester, had sent me some books for grade and high school students, which pertained to Church history. In thanking him, my note said: "Thank you for the useful books. You might find the Jesuit Father Bassett's talks valuable for your American history courses. In particular your High School CCD might profit by them. They are fascinating."

There were 23 priests at the 40 hours, partly from devotion, partly because most rectories do not have a cook Sunday evenings. The buffet supper so nicely cooked and served by those lovely handmaids of the Lord, Mary and Margaret Crane, the housekeepers, assisted

by women of the parish, was an expected attraction.

The sermon text was from Archbishop Sheen: "We have the truth. We do not have the passion. It must have struck responsive souls because many parishioners expressed their satisfaction, and one pastor engaged me for his 40 Hours in November. Many parishioners also expressed their thanks for the OTSide column, and our Legion Radio program, Magnify the Lord, which is on Corning Radio Station WCLT, both AM and FM at 9:45 every Sunday. I suggested: "Why don't you tell the radio station people? They like to know people are interested."

Before leaving Corning Monday morning I phoned St. Stephen's, Geneva. "Will you put on an extra plate?" A late start impelled too much pressure on the gas peddle. As a result a State Trooper courteously but firmly interviewed me near Dresden. The ticket was deserved: 67 miles an hour in a 55 mile zone. Quite chastened, I arrived just on time to have lunch with the ever gracious Father Tormey, and with Fathers Lane, Antinarelli, and an ample Father James Foley, who used to be librarian at St. Bernard's Seminary.

The final stop, save one, was at Clifton Springs to see Father John Roach. His co-ordinator, Sister Mary, and another of the Winton Road Sisters of Charity were in the kitchen. "Father Roach will be right back. Will you have a cup of tea?" "That would be fine." The tea was just steeped when Fr. R. came bounding in. The Sisters departed. Then Phelp's Msgr. Duffy came, and to frost the gathering, in came Macedon's risible Father McFarland. None was expecting the others. We blessed God for our priesthood, discussed the directions of the Church, and I went back to Webster conscious of the number of wonderful people, laity as well as clergy, who are weathering the storms in the Church with great fidelity.

Plunkett Banquet Scheduled

The Knights of Equity and Daughters of Erin will hold a banquet on Saturday, Oct. 9, in honor of the first anniversary of the canonization of St. Oliver Plunkett.

The banquet will be held at the new home of the Knights of Columbus at 670 Thurston Rd.

Entertainment for the evening will be Irish music and folk songs. The public is invited.

Information is available through Thomas R. Coughlin, chairman, 288-5758.

St. Oliver Plunkett was Archbishop of Armagh. He was executed at Tyburn, England on July 11, 1681. Being put to death for the profession of his Catholic Faith, he was, in the expression of Pope Benedict XV, crowned with "martyrdom for the faith." Beatification was May 23, 1920.

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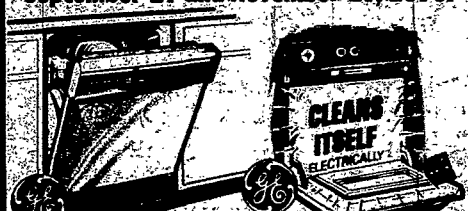
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