

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

Our Courier tour began in Lisbon, Portugal. It is a disappointing city, because it could be beautiful, but it is made ugly by lurid posters plastered all over fine buildings, and large graffiti scrawled on buildings in black and red paint, advertising mostly the Communist party. We met a knowledgeable Portuguese lady who said: "Premier Salazar was the government for over thirty years, beginning even before 1932. He was a good man who lived like a monk. He took over a bankrupt and chaotic government, and brought stability to the country, but he did not develop education, culture, or make much social progress. His successor was a wonderful man who continued Salazar's policies, but developed social reforms: health care, insurances, education, culture, as well as economic progress. But the last government squandered a stable treasury and our present government has inherited a mess. We are in a bad way. No money in the government treasury, and great unemployment. Even tourism, which is important to our economy, is down."

Our best guide in Portugal was "Julie," who is nearing fifty years old and has been a guide for 20 years. While the group was shopping in the picturesque fishing village of Nazare, en route to Fatima, I sat in the bus for the half-hour wait, listening to her, and asking her questions. She is concerned about justice and fair distribution of goods, jobs, and an efficient social oriented government. While she is no communist, she considers Mao Tse-tung the greatest man of the century. "He did so much for the poor, and he forced the rich and educated to

work in the fields, partly to experience the life of the poor, partly for an equal sharing of labor." The fact that Mao took an estimated 30,000,000 Chinese lives to accomplish this seems not to trouble her.

Her attitude toward the Church is a kind of benign tolerance and good will. She herself is Portuguese and Alsatian, and genuinely sophisticated. Her father was in the consular service and the family lived in many countries. She speaks French, German, and English fluently, as well as Portuguese, and has lived in Germany, France, England, and in India where the poverty of the people crucifies her soul. History she knows well, and with it the terrible things done by wicked or stupid churchmen. Yet she quite fairly presents the great good the Church has done in education, civilization, and its tremendous charities. On Church law she is rather indifferent. She gives an example of her thinking: "Do you remember the book, Keys of the Kingdom by — I forget the name of the author? I was a girl going to school in England when it came out." "Yes, I read it twice. It's by A. J. Cronin. Gregory Peck played the lead in the movie made from it." "Yes. Well, do you remember the atheist doctor who was dying in China, without any belief in God, and his friend, the Scots missionary priest was with him as he lay dying? The doctor said he wondered what the priest's God would think of him for his lack of faith. And the priest answered: 'God does not judge like the Church, but He looks into a man's heart. That is how I think God judges by the heart.'"

It was not the time to go into a disquisition about theological distinctions, but I have the greatest sympathy for people like her who have such compassion for the down-trodden, and are impelled into a kind of unorthodoxy by the lives and talk of half-baked Catholics who live the letter of the laws of the Church, but are indifferent to the heartsick, the poverty-ridden, the lonely and the "less-chance" people, a term coined by the late Msgr. Joe Vogt to describe a great many people who are in chronic difficulties.

[Next Week: Fatima and Spain.]

NAZARETH COLLEGE EDUCATOR HONORED

Elaine Hayden, director of Nazareth College's continuing education program, has received a service award from the Rochester Field Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, a professional society for educators. The annual award honors educators who display "a personal and professional commitment" in their service to education and who have produced "meaningful" results through their service.

YOU MAY THINK IT'S BAD LUCK TO TALK ABOUT DISASTER

IT'S WORSE LUCK TO BE IN A DISASTER



THINK OF THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE throughout the world plagued by hunger, earthquakes, hurricanes... think of the millions more decimated by drought, ravaged by disease.

THINK OF THEM and think too of those missionaries who minister to the physical and spiritual needs of these millions, saving them from total disaster.

THINK OF YOURSELF as the pipeline of aid to the world's victims, for without you the missionary could not function.

<p>HELP US... to fill their needs of body and spirit. May the Society for the Propagation of the Faith be your principal charity for sharing in the greatest and holiest work of the Church — missionary activity.</p>	<p>HELP THEM... ... because we are one in the faith, because I want to share my blessings with my brothers and sisters in need in mission lands, I am pleased to send my gift of \$_____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CJ 11/17/76</p>
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Guide to Fine Dining

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