



Mr. and Mrs. James Britt, chairmen, and Mrs. William Beikirch, refreshments chairman, plan the Christmas Sno-Ball at St. Agnes High.

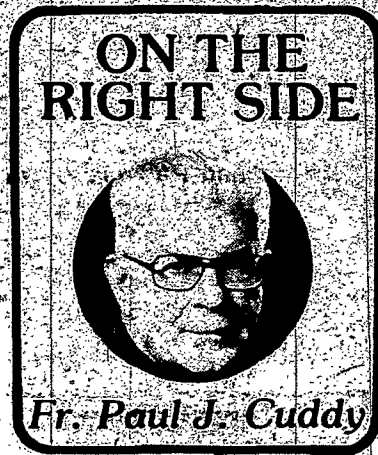
### Dance at St. Agnes

"Sno-Ball" is the title of the St. Agnes Parents Club Christmas dance, open to alumnae, friends and parents. An annual event, this semiformal dance will be held at the school, on Saturday, Dec. 4, beginning at 9:30 p.m.

Live music by Len Hawley's orchestra, dancing, an open bar and a midnight buffet will be

features of the evening's entertainment. A professional dance instructor will teach the latest dance steps during band break.

Tickets, information and group reservations are available through chairpersons Mr. and Mrs. James Britt (271-2209) or Mr. and Mrs. Charles Poppoon (271-3498) or school (473-2728).



### ON THE RIGHT SIDE

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

One of the special aims of the Courier-Journal Portugal-Spain Tour was to visit the Shrine at Fatima. The distance from Lisbon to Fatima is about 125 miles. On such a trip there is a stop at a beautiful fishing village, Nazare, where the women admire the ocean and with more enthusiasm go shopping. There is also a rest stop for people to freshen up and get a cup of coffee for 35 cents. A third stop is for a substantial lunch. It was past two o'clock when we reached Fatima, and our time was short.

I had said to Julie, our guide: "Whatever else we want to be sure to celebrate Mass at the Shrine. When we did arrive, our schedule gave us only about an hour and a half. Immediately Julie got on the phone at the gate and finally contacted a priest at the shrine. What the discussion was I still wonder, because it lasted so long, but finally she hung up and smiled. "If you get your group together and go immediately, you can have the altar at the little chapel which was erected on the spot where the Virgin appeared." This was a good plus.

When Father Kress and I visited Fatima in 1950 this little chapel was there, and the tree over which Our Lady appeared. Since then voracious relic gatherers have devoured the tree, but the chapel remains. We hustled our people to the chapel. A group of some 40 or 50 pilgrims, mostly women in native black dresses, were finishing the rosary, led by a Portuguese priest, Father Lane and I vested and were given a missal which had the "Mass of Our Lady of Fatima" in several languages, including English. That's the one we used. A volunteer sacristan had everything prepared for Mass. The tiny altar is inset as in a small closet. The congregation gathers on a covered platform, something like the bandstands in village parks in our diocese like Bath and Clyde and Lyons. It was thrilling to celebrate Mass in such a place, and we all felt greatly privileged.

About a hundred yards away is the large stone basilica which was just being finished when we were there in 1950. It is neither particularly impressive nor beautiful, and I think that the edification which comes to pilgrims visiting Fatima must come from the memory of what took place there in 1917. A great asphalt section in front of the basilica to accommodate the thousands who gather for great occasions, like Oct. 13, the anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun, is much like the parking places in our large shopping centers. Compared with the esplanade at Lourdes or the cut stone approach to Guadalupe, the Fatima Shrine is not so impressive.

However, here we are considering the externals. What really matters is what happened in 1917 when Our Lady gave her warnings and her insistence on the rosary devotion culminating with the Miracle of the Sun witnessed by 70,000 people. One Sunday in 1948 when I was chaplain at Sampson College, I gave out a booklet to every student and civilian at Mass. The booklet was the story of Fatima by Don Sharkey. Some months later a woman stopped me and said, "I want you to know what happened from one of those books on Fatima which you gave out. I have a niece in Chicago who had given up the practice of the Faith. She was a problem at home. She hadn't been to confession or communion in three or four years. I sent the book to her mother. My niece read the story and was so moved by it that she went to confession, and not only returned to Sunday Mass, but frequently goes during the week." This recalls the adage: "A drop of ink makes thousands think." Do you patronize your parish booklet rack?

Occasionally I give a special plug for the Arch Books, especially around Christmas time. These are a series of bible stories for children from two to ten, written in rhyme and rhythm with good art, and are published by the Lutherans. A few years ago I mentioned the books in this column and gave the Lutheran Concordia Press address. A doctor in Greece, Rochester, sent for the whole set for his children, which at that time was about 60 — that is, 60 booklets, not children. The Lutherans have a sense of humor, and enclosed this note with the bill: "What is a good Irish Catholic doctor doing with all these Lutheran books? Prescinding from the virtues of genuine ecumenism, if any non-Catholic denominations have anything which is helpful to our spiritual life, let us use it, and praise the Lord."

[NEXT WEEK: Spain.]

### Adoration Society

# 'Could You Not Watch One Hour With Me?'

For nearly 50 years now Catholics across the Diocese of Rochester have been gathering once a month in various sites to adore Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

These all-night vigils of prayer are at the heart of an organization which boasts no dues and neither social nor business meetings. The Nocturnal Adoration Society, a lay group responding to Christ's words at Gethsemane, "Could you not watch one hour with me?"

Nocturnal Adoration actually began in Europe more than 160 years ago. According to a paper by attorney Maurice Brunner, a member of the local society, the idea swiftly spread throughout Europe and Central and South America.

The society's vigil was introduced in the United States in Boston's Holy Cross Cathedral in 1882, and the society was fully chartered in 1928.

Less than a year later the U.S. society's fifth branch began their vigils in Rochester.

Today there are 21 centers of adoration in the diocese which draw a total of 1,471 active members to prayer. Last year alone, Brunner's paper states, the local society counted 9,593 hours of adoration.

Up until 1974 the society was largely the province of laymen. Wives of society members occasionally would accompany their spouses, through they were not officially enrolled. This situation changed in 1974 when women became full members of the group.

The standard vigil begins at 10 p.m. and closes at 6 the following morning. The devotions are generally held on the last Saturday of the month.

Following are Nocturnal Society Centers and their schedules:

#### Last Saturday of Month

- Auburn - Holy Family Church, 85 North St.
- Brockport - Nativity of B.V.M. Church, 152 Main St.
- Elmira - St. Peter and Paul Church, 560 E. Market St.

#### HOLIDAY DINNER

Elmira — The St. Cecilia's Rosary and Altar Society will have its Holiday Dinner at Lags Restaurant on Wednesday, Dec. 1. There will be a social hour at 6:30 p.m., with dinner at 7:30 p.m. All ladies of the parish are invited. For reservations Mrs. Charles McCarthy, 732-4628, Mrs. John Karski, 732-1108 or Mrs. Dorothy Helf 733-0563, should be contacted.

#### ADORATION

Blessed Sacrament parish will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday, Dec. 2, from noon until 5:15 p.m., when there will be Benediction and Mass.

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  - Lima - St. Rose Church, 1985 Lake Ave.
  - Livonia - St. Joseph Church, 14 Washington St.
  - Rochester - Blessed Sacrament Church, 534 Oxford St.
  - Holy Name of Jesus Church, St. Martin's Way
  - Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower Park
  - St. Andrew Church, 923 Portland Ave.
  - St. Helen Church, 310 Hinckley Road
- Second Saturday of Month
- Honeoye Falls - St. Paul of the Cross Church, 29 Monroe St.
- Third Saturday of Month
- Penn Yan - St. Michael Church, 312 Liberty St.
- Fourth Saturday of Month
- Corning - St. Vincent De Paul Church, Dodge Ave. & Ellicott St.
  - East Rochester - St. Jerome Church, 207 South Garfield St.
- First Friday
- Dansville -

- St. Mary Church, 38 Elizabeth St.
- Wayland - St. Joseph Church, 206 Fremont St.

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