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Scholarship Fund

Father Charles J. Lavery, president of St. John Fisher College accepts a gift to the Bishop James E. Kearney Scholarship Fund from Leo F. LaPalm, honorary trustee of the college. Representing Fisher's Board of Trustees is Chairman Martin F. Birmingham (l.) and representing Fisher's Pioneer Class of 1955 is John Pietropauli (r.).

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

From a young priest:

"I thank God for His Gift of the Priesthood. Holy Christmas, and Oremus pro invicem."

From a Brockport Legionnaire:

"Thank you for the Christmas Meditations. The one regarding parents hit home. P.S. Am very much enjoying the Sheen tapes and the other 'peach trees' you offered at the Legion of Mary Retreat last September."

**Comment:** What a good note. The most important part of a retreat, lecture, conference and the like are the things which help people to follow up what was presented. To me, moving a set of Sheen or Bassett taped conferences; or prayer books; or books of edification is like planting peach trees. To give one conference or homily is like giving some one a nice peach. But to spread the Sheen conferences, prayer books, etc. is like planting peach trees. They continue to bear fruit for many years.

From Elmira Heights:

"I wish to tell you how much I enjoyed your talk when you came to our Rosary Meeting and 40 Hours. I read your column regularly in the Courier. And I love those prayer books, The Treasury of Prayers. I bought 10 of them for my grandchildren. They love them."

**Comment:** That's the peach tree principle. At the Elmira apostolate in October I sold and gave away about 600 Treasury of Prayer books. They continue to bear fruit. It is heartening that the lady's grandchildren are using the books. One of the things which has kicked the bottom out of confessions among the young is the fact that they are uncertain about what to do. Few know the Act of Contrition, which is in the Treasury of Prayer book. Few know how to

make an act of contrition on their own. One day I was helping with confessions. A youngster came in and knelt in silence. After an awkward pause I asked gently: "Do you know what to do now?" She replied timidly: "I think I am supposed to sing a song." So I gave her a quick instruction on how to go to Confession, helped her through the Sacrament and sent her off cheerful. The term "Sacrament of Reconciliation" does seem like a rather silly term for little children's confessions. I fear that we are getting a generation of children who will not go to confession — or receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation — because they are uncertain about what to do.

From Fr. Heisel's Bulletin:

"Just 10 seconds before the opening hymn at the 11 o'clock Mass one of the sopranos in the choir dropped her hymnal and fled, saying: 'Oh, my God! I left my pie in the oven.'"

From an Auburnian:

"Merry Christmas, and lots more of those tours Today on the TV with Merv Griffin. I enjoyed again our Tour of the Holy Land and the Christmas Message of Fulton Sheen. **Comment:** This lady is an ideal tour and pilgrimage person. She sees everything, enjoys everything. She keeps the memories and relives the sights, sounds, smells and experiences. I must send her a set of Abp. Sheen tapes."

From Nevada:

"Merry Christmas. Tim took a temporary job with a Federal agency. It takes him away from a desk job as a supervisor here in Reno. We dropped out of Marriage Encounter. It's impossible to dialogue with someone 500 miles away. The Circle concept was one we disagreed with. It's the one-to-one basis that is meaningful."

**Comment:** The writer is the wife whom I married to a beautiful-in-soul young GI at Biggs Air Base, El Paso, Texas. A year ago she was gung-ho for Marriage Encounter. This year some of the 'ho seems to have gone from the gung. But this does not mean that what M.E. accomplished has been wasted. Enthusiasms of one season frequently cede to other enthusiasms in another season. But there is a fine residue of value remaining from previous experiences.