

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

What happened to the November Courier-Journal Tour to Central America?

Canceled. Not enough response to the advertisement until after it was decided to cancel. Then several became seriously interested, but too late. These tours and pilgrimages require a lot of planning for transport, hotels, programs, meals, etc., all of which have to be coordinated with agencies in the countries to be visited.

Why so little interest in Central America?

I was really puzzled, until the Webster aunt of Fr. John Philipps of Brockport gave what may be the key. She is on my First Friday Communion list, and when I phone her the day before, we always have a chat. She asked, "When do you leave for South America?" "That's been canceled. No one seems interested." "Why, I'm not surprised. Why in the world would anyone want to go there when he could go to Ireland or to Europe?"

Most people are interested in travel, even if they do not expect to travel themselves. That's one reason why National Geographic and travel books are so widely read. Many people read the ad in the Courier and inquired

about it in conversations. But with hardly an exception, they said "South America" instead of "Central America." This indicates how hazy people's geography and history are, even with the great publicity about the Panama Canal. Panama and the Canal Zone were part of the trip. It's a bit like Europeans who want us to drop in on their cousin in Dallas or Los Angeles. I suppose because people do know a lot about Europe and Ireland they are especially interested in that part of the world.

What happens now?

The Courier has scheduled an attractive program to Hawaii, March 28, 1978. This is the Wednesday after Easter. Hopefully, there will be a trip to Ireland in May. Depends on the interest of the people.

Of the people who have been on previous tours and pilgrimages, many want to go again. Some to Norway, some to Austria, some to Italy, a few to Poland; and the more adventuresome propose Africa, especially Kenya. The most popular still is Ireland. We are trying to find out just what enough people to form a group really want.

Do you enjoy the tours?

Very much. The people who make up the groups have been wonderful people. Also, many fine friendships are made. The experiences at visited places and meeting new people enrich the memories for the rest of our lives. Each trip has brought something special that has helped in my apostolate. Oftentimes, some simple thing. For example, in the rear of the Franciscan church in Killarney, I found a little

green book, Prayers of an Irish Mother, which has a most moving paraphrase of The Lord Is My Shepherd. It breathes an utter trust in God better than the original Psalm 23. I am so impressed by it that I have bought and sold 2,500 copies of the little book, just for that paraphrase. I have used it in articles, sermons, letters to those suffering misfortune, and several times on our Magnify the Lord radio program. Bishop Casey used it for one of his columns in The Beacon. Every country brings some spiritual enrichment. The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, the Holy Land and Rome and Italy, of course; Lourdes in France. Every country has something special.

What advantages do tour groups offer?

1— Most people, including myself, find it pleasant to be with a group, and they get along well, forming new friendships. One couple met on an Ireland Tour, and married shortly afterward— happily, I might add. 2— Rates are better, because the group guarantees the air lines, hotels, restaurants, guides, etc., a specific number of people. 3— The schedule and program are made up by experts in travel, and they cover the highlights of entertainment, history, beauty, comfort, foods, education.

As far as costs are concerned, "You get what you pay for" pretty well applies. Thanks to the energy crisis, costs have gone up, but travel, like education, is a wonderful investment. Father Emil Gefell, an experienced traveler, used to say, "If people can't afford it, they shouldn't travel. If they can, they should enjoy it."



Getting ready for their Halloween dance are three members of the Aquinas Booster Club, Edward Lynd of St. Ambrose parish; John Lyon, band director, of St. Margaret Mary parish; and Mrs. Kathy Lynd of St. Ambrose.

Monster Mash October 29

Friends of Aquinas Institute are invited to the

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

Mother of Sorrows Church at 5000 Mt. Read has scheduled a Life in the Spirit Seminar for three Friday evenings, Oct. 28, Nov. 4 and 11, and Thursday, Nov. 17. The seminar is described as "a series of teachings focusing on the love of God the Father, the Lordship of Jesus, and the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church today." All sessions will run from 8 until 10 p.m. For details: 865-0163.

Monster Mash, a costume Halloween dance from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 29 in the school cafeteria.

The dance, sponsored by the Aquinas Boosters Club, will include music by the Pat Magnolia group, light refreshments, and a midnight buffet. Co-chairmen are Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lynd. Donation is \$5 a person and reservations must be made by Friday, Oct. 28, with Mrs. Richard Crilly, 458-1447.

Advertisement for Charmglow Natural Gas Grills and Electric Lamps. Features include: Solid Cast Aluminum, Extra-High Hood for Roast Turkeys, Stainless Steel Burner, 2 year warranty, Ready to go in minutes, 24 hours a day, 12 months a year, Self Cleaning. Price: \$99.00. Installation Available. Model 300. K.M. Rochester Corporation, 306 Norton Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14621, 544-5770.

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