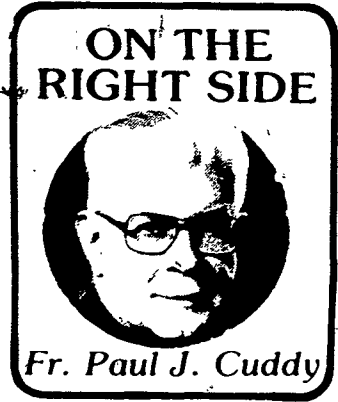


SOUTHERN TIER AUBURN-GENEVA



Fathers Bart O'Brien and John Firpo invited me to Horseheads for the parish Forty Hours devotion. It was a holy and instructive experience. Father O'Brien is widely known both for his zeal and because he is the brother of Ed O'Brien who runs the famous O'Brien's Restaurant near Waverly. He exemplifies the scriptural injunction, "Be wise as serpents and simple as doves," combining a piety and astuteness similar to that of the late Father Connors of Blessed Sacrament. Father Firpo is tall, slender and remarkably sensitive to people's psyches.

Assembled before dinner were Fathers Irwin Sullivan and John Morgan of Waverly; Father Joseph Gaynor of Elmira Heights; young Father Kraus of Corning, who looks like the little monk in the Xerox TV ad, bangs and all; Father Sauer of St. Salome's and Father McKenna of St. Margaret Mary's, encouragingly cheerful.

A Forty Hours dinner is always festive. Three fine parishioners served the dinner, directed by the faithful cook, Josephine Ryan. One was Freda Rodabaugh of Mill Port, whose husband I instructed and baptized at Sampson College in 1948.

Priests frequently refer to the diocese outside the See City of Rochester as "across the Barge Canal" or as "the provinces." The provinces have conserved more of our Catholic traditions than most Rochester parishes: Forty Hours, rosary, processions, prayer books, communal First Communion, etc. Yet the provinces are alert to good liturgy. St. Mary's, Horseheads, is an example.

The parish has an outstanding folk group called Celebrate Life. It is directed by Mr. Ray Deffendorf, who is in communications at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira. He is the lead of four guitarists and has 30 well-trained young choristers. While the hymns were exclusively vernacular, the music was skillfully expressed to give a devotional ease and flow, with an appropriate forte and an occasional fortissimo when called for.

The mode of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was new to me. Instead of the golden monstrance

holding the Consecrated Bread, a large Host, about eight inches in diameter and a quarter of an inch thick rested in a tilted cut-glass dish, visible to the adorers. Next to it was a clear glass goblet of amber-colored Consecrated Wine. Back of these was a candelabrum with seven burning candles. On the left of the Sacrament was a large basket of fall flowers. On the right was a huge bunch of blue and purple glass grapes. All appointments directed attention to Our Lord, present under both Elements. The service had four parts:

Vespers—the choir sang antiphonally with clergy and congregation.

Homily—given by Fr. Sauer, combining correct doctrine, devotion and unctio.

Healing Service—which might better have been a separate service. Too dragged out.

Benediction—with both Forms, and with the little sacring bell devoutly tinkling a note of joy in the Holy Presence.

After services Fathers Sauer, McKenna and I stayed for overnight. If these are examples of the priesthood of tomorrow, the Church will be well served. The curse within the Church today is a spiritually destructive narcissism, a narrow self-centeredness which exaggerates the ego under the guise of personalism. These men seem more concerned about God, the Church and the People than in their own ego.

Next morning I slipped over for the 9 a.m. Mass and was edified by the size and devotion of the congregation. At 10 a.m. the Legion of Mary had after-Mass coffee and doughnuts before their meeting, which I attended. The guidance in the apostolate under Father O'Brien and President James Kildea was evident. Just before leaving I phoned an Elmira friend whom I had asked to promote Abp. Whealon's blue paperback, Living the Catholic Faith Today. She has been active in her commission. Benedicamus Domino.

It takes two hours to return to Webster, but the time was not wasted. Before starting off I thought, "I haven't listened to the Sheen tapes in six months," so I selected three conferences, thrust them into the cassette tape deck in the car. As often as I have listened, I still hear ideas I had not heard before.

It was a good 24 hours out in "the provinces."

ABSOLUTION
Seneca Falls—A penance service with general absolution is scheduled for 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, at St. Patrick's Church.

Parish Food Donations Provide Needed Assistance

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Parents with small children to support, both unable to work, due to bad health... a farm laborer without any work during the Winter... an elderly lady whose monthly check simply won't last a month

They are all persons that Sister Mary Krukow, Office of Human Development worker in the Southern Tier, visits regularly.

An important part of her visits is the distribution of canned goods, which is made possible by the contributions of many persons who donate at their churches.

Parish food shelves are an important source of canned goods for her to distribute, sister explained, and the shelves do a good job of working together to see that needs are met, she added. She also pointed out that the need is not just at Christmas time; during the Summer, she nearly emptied a large supply of food at Sts. Peter and Paul in Elmira, she noted.

Another important effort in the Elmira area is the assumption of a list of 200 needy families previously assisted by Brother Michael, a former monk who aided Elmira's for many years and has now retired. The families were contacted during the Summer, she said, and Chemung County's

parishes have each taken responsibility for some of the families.

Many people Sister Mary describes have two things in common; a reluctance to accept assistance, and a commitment to paying their bills, even if it means not having enough to eat.

Several people she visits, Sister Mary said, only accept food with the condition that they be allowed to repay when they can. One woman won't accept help from outsiders; Sister Mary has to call the woman's sister and give the food to her first. The woman will then accept it from her sister.

Often persons with such limited incomes actually are overweight; nutritionists point to the excessive dependence on cheap starches in their diets that cause them to be both overweight and nutritionally undernourished. Sister Mary noted that when she visited one family, the only food in the house, which had to last for a full week, was macaroni.

Sister Mary illustrated the feelings of the people she deals with by relating how a farm laborer she visits has a hard time in the winter, when he is not working. She said that when she visits him in the Summer, he always makes sure she is loaded up with fresh vegetables when she leaves.

Sometimes the need is temporary. One family

currently has a baby in a hospital in Rochester, she noted, necessitating frequent trips, straining the family budget. The hospital bills are a serious problem, and to complicate matters further, the family car broke down. They have accepted aid, she noted, with the provision that when things improve, they will repay. And, Sister Mary said, such

people often do, even though it is not asked of them.

A constant concern, she said, are older people, many of whom pay their bills, and then buy food with whatever is left. For many, sister noted, the food simply runs out during the last week of the month, and they eat little or nothing until the next check comes.

Right to Life Group Denounces ERA

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn--The Cayuga County Right to Life Committee announced its support for the Pro-Life Family Coalition during a recent meeting at Sacred Heart Parish here.

The family coalition is seeking to counteract the resolutions in favor of abortion and the Equal Rights Amendment passed at the Women's National Conference held in Houston last month.

Political action chairman James Tracy reported that the local group has started a letter writing campaign to congress denouncing the proposed time extension for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

He said, "We are still contacting our legislators, asking them to support the

Hyde Amendment language in the appropriations bill. We don't want the House to be used for abortion on demand."

Also at the meeting a preview of the Cayuga County Right to Life Committee's new euthanasia slide presentation was given by Geri Pelc, committee secretary.

Mrs. Pelc said, "The presentation gives a clear explanation of the difference between preserving life by ordinary means and prolonging life by extraordinary means. It also shows the parallels between the abortion and euthanasia issues, how euthanasia goes hand in hand with legalized abortion."

Tentative plans were made for local committee members to attend the March for Life in Washington on Jan. 23.

Moravia Man Describes Brush With Moonies

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn--The November meeting of Auburn Interfaith Ministries (AIM) was highlighted by a report from Peter Zabawsky on his experiences with members of the Unification Church (Moonies).

His encounter lasted only five days but, as he told youths in the audience, it was all the time necessary. "I'm a real person and it can happen anywhere. The Moonie Center was a great place. I've never met such friendly people. At first I was a little defensive, but then they were so easy to talk with, such intelligent people," he said.

Zabawsky's chance meeting and subsequent invitation to the Moonie Center in Columbus occurred on his way home from the west coast where he had recuperated from an illness.

He said, "The lectures which covered a major portion of the day made sense. They dealt with what to do with your life and how to be happy. Of course there was only one opinion to base decisions on."

Zabawsky said he didn't realize it at the time, but the continuous lectures were part of a systematic ap-

proach aimed at mind and thought control. It was part of a process to ease away the freedom to make decisions.

Part of the Moonie philosophy is unification of everything. Any time doubt enters, it is Satan's influence, he said.

The 24-year-old Moravia native has no quarrel with the theology of the Unification Church, as he believes everyone has the right to religious freedom. However, the methods of conversion concern him. He said members are abused after they join, reduced to slaves to support the Moonie cause. He said the Moonies he encountered believe in what they are doing and can't understand why they are persecuted.

Zabawsky said the drawing power of the

Unification Church is great. He feels that college aged students, caught up in the demand of university culture are prime targets.

"The scary part of the experience was how easy it was to let go of the responsibility for decision making," he said.

At the end of his five day stay, Zabawsky returned home to convert his assets to cash and return to the Moonies. His family became suspicious of his compelling compliance and over-friendliness. Coincidentally, someone called the family's attention to news items about the Moonie approach.

His family then contacted the mother of a Moonie who had researched the methods of control. She managed to

turn the tide for Zabawsky.

In response to a question about what had attracted him to the Unification Church, Zabawsky said he did feel a religious experience. It did mean something to him. It offered a way out. To just follow the rules seemed so easy.

Zabawsky will return to school in September. In the meantime, he is spending his time speaking about his experiences to interested groups. He stated that he has learned a lot about the political overtones of the organization and the exploitation of members from other Moonies, investigation by Moonie parents and reports on the investigation in Washington led by Representative Frazer.

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