

More Letters

'Display' Needed

Editor:

Re: Father Leonard Kelly's thoughtful letter to the editor which concerned itself with Father Paul Cuddy. Three points:

- Although it is a shame, as Father Kelly wrote, that the diocesan paper reflected "a public display of irate feelings," we feel the greater shame is the necessity of such a display. Young people are leaving the Church after Catholic educations in Catholic schools. We feel that Father Cuddy has often manifested his duty to defend the magisterium of the Church, and we salute him for that reason. We also salute Father Kelly himself and Father Ronald Antinarelli for speaking publicly on the magisterium; so many priests avoid that duty by saying that it is the responsibility of the laymen to defend the true teachings of the Church.

- Perhaps the best way to approach a wise conclusion on this whole matter of Catholic education is for all of us who are going, as Father Kelly said, "in the same direction, actually to read the books and read the recommended authors and listen to the tapes and recordings and view the films used in our Catholic schools. Our family did this and frankly we were not pleased.

- Let us not condemn all Jesuits please. Heaven forbid! One of the best catechisms available in this country (and one of the few recommended by the Vatican) is "The Catholic Catechism" (Doubleday 1975) by the very knowledgeable Jesuit John A. Hardon. It doesn't require expensive yearly revisions like the Sadlier series, and it doesn't display full color photos and expensive print like the Sadlier series; furthermore, as it is rooted in the magisterium, it avoids

the "cut and paste" approach as well as the Sidney Simon "Values Clarification" approach which are so popular these days in Catholic education.

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Ineffable Mystery


Editor:

As we prepare to celebrate another Christmas, we would like to share some appropriate reflections on this ineffable mystery. And since we all have been blessed with the continuing presence of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, it is only fitting that he be the one to enrich this holy day for us all this season. From his masterpiece of masterpieces, "Life of Christ," this meditation is excerpted:

"In the filthiest place in the world, a stable, Purity was born. He Who was later to be slaughtered by men acting as beasts, was born among beasts. He, Who would call Himself the 'living bread descended from heaven,' was laid in a manger, literally, a place to eat. Centuries before, the Jews had worshipped the golden calf, and the Greeks,

the ass. Men bowed down before them as before God. The ox and the ass now were present to make their innocent reparation, bowing down before their God. No worldly mind would have suspected that He Who could make the sun warm the earth would one day have need of an ox and an ass to warm Him with their breath; that He, Who, in the language of Scriptures, could stop the turning about of Arcturus, would have His birthplace dictated by an imperial census; that He, from Whose hands came planets and worlds, would one day have tiny arms that were not long enough to touch the huge heads of the cattle; that the feet which trod the everlasting hills would one day be too weak to walk; that the Eternal Word would be dumb; that Omnipotence would be wrapped in swaddling clothes; that Salvation would lie in a manger; that the bird which built the nest would be hatched therein — no one would ever have suspected that God coming to this earth would ever be so helpless. And that is precisely why so many miss Him. Divinity is always where one least expects to find it."

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Burn Unit Dedication Dec. 18

Elmira—The dedication of the Burn Services Area at St. Joseph's Hospital has been scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. as part of day-long activities during Respect Life Week.

Displays and activities in and around the hospital will begin at 1 p.m., and continue until 6 p.m. Continuous demonstrations by area volunteer and fire fighters will include crash-rescue vehicles, new and antique fire fighting equipment, and implements which assist in saving lives, such as the Hurst Tool, dubbed the "Jaws of Life."

Smokey the Bear will join in the event by greeting children, who also will be given free rides on a fire truck manned by local fire fighters.

Smoke detector information and other educational exhibits will be on display inside the hospital.

The dedication ceremony will feature the cutting of a fire hose to open the unit. Father Cyril Guise, St. Joseph's chaplain, will give the benediction marking the

opening of the life-saving unit.

The four-bed burn unit will provide specialized treatment of burn cases from throughout the Southern Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania. The project, funded primarily by a

\$206,500 grant from the Appalachia Regional Commission, also has received donations exceeding \$40,000 from Twin Tiers fire departments.

The public is invited to participate in the festivities anytime during the afternoon.

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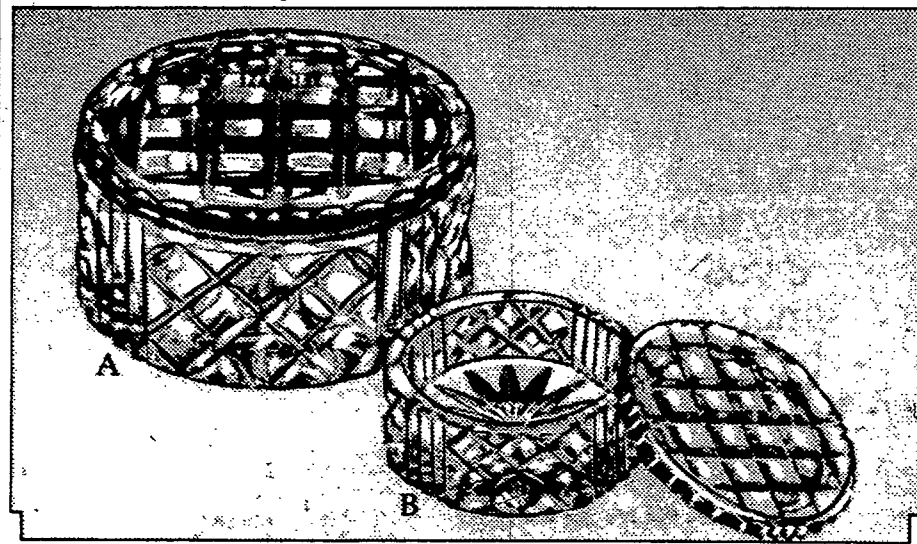
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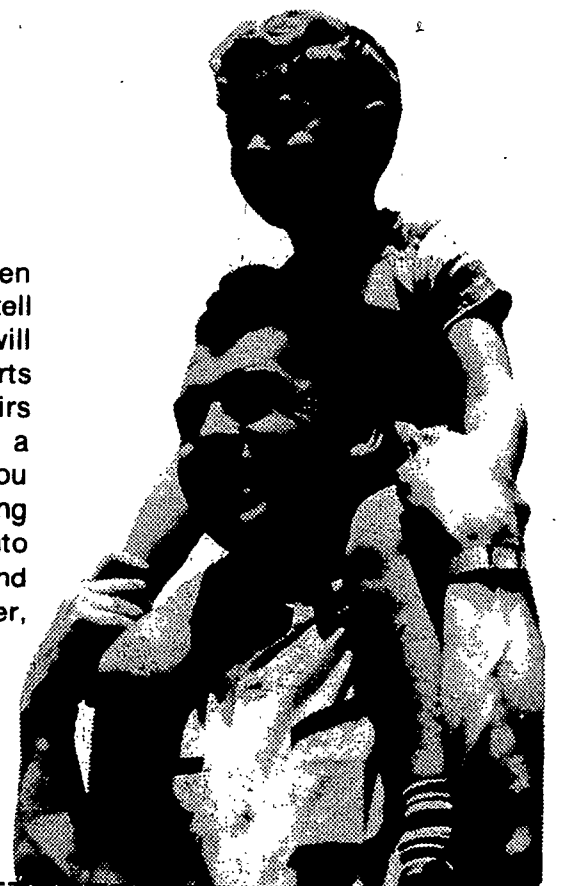
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