



Photo by Frank Welch

### 40th Anniversary

Father Edward J. Lintz, pastor emeritus of the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Brockport, was honored March 5 at a reception marking his 40th anniversary as a priest. At left is Father L. John Hedges, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo and a former assistant at the Brockport parish, and center is Father John J. Philipps, pastor of the Church of the Nativity, BVM.

## At Oberammergau

# Passion Play Version To Be Revised

New York (RNS)—Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish leaders have hailed the adoption of a revised version of West Germany's Oberammergau Passion Play by the town council of the Bavarian village.

By a vote of 9-6 with two abstentions, the council decided (Feb. 8) to use the 1750 text written by a Benedictine priest, Father Ferdinand Rosner, rather than the 1850 script written by a local parish priest, Father Josef Daisenberger, which has been used for the past century.

Officials of the American Jewish Committee have expressed concerns for years over the Daisenberger script, which they charged was anti-Semitic because it emphasized the idea of collective guilt of Jews in the death of Christ. The Rosner script sets forth the view that all of humanity was implicated in the

crucifixion, rather than any one group.

Miles Jaffe, of Detroit, chairperson of the Jewish Committee's Interreligious Affairs Commission, had visited Oberammergau twice during the past year to discuss the matter with other Jewish leaders and the Oberammergau town council. He expressed satisfaction that the Rosner version will be used the next time the play is presented, in 1980.

At a press conference at the Jewish Committee headquarters, Mr. Jaffe said, "I believe it is difficult for them (the residents of Oberammergau) to understand how important that event, that decennial event, is elsewhere in the world." He praised the town council for giving up its century-old tradition and "taking upon itself the risk of the new, the untried," in voting to use the Rosner

version.

Dr. Eugene Fisher, executive director of the Office of Catholic-Jewish Relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, noted that his agency has been concerned about the Oberammergau play and passion plays in general. Since the Oberammergau version "sets the tone for passion plays elsewhere," he said the change becomes "of great significance for us in the United States."

The Rev. Nathan H. VanderWerf, executive director of the Commission on Regional and Local Ecumenism of the National Council of Churches, noted that Christian-Jewish dialogues have increased in recent years throughout the United States, and predicted that the change in the Oberammergau play will be welcomed by many groups across the country.

Asked if the change in the Oberammergau play would have a direct impact on other passion plays, Dr. Fisher said, "There's a whole world of passion plays. Each one would have to be looked at individually." But he stressed that "the criteria at all times for judging passion plays within our tradition should be the Gospel narratives."

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## ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

### To Father Firpo, again:

Thanks for your kind note. It is strange how different people read the same text and come to such different conclusions. My letter to you (C-) March 1) makes it obvious that what is obvious to me is not obvious to everyone. Cries of "foul play" echo throughout the diocese. A succinct note from one who usually is a well-wisher deserves some kind of Oscar. It reads, "I have just read your column 'To Father Firpo.' It is one of the most brazen affronts I have ever read. Why did you not write to him personally, as I am doing to you? I have never heard you spoken of as an outstanding speaker. Is this, again, arrogance?"

Now, this letter is less for you, who seem to understand, and more for those who judged so mistakenly. Let me explain the *raison d'être* of the C-1 letter to you.

1— Why "to Father Firpo," rather than "to Father Anonymous?" Because Father Firpo is a name of interest at Pius X, St. Andrew's, Mary Our Mother, to your kin, to your classmates, to the many people who know you. Readers are interested in real persons. That's why Peter Taub's column in the Rochester Times-Union is so widely read.

Further, I think it is good for the Church that many in the diocese who know nothing about Father Firpo should become acquainted with the name of a young priest whom I sincerely admire and in whose priestly apostolate I have exceptional expectations. If we are to spread the Gospel, we need the best evangelists possible.

2— Why list the names of priests whose only addition to the article is the fact that they were at the Waverly service? People of our diocese love their priests and like to know of them. One of the most touching letters I ever received was from a woman at the Cathedral parish who began,

"You have no idea how your mention of Father Guy in your article lifted my spirits. He was a great influence on me in his Geneva days." Again, using the concrete, did you know that Father Frwin Sullivan is known and loved by many, many people in the diocese for his remarkable charisma with the sick? These people are happy to hear of him, and to know he continues his fine work.

3— Regarding the critique: the bouquets had many purposes, not the least of which was to alert others that if they want a good speaker, Father Firpo would be a good choice.

Now to the meat of the actual suggestions. You know how dull many sermons are. Some speakers just paraphrase the Scripture as if the Holy Spirit were somewhat inadequate in His own words. Others use theological jargon, turning The People off. One of our greatest disabilities as preachers is that no one does critique us. Our people sit listening to our monologues, never able to respond, to question, to ask for clarification.

4— When I wrote, "Any talk is strengthened by four points: avoiding technical words, using concrete illustrations, preserving the spirit of indignation, applying to the lives of people," I simply recalled established principles, so much in evidence in Abp. Sheen's conferences.

Today a friendly priest said, "A lot of priests think you were way out of line in your letter to Father Firpo." "Oh, Why?" "The way you tore him down no one would want to ask him to speak." I think just the opposite is true. You are now one of the best-known young priests in the diocese. People will realize, "That young priest must be good. Let's invite him."

Perhaps part of the good-natured spirit of the article was lost because the conclusion was omitted because of shortage of space. It read: "If you develop these principles, and become a concrete preacher of the Word, I may invite you to give one of the sermons at my funeral. I have two friends already engaged, but if I should outlast either, you may have the opportunity. But not if it would be dull, abstract, without humor. The world needs a bit of good cheer, and you demonstrated your ability to utilize it in the Waverly sermon. Prospera!"

## Phyllis Schlafly to Be UR Speaker

Phyllis Schlafly, founder and national chairman of STOP ERA and a member of the Illinois Commission on the Status of Women, will speak at the University of Rochester at 8:30 p.m. Monday, March 20 in Hutchison Hall at the University of Rochester.

Mrs. Schlafly will discuss her reasons for the Equal Rights Amendment. Her talk, arranged by the undergraduate Outside Speakers Committee, will be open to the public free of charge.

The wife of a lawyer and

the mother of six children, Mrs. Schlafly has testified before most of the state legislatures which defeated ERA and has appeared in public debates with most of the leading advocates of women's lib and the amendment.

She has received many awards, including nine Honor Medals from the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, a Woman of Achievement in Public Affairs citation from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat and the Brotherhood Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

## Father Curran Also Scheduled at UR

Father Charles E. Curran, former president of the American Society of Christian Ethics and of the Catholic Theological Society of America, will deliver the eighth Beaven Lecture at the University of Rochester, at 8 p.m. Monday, March 20 in the Interfaith Chapel at the University of Rochester.

and nine books. His talk will be open to the public free of charge.

Father Curran studied at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. He will speak on "American and-or Catholic? American Catholic Thought in the 20th Century."

A professor of moral theology at Catholic University, Father Curran is author of numerous articles

**ALCOHOLISM SEMINAR**  
Elmira—Martin King, Social Security Field Representative, will be the guest speaker at the alcoholism seminar at St. Joseph's Hospital's Doctors Meeting Room Thursday, March 23 at 12:15 p.m. He will speak on "SSI Provisions for Entitlement in Alcoholism Cases."

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Social Work-STAR'S Department at St. Joseph's Hospital, 733-6541.

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