

On The Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

New Sight In Eire

When is the next Courier-Journal tour to Ireland?



Fr. Cuddy size of Maine, and much can be seen and experienced even in a short time. It is convenient for many people.

Didn't you go to Ireland recently?

Yes, supposedly from May 1 to 14. The purpose: to scout for new places and things. Strange. Because I was alone, I became very homesick, and returned after three days. I love Ireland, but found that without the companionship of the group, plus an untoward amount of rain and darkness, my soul became like the weather. However the

short time gave me some new ideas for the eight-day tour, which looks impressively interesting.

What different is coming up?

While waiting for the plane to come at John Kennedy Airport, I met a young couple who had just finished a lecture tour on Irish culture, customs and music. They are in the Art and Music department at the University of Cork. They gave me several suggestions, which we are using. For example, when we land at Shannon early morning on Aug. 19, we will be tired after the flight. We will stay at Shannon Shamrock Hotel near Bunnary Castle (and Dirty Nellie's Pub) after the flight, and rest until noon. Then a tour of County Clare during the afternoon. In the evening to the Bunnary Folk Barn, for an Irish Ceili, and Irish supper, music, dancing and an Irish story teller.

On Sunday we will go to a famous Benedictine Monastery for Mass, only about 15 miles away. This

monastery is reputed to have the best liturgical music in all Ireland. Later on to Killarney and Tipperary. A new wrinkle is this. We will be lodged in Tipperary with several Irish families for two days, to experience Irish family life and food and spirit.

Sounds interesting, but what will the lodging be like?

One person phoned from Washington to ask if they had inside plumbing in these farm houses. It was a reasonable question, because up to 30 years ago, "out houses" were the rule in rural Ireland; and some didn't even have that. However, times have changed. And these homes are accredited by the Irish Farm House Association, and inspected and regulated by the National Irish Tourist Board.

After Tipperary?

Three days in Dublin. There is a good program, but fluid enough for patrons to go off on their own to other parts of Ireland, to shop, to browse. We shall stay at the Sherbourne Hotel, one of the swankiest hotels in Dublin. The last night is a dinner and entertainment in Robertstown, west of Dublin, which my lecturer

friends recommended highly.

Isn't the cost of \$885 high?

No. You usually get what you pay for. My first CJ tour group in 1973 paid only \$575. But inflation, air passage, etc. have changed that. The package includes four luncheons, five dinners, plus the additions on Aer Lingus, hotels, daily Mass for those who wish it, and a companionable group of people, and myself, the CJ Baggage Master.

Should reservations be made soon?

Yes. We don't want too large a group, and first reservations are first reserved. Patrons sometimes do not realize that the travel agents have a complex responsibility. They have to coordinate hotel space, plane space, land transportation, meals: all for a definite number of guaranteed people. I recall one trip to Ireland when one person was added late. We had no trouble until we got to Galway. The clerks said: "But we don't have even one extra room!" Finally we did get the extra room — so everything ended rosilily. We are expecting about 30, and this should be a cheerful group.

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Insights in Liturgy

By MSGR. WILLIAM H. SHANNON

The Lectionary: Its Organization

This article and next week's will discuss a book that should play an important role in the Christian formation of God's people. That book is the Lectionary. The Lectionary is the Church's liturgical Bible, that is to say it is the Bible arranged for reading at Sunday and weekday liturgies. The various books of the Bible are distributed throughout the Sundays and week days of the liturgical year in such a way that the history of salvation, as it develops during the liturgical year, may be most effectively presented to the community of God's people.

The distribution of the readings has been made according to carefully worked out principles. An understanding of these principles can be helpful to parish worship committees in planning the theme, the homily and the music for the various parish celebrations of the Church Year. Since most Catholics have regular contact only with the Sunday Liturgy, these articles will be restricted to the principles used for arranging the readings of the various Sundays of the year. Four general principles of organization are discernible in the Sunday Lectionary.

The first organizational principle concerns the individual Sundays. Each Sunday has three readings. The first is generally an Old Testament reading, detailing God's plan of

salvation as it is discernible in the Hebrew Scriptures (The Easter season is an exception to this principle: from Easter to Pentacost the first reading is always from the Acts of the Apostles.) The second reading is always a New Testament reading other than a Gospel. The third reading is always taken from one of the Gospels.

A second organizational principle is that the readings are arranged according to a three-year cycle. Spreading the biblical reading over three years makes it possible for the community to hear much more of the contents of the Bible than was possible in the former one-year cycle. The three cycles are designated as year A, B, C. A simple rule determines whether a particular year is A, B, or C. The "C" years are the years whose digits added together are divisible by 3. Thus 1977 and 1980, because of their sum is divisible by 3, are "C" years. This means that 1978 and 1981 will be "A" years, and 1979 and 1982 will be "B" years.

Yet a third organizational principle in the Sunday Lectionary is that the liturgical year is divided into the "major Liturgical Seasons" and the "Sundays of Ordinary Time." The "Major Liturgical Seasons" are Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. The "Sunday of Ordinary Time" are the 34 Sundays which come between the Christmas

Season and Lent as well as the Sundays that follow Pentecost (the end of the Easter season).

Yet a fourth principle that can helpfully be kept in mind; the three readings of the "Major Liturgical Seasons" are all interrelated. Thus each set of three readings helps to develop a particular season. The Sundays of Ordinary Time, on the other hand, have a somewhat different arrangement. The Gospel readings are, successively, Matthew for year "A", Mark for year "B" and Luke for year "C". The Old Testament reading for these Sundays is chosen because of its relationship to the Gospel. The second reading, on the other hand, is not intended to be related to the first or third reading; it is rather a semi-continuous reading of a New Testament book, e.g., a reading from one of St. Paul's Epistles.

This means that in preparing a Liturgy for the "Sundays of Ordinary Time," liturgy-planners would do well to study the year's Gospel as a whole to understand the Good News of salvation as it is articulated by the particular Gospel assigned for the year, e.g., St. Matthew's Gospel for the present year, 1978.

Once the general plan of the Gospel is clear, then it will be easier to understand the Gospel reading for each individual Sunday. Then a look at the Old Testament reading will in turn help us to grasp the theme of the Gospel even more clearly. These two readings, studied and reflected upon, will yield a theme that can be presented meaningfully in the Sunday Liturgy. (Next Week: The Year of Matthew).



FATHER DIFULIO
New Dean

Father Robert Difulio, a priest of the Diocese of Syracuse, has been named Dean of Student Affairs at St. Bernard's Seminary.

Father Difulio is a 1968 graduate of St. Bernard's. He also holds bachelor degrees in Philosophy and English from the University of Syracuse and an MS in Guidance and Counseling from the same school.

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