

On the Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

More About Ireland

The last two and a half days in Ireland with our Courier Tour last August were in Dublin. The first day most of our group went shopping, a passion with women. I spent most of the day at Veritas, Ltd., a religious book-store near the Abbey Theater. In mid-afternoon I went around the corner to Clery's, a large department store, to the cafeteria for coffee and a bun, having skipped lunch. In the line were two Franciscans, Sisters Rita O'Hare and Mary Boyle. Thought I: "Good. A chance to make soundings of religion in Ireland." So after introducing myself I said: "Sisters, won't you please join me for coffee?" When we sat I said: "I am anxious to have your thoughts on the Church in Ireland." They smiled. "We know very little about Ireland. We are from Africa."

They had never met before. Both had been in Africa for 20 years, one in

Uganda, the other in South Africa. They had returned to Ireland for retreat at their Motherhouse. One was a native of Scotland; the other, of Ireland. Both were with hospitals: one is a medical doctor; the other, a nurse. So the question was rephrased: "How fares the Church in your sections of Africa?" Both agreed that the future is hopeful. Uganda is a bit unpredictable. S. Africa more politically stable. Both Sisters said simply: "We avoid politics. We take care of our lepers and our sick." Each said that the greatest danger in the future for Africa are the tribal conflicts, so filled with ancient hatreds that neither Sister could imagine any solution.

I had brought some Abp. Sheen tapes to Ireland with me, and had given most of them away. But there were two left, so I said: "Sisters, I should like to give each of you a set of Abp. Sheen's conferences. They are inspiring." Sister Rita thought I meant a book. When I said: "No, Sister. They are a set of cassette tapes," she was delighted. "Oh Father. We so need spiritual conferences for our Sisters in the Missions, but we have so few. They will be a great help." Sister Rita stopped at the

Shelbourne Hotel the next day for her set. Sister Mary's I mailed to Scotland where she was visiting her family after years of separation.

Since then I have sent other tapes to them in Africa, including the Mother Teresa talk in Baltimore.

The next day we took a tour of Dublin Castle. An impressively quiet 23-year-old Joseph Dunne was our guide. I had heard that the most perfect English in the world is spoken in Dublin. I never found its perfection until I listened to the mellifluously precisely modulated diction of young Dunne. He is a modest but self-assured Dubliner, finishing his course at Trinity University, a practicing Catholic and expecting to continue his studies in France.

That afternoon I went to Aer Lingus to double check on our tickets and luggage; and stopped at Burley's Coffee House on the return. A young Mark Bergin was seated alone, so I asked if I might join him. He turned out to be 19 years old, beautifully wholesome and intelligent, a senior at the Dublin Jesuit High School; faithful to the Church and to Mass. When I told him of the two Limerick lads his own age I had met at Dirty Nellie's Pub, that they had dropped Mass as had their crowd of a dozen peers, he was puzzled. "All

the boys of my age that I know go to Mass. A study shows that 98 percent of the Irish go to Mass." I doubt the statistic, but it does reflect an unusual fidelity. His father, a lawyer, goes to Mass daily and is profoundly devout. His mother also goes with the father.

"What are your plans for the future, Mark?" "I'll go to college, and probably Law. It's a family tradition." "What about the priesthood? It is a great vocation." "No, Father. Not for me." "Would you consider the Jesuits? You obviously admire them greatly." He chuckled and said: "After ten years!" (I do not know what that means.) He enjoys P. J. Wodehouse. He reads some G. K. Chesterton. But he was not familiar with the great Cardinal Newman. I happened to have in my pocket a 142-page booklet, *The Mind of Cardinal Newman* by Father Charles DeSain, which I had bought at Veritas. So I gave that to him; for himself, a copy of *Acceptance for his mother and Treasury of Prayers* for his father; all of which I had in my pockets.

My soul was singing on leaving Ireland to carry with me the memory of these wonderful people of faith and integrity and loyalty; as well as the joy of having cared for a tour group without any great hitches and with many shared experiences.

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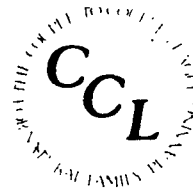
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Deaths

Raymond Weis, 72; Father of Priest And Sister

Raymond P. Weis, an artist and advertising specialist, died Jan. 5, 1979, at Park Ridge Hospital. He was 72 years old, and had been retired since 1970.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for him Monday at St. Theodore's, Gates.

Mr. Weis and his wife, the former Josephine McGrath, lived at Dunn Towers. Father Eugene Weis, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Newark Valley, is their son, and Sister Monica Weis, SSJ, their daughter. Survivors include another son, Bernard, and a sister, Florence de Cocq, both of Rochester, and a brother, Joseph, of Alexandria, Va.

Mr. Weis was a vice president of the original Hutchins Advertising Agency, where he prepared copy and programs for many national companies, his family reported. During 40 years in the field, he also set up a marketing department for Stromberg-Carlson's sound equipment division, then became advertising manager in its telecommunications division. In 1964 he became assistant marketing director at Impco, a local direct mail agency. Later he established and managed an advertising and mail order department for Bastian Bros., then operated a successful free-lance service from his home.

He wrote, directed and performed in little theater projects over a 45-year span, and held administrative positions in various business associations and Catholic societies. He was a member of Blessed Sacrament Parish for

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