

# On The Right Side

## How To Go To Confession

Recently I was at a supermarket looking for the '79 World Almanac. A boy 14 or 15 years old was at the next counter. He reached up, took down a copy of Playboy. He saw me, set

Fr. Cuddy

the copy down and disappeared. I wondered: "How would such a boy confess prurient reading and erotic pictures in confession?" Then I thought: "Would most Catholics know how to confess most sins? Perhaps the reason so many do not use the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) is because they do not know how to examine their conscience." One special help in examination of conscience is to use the Seven Capital Sins as a guide. This may help:

**Pride**— What is my prayer life, my reverence for God and holy things? Is my knowledge of my religion commensurate with my ability and station? Do I pit my opinions against the teaching of the Church? (Mt. 28:28) Am I over sensitive to criticism, about not receiving credit? Do I try to keep up with the Joneses? Do I have an exaggerated desire for recognition? Am I vain and conceited? Do I have religious literature, magazines, cassette tapes in my home? (Catholic Digest, 550,000 monthly; Abp. Sheen conferences, 31,000 sets sold; Playboy monthly circulation, 4,900,000.)

**Covetousness or Avarice**— Do I have an exaggerated desire for money, possessions? Do I prize material things over much? Do I share with others—the needy, missions, church, education? Do I pay my bills and debts? Do I gamble excessively? Do I buy what I cannot afford? Do I pay a just wage? Am I concerned about economic justice? Do I give an honest day's work? Do I compromise in business, in politics?

**Lust**— Do I reverence my body as God's temple? Do I honor the bodies of others? Is my life (married) in accord with God's law? Is my life (single) sexually controlled? Do I deliberately tempt others sensually— by touch, suggestion, by erotic stories, books, magazines? Am I modest in my use of TV, in reading, at social gatherings?

**Anger**— Do I hold resentments? Will I apologize when I am wrong? Do I resent being wrong, and take it out on others? Do I explode over little provocations, and pout? Am I angry when I should be, or apathetic about evil? (Read St. Matthew). Do I fantasize revenge? Have I been involved in the death of the unborn, in bodily mutilation— e.g. vasectomy?

**Envy**— Am I disappointed at the good progress of another. Do I rejoice in another's good? Am I glad about the sins and failures and disgraces of another? Am I jealous of what I have or what I do, not sharing what should be shared? (Consider the viciousness of the person who prevented the Christmas singing of the Vienna Boys

Choir through envy and hatred.)

**Gluttony**— Do I handle alcohol correctly? Do I trifle with pot, drugs? Do I smoke too much, endangering self to cancer, emphysema? Am I considerate of the feelings and discomfort of non-smokers? Am I overweight from over eating? Do I ever fast, abstain, restrain?

**Sloth**— Am I indifferent to the things of God and the Spirit? Are my children adequately instructed in the knowledge and practice of the Faith? Am I active in my parish, in my community? Do I guide my children in virtue, or take the permissive, easy way out? Am I glued to the TV? Do I go to confession with reasonable frequency? Do I avail myself of special spiritual opportunities: retreats, cursillos, Legion of Mary, Holy Hour, Marriage Encounter, Teen Seminar, spiritual reading? Am I indifferent to the spiritual good of my family, friends, parishioners, my priests and Sisters, my fellow workers and relatives?

One of the best sets of spiritual conferences is a set of 6 tapes, 12 conferences, by the English Jesuit, Father Bernard Basset. It is entitled Each Man an Island. There is one on confession, another on examination of conscience. Both are howlingly funny, yet immensely instructive. I lent the set to an apostle of tape conferences in Ontario parish. She brought several tapes to an ecumenical group. The conference they delighted in was the one on confession. I suppose if Catholics knew better how to use that sacrament, everyone would be better and happier.



## Sharing the Wealth

Junior High representatives from Mother of Sorrows School took some of their mission money to St. Joseph's House of Hospitality last Thursday. Shown here with Father Daniel O'Shea on a tour of the house he runs are, from the left, Mrs. Anne Leonardo, their chauffeur, and Jay Di Martino, Tony Leonardo, Diane Huber and Carolyn Schaller. Two school projects, Dime Days and Santa's Secret Shop, are yielding profits also for the Sisters of St. Joseph in Brazil.

## The Week to Pray For Christian Unity

The following article was prepared for the Courier-Journal by the Graymoor Institute on the occasion of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which begins tomorrow, Jan. 18.

**Graymoor** — At a time when many observers claim that the ecumenical movement is reversing itself in the direction of neo-conservatism, the 72nd annual observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity gives Christians across the nation and throughout the world the opportunity to rediscover the bonds which unite them and to manifest that unity in service to one another.

This year's observance begins tomorrow, Jan. 18, and calls Christians to pray for the unity which God wills for them and all humankind, enabling them to "serve one another" selflessly "to the glory of God."

The theme for 1979 — "Serve One Another to the Glory of God" — is based on the fourth chapter of St. Peter's First Epistle in which the early Christians are advised to cease their animosities toward one another and join in service as an expression of their basic unity in Jesus Christ.

The theme was selected by the Graymoor Ecumenical Institute, with headquarters here, and the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. It was developed in cooperation with the Faith and Order

Commission of the World Council of Churches and has been recommended by the Roman Catholic Bishops Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

Begun in 1980 by Father Paul Wattson, founder of the Atonement Friars, the Week of Prayer has become increasingly popular yearly. Among Roman Catholics, for example, the Week of Prayer provided the opportunity for Pope John XXIII to announce his plan to convoke the Second Vatican Council which created revolutionary changes in the Roman Catholic Church.

Prayer for unity reminds Christians that their divisions are sinful and contrary to God's will. "I am more and more convinced of the crucial potential and impact which the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity presents for those who wish to discover what faithfulness to the Gospel is all about," said the Rev. Paul A. Crow Jr., president of the Council on Christian Unity for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The theme for 1979 once again reminds Christians that "the call of all to serve one another is a further summons to strengthen the bonds which already unite them," said Father Patrick J. Cogan, an Atonement Friar who is associate pastor of St. Francis de Sales parish in Lumberton, N.C.

The theme also suggests that mutual service can bring Christians into

Father Henry Atwell, director of the Commission for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the diocese, said, "During our observance of the week of Prayer for Christian Unity we are aware that we are 400 years divided into nearly 250 Christian denominations. That should stir our consciences to prayer, study and to work more diligently to fulfill the prayer of Jesus Christ: 'That all may be one.'"

dialogue, which "helps most people to clarify their Christian identity and mission in the world," noted Father Kenneth Stofft, staff officer for the Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. "If the goals of renewal, service and celebration continue to be pursued in dialogue with other Christians, with other world religions, and with the whole of humanity," Father Stofft said, "then Christians may be assured that their calling will be fulfilled in accord with the Creator's image, the Spirit's will, and the revelation of the Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ."

According to Father Thaddeus Horgan, co-director of the Graymoor Ecumenical Institute, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity provides yet another opportunity for Christians to "come out of the closets of their narcissism, fears and self-imposed guilt" in order to serve one another, not for their own benefit but for the sake of God's will for the world — unity, justice and peace for all — to the glory of God.

## Operation Breadbox '79 Opens With Four Workshops

The third annual fund development and consciousness raising campaign, designed to begin self help agrarian projects in three impoverished parts of the world, is underway.

Operation Breadbox, sponsored by the diocesan International Justice and Peace Commission, has received responses from 53 parishes as well as three high schools, three grammar schools, five communities of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, according to Lourdes Perez, coordinator for the commission.

Operation Breadbox funds provide assistance for long term farming programs aimed at increasing food production in the chosen countries and also helps needy people in this diocese.

Last year's program raised \$30,897. Seventy-five percent (\$23,458.58) was sent to Macuspana, Mexico, Gorom-Gorom in Upper Volta, Africa, and the Sayangun Catholic Mission in the Philippines.

Twenty-five percent (\$7,438.84) was distributed to

the 10 regional coordinators for similar projects.

This year both Macuspana and the Sayangun Mission repeat as recipients and Urco Maya in Upper Volta, Africa will replace Gorom-Gorom, which received funds for the past two years.

Perez said that as a result of an evaluation of Breadbox '78 the commission found that the program could be more effective if the parish contact persons had some instruction on how to use the educational packet that the commission provides each participating parish.

To accomplish this the Justice and Peace Commission has scheduled four Breadbox workshops in three different areas of the diocese.

They are Jan. 29 at St. Joseph Hospital (Dunn Memorial Bldg.) in Elmira; Jan. 30 at St. Thomas More School, 2716 East Ave., Rochester; Sacred Heart Parish, 90 Melrose Rd., Auburn; and St. Lawrence Rectory, 1000 N. Greece Rd., Rochester. Snow dates for the Workshops would be one week from the scheduled day.

Perez added that if anyone has questions about the workshops they may contact the area representative. In Elmira you may call Kenneth Emery (607)732-5882; in Auburn Charles King (315)663-4819 and in Rochester contact Perez at (716)663-4819.

Should any parish or individual wish to join in Operation Breadbox, simply call the Justice and Peace Commission's Office (716)328-6400.

### Vatican Says Intervention 'Successful'

Vatican City (RNS) — The first phase of the Vatican's mediation efforts in the territorial dispute between Argentina and Chile has met with success as the two South American nations formally signed an agreement to pull back military forces from the disputed area on the tip of the continent.

The pact was reached after two weeks of shuttle diplomacy by veteran Vatican diplomat Cardinal Antonio Samore, the personal representative of Pope John Paul II.

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