

On the Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

Singles Ignored In Liturgy

"In commenting on the qualifications necessary for a lay distributor of



Fr. Cuddy in marriage, honest, faithful in marriage, charitable, generous, etc.

"I wonder why you consider marriage to be a necessary qualification. Are you not excluding all single people, widows, widowers, nuns, etc.? This thinking seems to be current in the Church... I was taught that Jesus created three states of life: married, religious and single.

"I realize that the Family is the backbone of our society, but resent being considered almost an outsider in many of the current Church liturgies; i.e., family Masses, presentation of offertory gifts, etc...."

An embarrassed reply:

"Last week I took care of St. Ann's Home for Fr.

Hempel, then two weeks at Rochester General Hospital for Fr. Schwartz, and am somewhat pressed for time. But your good letter merits a prompt reply.

"Your reading of the article was reasonable. I suppose one would have to know what was in the mind of the writer at the time to realize how it did come out that way. Actually, I was trying to hit a deadline, and what was in my mind at the time was the anger of a woman some months ago about a Eucharistic minister who was 'running around'. Rather than being anti-female in this instance, the thought was rather anti-male, since I would not conceive of such a thing from a woman.

"You are so correct about the single woman being ignored in many liturgies and plans within the Church. If it will cheer your soul any, I myself sometimes include in the Prayers of the Faithful: 'For those men and women who are unmarried and carry out their own special vocations to the great good of Christ and His Church, let us pray to the Lord.' This note is too fast to be satisfactory, but at least please know that I am most appreciative of the unmarried, especially women, who have been my own great helpers from my earliest priesthood, and

that I do appreciate your observations."

From a correspondent in Ireland:

"It always seems strange to me that a full-blooded conservative like you, who waves the flag for Mother Church at every opportunity, and does so quite unashamedly can succeed in doing two things: 1) being so outrageously human as to honor people so much in their humanity; 2) command the love and respect of people who don't give a fig for Mother Church. Of course, 2 follows 1. But the fact remains that most of the clergy who hoist the flag as high as you do usually only succeed in being an arid denial of all that they preach."

Comment:

Those are the kindest words ever spoken of me and, while I am grateful, I realize they are not held by all. My friend no longer goes to Mass, carries a healthy bit of anti-clericalism in his soul, loves nuns who cheerfully dislike their Reverend Mothers, and dislikes grim unsmiling nuns. He is highly intelligent and good, and I pray for the day when he, too, will "hoist the flag" for Mother Church and bring the genuine nobility he has in his soul to the service of Christ and His Church.



Fathers & Sons

A special Father and Son camping weekend took place recently at Camp Stella Maris. Fathers and their sons from across the diocese participated in a winter olympic competition, cross country skiing and ice fishing among other things. Shown above is one half of a tug-of-war competition and at right John Oberlies and his son Dan try their hand at fishing through the ice.



Word for Sunday

By Father Albert Shamon

Sin Is Like Leprosy

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mk. 2:18-22. (R1) Hos. 2:16-17, 21-22. (R2) 2 Cor. 3:1-6.

How graphically the past two Sunday's readings pictured sin! Sin is like leprosy (Feb. 11). Sin is like paralysis (Feb. 18). Next Sunday's readings describe sin as a lovers' quarrel (Feb. 25). A quarrel doesn't dissolve the love between lovers. Generally, true lovers make up after a quarrel and promise nevermore to go back to the old ways.



Fr. Shamon

The prophecy of Hosea is about a lovers' quarrel. Hosea wrote about 750 B.C. Hosea began the tradition of describing the relation between God and Israel in terms of marriage. The gospel uses the same imagery to express the relationship between Christ and His Church. "How can the guests at a wedding fast as long as the groom is still among them?" (R3).

Hosea's prophecy pivots around his unfortunate marriage to Gomer. Gomer, the adulteress, symbolized faithless Israel. As Hosea could not give up his wife — even when she had played the harlot — so God told Hosea it was equally impossible for Him to renounce Israel, His betrothed, even when she had proved adulterous. God would chastise Israel, but only like a jealous lover: to bring her back to the pure and fresh joy of their first love.

To do this, Hosea foretold that God would again lead Israel into the desert where He had first betrothed her. This time the desert spoken of by Hosea was to be the barren life of captivity and enslavement in Babylon. Only in such a context would Israel turn back to her lover. Only then could He speak to her heart and would she respond to her Spouse as in the days of her youth, when she had come up from the land of Egypt.

God, the Bridegroom, Hosea tells, would give to Israel as a bridal gift great virtues — virtues forged in the bitter experience of the Babylonian Captivity: social virtues, like justice and rights; personal virtues, like mercy and love. Thus Israel would come to know the Lord, intimately, as a wife her husband — to

know especially His fidelity. "I will espouse you in fidelity" (R1).

Though Israel proved unfaithful again and again, God did not. In the fulness of time, He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to espouse in a new marriage covenant the remnant of Israel — those few of Israel who had still remained faithful to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

As at any wedding feast there was joy. That was why Jesus' disciples did not fast — "the groom was with them still." And there were bridal gifts, too. First, freedom from all Jewish ceremonial laws. New wine needed new wineskins. And secondly, a new way for patching up lovers' quarrels, not by desert experiences, but by joyful celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation: No longer does God deal with us according to our sins, but according to His love.

In Eric Segal's book, Love Story, when Ollie said to Jenny "I'm sorry," she cut short his apology with "Stop!" Then she said quietly, "Love means not ever having to say you're sorry." That is sheer bunkum! According to the greatest love story ever told, love means saying over and over again, "I forgive you." That is how God loves us!



Last year's Leukemia Benefit raised \$3000, used to buy a teaching microscope for the pediatric hematology/oncology lab at Strong Hospital. Above right Nancy Cooper, technical associate at the lab shows Kathy Trombley, left, benefit chairman how the microscope is used.

Leukemia Benefit Set For March 10

The third annual Leukemia Benefit Dinner Dance is scheduled for Saturday, March 10 at the Mapledale Party House. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails (cash bar) and dinner will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The dinner is held each year by parents, relatives and close friends of Karen Frank, an 8-year-old, who was diagnosed as having leukemia in June, 1976.

The proceeds this year will be donated to CURE Childhood Cancer Association to be used locally for cancer research, treatment and patient care. Donations are \$8.50 per person and tickets may be obtained by calling the Mapledale Party House 436-2112.

Cards

The Rosary Society of St. Ambrose Church will hold a card party on March 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Dailey Hall. Tickets are available through any band leader or by calling Sheila Jauppa at 467-4197.

Seminary Gets \$25,000 Gift

Mrs. Joseph C. Wilson has pledged a \$25,000 gift toward support of St. Bernard's Seminary programs.

In announcing receipt of the pledge, Father Frank E. Lioi, rector, expressed appreciation of the gift, stating that "this sizeable contribution will help St. Bernard's Seminary continue its educational missions and set an example for the participation of our Catholic people in the education of their future spiritual leaders."

CHOICE
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for further information contact:
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