

On the Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

Notes On the Holy Land

To Father Herbert Sturmer:

We are just returned from our pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I am pondering over the similarities and differences between it and our March 1972 pilgrimage. That was the first of all the Courier-Journal tours. Then we numbered 46. You and Father Lane (RIP), Brother Sebastian of Mt. Saviour and I represented the religious, and a wonderful 42 pilgrims the laity. In this trip, seven applied too late to be accepted, and eight had to cancel. In fact, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Vidinghoff of St. Thomas the Apostle parish had to cancel two days before departure. Mr. Vidinghoff fell and broke four ribs. That left us with a devout and interested group of 14.

Who were they? Father John Morgan from Caledonia-Mumford-Waverly, Sister Joseph Catherine, receptionist at St. Ann's Home, and her cousin, Mrs. Mary Lapan of Sacred Heart Cathedral; retired teachers, the Misses Mildred and Carrie Adams from St. Michael's in Penn Yan; and likewise, the Misses Genevieve and Adeline Mezur from St. Casimir's, Elmira; trustee Peter Winnick and his wife, Bertha, from St. Francis, Catatunk-Candor; Mrs. Mary Rafaela Guidone of St. John's, Port Byron; Mrs. Jennie Candelupe of St. Mary's, Bath; and Mrs. Josephine Warren who holds dual membership in both Bath and St. Mary's, Corning.

Because our group was small, we were joined with another group from Connecticut. They came not for devotion but for a tour of Israel. The result was that we did make the usual sacred places, and also made a great survey of all Israel, including Massada, the Golan Heights, a long, interesting drive down a road parallel to the Jordan River which separates Jordan and Israel, and a night at a kibbutz.

Before leaving, many asked, "Aren't you afraid, with the conflict between Israel and the Arabs?"

I always replied, "Not at all. It is said there is more danger from Israeli drivers than from military conflict." More disturbing to me are the spiritually debilitating conflicts among the religious groups which lay some claim on sections of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre: Latins, Greeks, Armenians, Copts etc. Remembering our Lord's prayer, "that all may be one," I find this state of affairs unsettling for the tranquility which devotion needs in so holy a place.

Our guide, David, about 45 years old, strong, masterful, is a kind of diplomatic genius. He looks like Zero Mostel in Fiddler on the Roof. He even talks like him, acting out arguments with God by biblical characters, wheedling, impelling, keeping up a swift pace to cover so many things. Actually, we covered everything we did both in the pilgrimages of 1972 and 1976.

The difference is that we stopped at fewer shops where guides get a kick-back; we stayed a shorter time at the shrines; and we got a strong indoctrination on the State of Israel.

On the fourth day, Mary Rafaela smiled, "He must be hired by the Israel Chamber of Commerce." Yet David was surprisingly accurate in biblical accounts. For example, as we started to view the Church of the Primacy near the Mount of Beatitudes, he announced, "Here is where Jesus gave to Peter the headship of the Church when He told him to take care of His lambs and sheep. Peter here became the first pope, and all the other popes are his successors."

Father Morgan was director of liturgy and I concelebrated Mass with him at Bethany, Bethlehem, St. Peter's Church in Jaffa with a group of Italian pilgrims; at Nazareth with a group of Americans from Paterson, the Mount of Beatitudes Chapel, the Chapel of Flagellation on the Via Dolorosa. We had a beautiful Mass at Mt. Carmel where sacred Brother Lawrence gave a plaque to give Father Timothy McGough in Elmira, saying, "Will you give this to him, and ask him to send me some more of those vitamins he has sent me?"

En route to the Holy Land we had a four-hour stopover in Copenhagen. It was Sunday morning, so we took our cabs to the Danish Church of St. Ann. Two cabs got there; two didn't. There were only 25,000 Catholics among 5 million souls in Denmark, and Catholics are almost unknown to the cab drivers.

The Courier-Journal has invited me to care for a group of the Scandinavian countries, May 28 to June 11. If Copenhagen was a sample it should be interesting.

All your friends are glad your health is better. Father Curtin used to say, "The care of yourself. Good things are scarce."

So I say to you, "The care of yourself. We love you."



From left, George and Mary Hobson; Father Winfried Kellner; Charles Drons; James Delibert; Steve Schulz, Mrs. Rita Kellner.

St. Boniface Census Scheduled for Sunday

Since 1860, St. Boniface has meant people, and people is what the Boniface parish is all about as it is about to conduct its first census since 1965 next Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m.

Hundreds of St. Boniface workers (called disciples) under the direction of leaders (apostles) will be visiting their neighbors of all denominations in the Boniface Parish to conduct the up-to-date count of the parishioners who attend the Gregory Street church in the office-predominately German-American neighborhood.

According to Steve Schulz, the Census Steering Committee chairman, the workers will be stopping at an estimated 4,500 doors to ask pertinent questions about their church activities and to fill out a special census card if they are Roman Catholics. All census-takers will wear special identification badges.

Schulz' committee has been making preparations since early January, under the direction of Father Peter T. Bayer, diocesan director of pastoral planning.

Schulz said the Boniface parish boundaries are: Inner Loop on the North; west side of S. Clinton Avenue on the East; north side of Highland Avenue on the South; and the Genesee River on the West.

More than ten per cent of the church's parishioners had to be recruited to participate in the census as the parish today has some 720 registered families, compared to more than 1,200 when the last census was taken. But it is estimated that at least another 250 Catholic families reside in the parish, but are not registered.

And this is one reason for the update.

Another reason for the count is to identify any and all families who may wish to take advantage of the primary education offered by St. Boniface School, which has more than 360 pupils. In addition, the census card information system offers the parish community accurate, detailed and updated information on the people who

make up the parish. It provides information on how the parish can more effectively carry out its pastoral, sacramental and social programs based on the needs of the people, and it provides an opportunity for the people of the parish to describe how they can be faithful in serving the parish with their time, talent and professional skills. These job skills could be anything from lawyer to cook, teacher to painter, plumber to public relations specialist, and teacher aide to electrician.

It also can give the parishioners themselves a chance to participate in church and parish activities in case they never have been asked.

The census card has space for the parishioner to list his or her interests in the church makeup or in participation in the Mass. Such items as choir, lector, usher, altar care are listed under the Liturgy category, and under Parish Life, a person may check off such items as parish council, welcoming committee, retreat, prayer group, marriage encounter, scripture study, etc.

Schulz emphasized that during the census, non-Catholic households will not be bothered, even though the worker will call on every house and apartment in the parish.

The Census Steering

Committee includes Father Winfried Kellner, the church's administrator; Father Francis J. Taylor, pastor-emeritus; George and Mary Hobson; Clem Bayer; Rita Kramer; Charles Drons and Roger Gorman.

The leaders or "apostles" are Sister Mary Louise; Sister Mary Elizabeth; Mrs. Joan Klee; John Schmitt; Mrs. Jackie Nicolay; Robert and Lucille Kaseman; Helene Honadle; James Delibert; Martin Bayer; James McGarvey; Mrs. Sue Wasco; Grace Parshall and John Reinhart.

Schulz said, "We urge all residents of our parish neighborhood, both Catholic and non-Catholic, to welcome our workers to your homes. To our Catholic parishioners we cannot overemphasize that our census-takers will not be there to pass judgment on you nor to take your inventory. We simply will ask the questions necessary to complete our census cards."

That feeling was perhaps best summed up by Father Bayer at a recent training session for the census, when he told about the gospels of Matthew and Luke and Paul's letter to the Ephesians: "The Lord's request is that we share in His plan, His request for our personal accountability and His call to share our talents for the building up of His kingdom."

NFP Conference Slated in April

A conference on fertility awareness and Natural Family Planning has been slated for April 27-29 at the Americana Inn Towne House.

The conference, which will feature Dr. Paul Marx, Bonnie Manion and Jack Quesnell, is being sponsored by area Knights of Columbus, the St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild and Natural Family Planning of Rochester. The announcement was made by the Magisterium Lectures 1978-1979.

Family Mass At Kearney

Bishop Kearney High School has scheduled its annual Family Mass for 10 a.m., Sunday, April 1 in the school cafeteria.

A special family liturgy has been planned by Bernice and Agnes Hasenauer and their committee. A continental breakfast will be served following the Mass. All are welcome and no reservations are necessary.

According to announcement literature, "This conference is designed to examine methodology as well as the philosophical and psychological aspects of Natural Family Planning." The conference is open to all interested.

Dr. Marx, a Benedictine priest, is professor of Sociology at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn. He is the founder and executive director of the Human Life Center there, and the author of several books, including The Death Peddlers, Death Without Dignity.

Mrs. Manion is the foundress and director of the Northwest Natural Family Planning Center of St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in Portland, Or. She is also the foundress of Birthright of Oregon and is the mother of nine children.

Quesnell, a marriage and family counselor in Minneapolis, is the author of several books, including, Marriage: A Discovery Together, and Family



FATHER MARY

Planning Dilemma Revisited. He is an instructor in marriage and family life at St. Paul's Seminary in Minnesota and coordinator of the Engaged Couple's Conferences in St. Paul. Quesnell is the father of three children.

Additional information on the conference is available through Mrs. Therese Petracca, director of Natural Family Planning of Rochester, 89 Genesee St. Rochester, 14611.

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