

On the Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

At Rectory Tables: A Journal

To Father William Gordiner, Cato:

On March 26 I phoned Father John O'Malley of Holy Cross: "Hornell radio WLEA needs some talks for our Magnify the Lord program. Let's go to Hornell and record some tapes. We can Fr. Cuddy meet at Guardian Angels in Henrietta and have lunch there."

It happened that Father O'Malley had to postpone, but if programming was out, visitation was in. So on Wednesday, soon after noon, Father Richard Hart gave me a big welcome at Good Shepherd, and popped me across the table from Father Leo Lynch who was in better health than in a long time.

We had an unusual sandwich of sandwich bread, cheese, four stalks of asparagus tips topped with melted cheese, all grilled and tasty. About 2 p.m. on to Mendon. Msgr. Schnacky and his adjutant, Clayton Gilbert and secretary Rita DeVoldre presented a

booming parish, bubbling with enthusiastic community. On to Victor where Father Murley was interviewing First Communicants and their parents, so only a hand shake there. Then to St. Stephen's, Geneva by 5:15 p.m.

Nancy, the kitchen artist beamed: "I hope you're staying for dinner." "Many thanks. It depends, and I'll tell you in a few minutes."

Pastor John Quinn said: "Do stay for dinner. Father Chuck Rice is coming." "I will if I can't make contact with Father Shamon in Waterloo. It's not that I love you less but every time I stop at Waterloo, Father Shamon is busy as a bunch of whirling dervishes; but he must stop to eat."

I phoned Julia Mosey, the cook. "Will the Fathers be in for supper?" "Yes, Father, after the 5:15 Mass. Will you come?" "Yes. I figure they must pause to eat, and I can meet them at table." "Good. We'll expect you."

At 6:05 p.m. Fathers Shamon and Doell welcomed me. One always has the sense of immediacy and urgency with Father Shamon. We went directly to the table, stood behind our chairs. Mrs. Mosey stood at the kitchen doorway. We made the Sign of the Cross. Father Shamon led with the Angelus and

continued with grace. I expressed surprise. "Pope Paul in his 1976 Marialis Cultus asked the bishops to encourage the people to say the rosary and the Angelus. The rosary seems to be returning; but I haven't found much motion regarding the Angelus."

"Too bad," he replied. "The pope recites the Angelus every Wednesday with the crowds in St. Peter's Square. We print up the Angelus so every child learns it quickly and uses it."

"Have you seen the folder which Jeffries-Manz puts out," I asked him. "It has a beautiful colored picture of Millet's Angelus, and prayers in English inside. They only cost about \$3 for 100."

Our 45 minutes at the table was worth sitting in on a spiritual conference and two religious education seminars. Father Doell made his comments. Then off to Holy Family, Auburn, for overnight.

Each Thursday noon, continuing a tradition set by Father Straub, Father Wahl has a kind of open house luncheon for priests. They converge from many places. This Thursday there were 20. The conversations always center around Church things, and are helpful to all. My former Clyde assistant, Father Joseph Gaynor was there, off the job from Elmira Heights, convalescing from an attack of angina. This faithful priest is deeply involved in Cursillo.

Some time ago the Catholic Daughters of America in Rochester invited me to give a retreat sponsored by their Court but open to all, May 4-6. The Retreat will be at Stella Maris Retreat House in Skaneateles. That is only seven miles from Auburn, so I phoned the sisters: "I am scheduled to give a retreat at Stella Maris in May and would like to meet you and to see your place." A cheerful nun replied: "We have 30 youngsters from Jamestown here on Confirmation retreat, but do come, Father."

The Superior was away, but I met the other three sisters: delightful, homey, merry Franciscan sisters, evidently happy in their vocations.

The place is gorgeous. The house sleeps 70 persons; and is set on the edge of 10 acres of land on the shore of beautiful Skaneateles Lake, so much like the Sea of Galilee. If any of your women are interested in the retreat, contact Stella Maris. It's part of the Auburn telephone system, so no long-distance cost!

My best greetings to your housekeeper, Helen Dalton, and your fine catechist, Julia O'Neill; and to the parishioners of your three parishes. Forty years ago I asked Father Curtin, "How big is St. Monica's Parish?"

He replied, "St. Monica's is not a parish. It's an empire." "Maybe that applies to your vast holdings: Cato, Red Creek, Fair Haven!"

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