

On the Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

Gleanings From CDA Retreat

From May 4 to 6, I gave the annual retreat for the Catholic Daughters of America of the Diocese of Rochester at the beautiful Stella Maris Retreat House in Skaneateles. The place is run by the Franciscan Sisters of Syracuse, under the direction of Sister John Olivia and three assistants. There were 52 retreatants, and all participated with edifying earnestness and good cheer. A valuable help in my retreats is a question period on the second evening, after the evening conference. Here are some questions:

What do you think of our new bishop?

I don't know enough about him to come to any conclusions. He did his philosophy at St. Bernard's Seminary before the drastic changes in seminary curricula and discipline and direction. He has been on the staff of the North American College in Rome the past six years. He has done parish and chancery work. As a Roman, he certainly will be loyal to the Holy See.

From my vantage point of an elder priest of 70 years, he is a youth. When I was his age I had had eight years of parish work, as an assistant, over four years as a military chaplain, three years as a college chaplain and a short period with St. Andrew's Seminary. Then I was recalled to military duty for over four more years to come. Thirty years more of life and experience have not lessened an enthusiasm for Christ, His Church and His people. We elders remember Pope John XXIII was 77 when he was elected pope; and we hope our new bishop

will regard us not merely as faithful has-beens, but as presently useful servants. When we consider the fine men we have in Bishops Hogan and Hickey and McCafferty, the inspiring continuing work of the 83-year-old Archbishop Sheen and the strong traditions in our diocese, I think Bishop-elect Clark has a great inheritance. He can be sure of the loyalty of his clergy.

Why so few vocations to the priesthood now?

I have a theory from my own observations and research, but I am unable to substantiate it yet. However, here are some thoughts written in January 1977 to the 40 members of my priests' block, as their representatives on the Priests Council. The December 1976 council meeting had discussed vocations. "In dialogue, Father X, who was pushing for a full-time Vocation Director, said, 'You have to spend money to gain money. You have to spend money to get vocations...' Father Cuddy: 'That sounds more like: General Motors than the Gospel. The Doctrine of Grace is still Catholic Doctrine. You have not called Me; but I have called

you.' Mother Teresa of Calcutta neither advertises nor has a vocations promoter, but she has 200 Brothers and 800 Sisters in her Order. Her novitiate is severe. Her Sisters and Brothers do not make a half-hearted commitment, but they take vows for life, and they keep them."

A young friend of mine, a graduate of LeMoyne College in Syracuse, wrote: "Three cheers for your comments regarding vocations. If my experience and that of the other young people I have known who are serious about God is anything like the rule, there is no question that the best advertisement for vocations to the priesthood and religious life is in the personal holiness of the lives of priests and religious. Such radically Christ-like lives and the grace of the Holy Spirit are all that are necessary."

"Moreover, advertising campaigns can do as much harm as good. Implicit, and in the most flagrant cases, explicit, to a greater or lesser degree in all vocations, advertising I have known, is a denigration of all other types of vocation. This leaves an unpleasant taste in many people's mouths and is

sometimes counterproductive. In my own case, I was never so turned off to the priesthood as after the excessive clericalism (in its worst sense) of a week of vocations advertising in X diocese. The bad effects of which only wore off from frequent contact with sin-

cerely good priests who were too busy showing the face of Christ to the people they met to be bothered with such Madison Avenue nonsense.

This young man entered a seminary the following year and is studying for the priesthood.

USCC Backs SALT II

Washington, D.C. — The Administrative Board of the United States Catholic Conference (USCC) voted to authorize congressional testimony by USCC in support of the strategic arms limitation treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union.

authorize congressional testimony by USCC in support of the anticipated strategic arms limitation treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Announcement of the board's action on SALT II was made by Bishop Thomas C. Kelly, O.P., USCC general secretary.

"Discussion before the board's voice vote made it clear that the bishops feel SALT II deserves support only if it is understood and functions as a necessary though admittedly limited step toward true disarmament."

In his statement Bishop Kelly said, "The Administrative Board of the United States Catholic Conference has voted to

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A clown named Rainbow, who will entertain May 19 at the Holy Spirit festival, makes the acquaintance of some parish children — Justin Ragan, Jessica Esders, Aaron Ragan and Jacqueline Borrelli.

Holy Spirit, Penfield

Thrill rides, a three-day bocci tournament and a Friday night fish fry are features of the festival in preparation at Holy Spirit, 1355 Hatch Road, Webster. A spacious circus tent will be put up as weather insurance for

the three days, May 17-19. Father Frederick Bush, pastor, and his associate, Father James Wolfe, are working with 300 parishioners on this sixth annual celebration.

St. Anthony of Padua

The annual retreat for men of St. Anthony of Padua is scheduled for June 1-3 at the Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua. Those who

wish to make the retreat should leave their names at the rectory or call Louis J. Tartaglia, 458-9157.

St. Charles Borromeo

St. Charles Borromeo School, 64 Maiden Lane in Greece, will offer a summer program in English, Math and Reading. Those interested in

registering may contact the school office from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each weekday. For more information call 663-1220.

At Your Parish . . .

Our Mother of Sorrows

Nancy A. Drum has been named Greece Female Athlete of the Year and Michael Dianetti was named Greece Male Athlete of the Year by the Mother of Sorrows Men's Club last week.

Nancy, a senior at Greece Arcadia, has earned a number of athletic accomplishments which helped her win the annual award.

She was selected Arcadia's Most Valuable Player in basketball, made all-county in soccer (four years), volleyball (two years), softball (three years) basketball (three years), and Section V Most Valuable Player in 1978.

Michael, also a senior at Greece Arcadia, has equally impressive credentials. He was

the basketball team's MVP for 1978-79, Most Improved player in cross country and named to the Democrat & Chronicle's All Greater Rochester first team.

Both Nancy drum and Michael Dianetti will receive \$1000.00 scholarships from Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company which can be used to further their educational or athletic careers.

Guardian Angels

According to a Guardian Angels parishioner, there is a new tradition emerging in regards to Confirmation which seems to be catching on — that of having a godparent or parent as a sponsor. On May 10, Anna Trinchini and Tracy Stuver added to this tradition when they had their fathers, Anthony and Robert, respectively, as sponsors for their confirmation at Guardian Angels.

St. Philip Neri

The St. Philip Neri Womens Club will hold its annual May Queen Celebration this evening beginning at 7:45. This year's May Queen is Mary D'Annunzio. The public is invited. Following the celebration, which takes place in the church on Clifford Avenue, Womens Club members will hold a meeting to select next year's officers.

St. Philip's will also be the site of the Red Cross Bloodmobile on Friday, May 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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