On the Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

Painful Encounter Remembered

Some time ago I was visiting a parishioner in a hospital. He was in a twobed room.



Before leaving stopped at he neighboring bed, where patient with a traditionally Catholic na-

nationality lay, surrounded by his wife, daughter, brother and three nephews. To me, a visit to a patient is incomplete unless I leave with him a little prayer card, or prayer book or parish bulletin or some such thing. It serves three purposes: it is a souvenir of the visit, a tangible token of interest in him, a memento for the relatives that their loved one is attended, and they are comforted by the fact.

This day I had some attractive Christmas folders so I gave one to the patient, a man about 60. It had a nice picture of the Infant on Mary's lap, and St. Joseph standing at their side. The outcome was stunning.

Fr. C.: Here's a nice picture of the Holy Family, with a message inside.

Wife: You Catholics adore graven images!

Now, St. Paul says, "Be angry and sin not." (Eph. 4:26) We should have indignation at injustice, meanness, lies and other iniquities. I was furious.

Fr. C., pointing a wrathful finger: That's a lie! That's a lie! And you people have been telling that lie for years. We do not adore images!

Wife: "You do. You make graven images and you adore them.

Fr. C.: Good heavens. Don't you have pictures of your parents and children hanging on the walls of your

Wife: Yes, but we don't kiss them.

Fr. C.(thinking he has the clincher, he turns to thirtyish daughter): Don't you kiss your husband?

Daughter: No.

Fr. C. Stands openmouthed, but silent, stunned.

Daughter(smiling): We're separated. Now that knocks that argument out, doesn't

The wife continues to hold, with all Witnesses of Jehovah and such like, the canard that Catholics worship graven images; but

the daughter, escorting no to the corridor, said, "We I'm glad to know that ye don't adore graven image.
After all, you do teach the religion, and you must know what you teach.'

Such an encounter leaves me limp with frustration These Witnesses and other such perversely misreprese it our Catholic Faith. Like tie graven images they tak about, they "have eyes, but see not; ears, but hear not" (Ps. 113-5) when it comes to our Faith and practices. Yet worse, in a way, is the misrepresentation of our Faith by Catholics whose lives misrepresent what we believe. Theirs is a "faith without good works. (James 2:22) The cheat, the unjust, the mean, the selfcentered, the greedy, the lustful, the jealous and envious, the resentful, the apathetic: all these, professing the Faith misrepresent it by their actions.

In the life of the Cure of Ars, by Henri Gheon, read that a Parisian athest went to the little village of Ars in France and watch St. John Vianney for seve days. He returned to Pa and said, "I have seen Galin a man." We thank Gid we have this beautiful representation of religion in our own day in Mother Teresa of Calcutta and her Sisters and Brothers, in our wonderful Pope John Paul II and in the thousands of unspectacular men and women and youngsters who love the Paith, practice it simply and represent it as reflecting Christ, the Lord.

Widowed Parents

A meeting for widowed parents will take place at 8:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 7, at St. Theodore's school hall on Spencerport Road. Widows and widowers are invited.



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Catholic Worker Forums

The documentary film Excuse Me America will be shown as the first event in a series of forums being sponsored this season by the Catholic Worker Community at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, 402 South

The forums will be held every second and fourth Friday of the month, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Excuse Me America, which features Dom Helder Camara, Dorothy Day and Cesar Chavez, will be shown on Sept. 14.

Other events in the series

Revitalization of the South Wedge, a discussion by Michael McKenzie and Jean Higgens of the South East Area Coalition, Sept. 28; Base Communities; United States and Latin America, a lecture by Jim O'Callahan of the national office of Clergy and Laity Concerned, Oct. 12; Bethany House: Service for Women with Women, a discussion by Sister Katie

Vaeth, Ms. Jean Jesserer, Ms. Linda Scibilia and Sister Noreen Graney, Oct. 26; Viegues, a documentary film on the effects of Pentagon targeting the island of Vieques outside of Puerto Rico, Nov. 9; Rights and Struggles of Farm Workers in Upstate, N.Y., a panel

Farmworker Organization, Nov. 78; Contemplation and Social Justice, a lecture by Wallis, editor of Sojourn magazine, Dec. 14.

Further information on any local Catholic Worker activity is available by calling (716) 232-3262.

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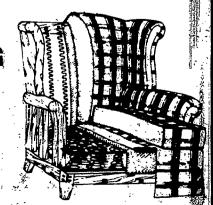
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toll free from Rochester 889-3440 to register. Licensed Salespersons Are Welcome!