

On the Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

Drink Is A Problem In Ireland

In 1974 our Courier tour of Ireland stayed overnight at Sligo, the habitat of the Irish poet, W. B. Yeats. It was First Friday so I slipped up to the nearby Cathedral wondering if the First Father Cuddy Friday devotion continued in Sligo. It does. While I sat in the back pew observing the congregation, an Ursuline nun dropped into the other end of the long pew. I slid over, introduced myself and enquired: "How goes Religious life in Ireland, Sister?" We had a 20-minute chat. Later I sent her a set of Abp. Sheen's conferences, which she shared with her 50 Sisters in their large convent, and with her sick and aged, since her work is social work, with the disadvantaged and the poor. Finally she gave the cassette set to a Sister who was returning to their Missions in Africa, and who curiously said: "These will be good for our priests in the Missions. They need inspiration." So on this October 1979 tour I phoned her from Galway. "Sister Vianney, I am in Galway with a group of 43 from the States. Tomorrow we leave for Knock where we will have Mass at the Shrine at 10 a. m. After this we will arrive at the Silver Swan Hotel in Sligo for lunch about 12:30 p.m. Could you have lunch with me there?"

About the appointed time, Sister Mary Vianney arrived, rosy cheeked, cheerful, energetic, serious, kind. She met many of our people who were charmed by her simplicity. She was still thrilling over the Holy Father whom she had seen at the Knock Shrine gathering. Then recalling her car from our last meeting, and remembering it was a clunker even then, and that she used it constantly to attend her poor and sick, I asked: "Sister, do you still have your old car?" I remember it was pretty well worn out last time we met." She smiled: "Well, it's older and more worn, but it still runs, and get me around. But it does give more trouble and costs more for repairs." Then beaming she continued: "God is good. This very morning I had a flat tire on the highway. I'm no good at changing tires, so as I was getting out, I said the Memorare to Our Blessed Mother that some man would come along and help me. Just as I got out of the car (Sisters wear the religious habit in Ireland) a man stopped: "Sister, let me change the tire for you." And he did.

"Then he told me: "I was away from the Church for 24 years. No Mass. No Sacraments. No confession or Holy Communion. A woman in my neighborhood who has no car asked me to drive her to Knock for the Pope's visit last week. I suppose she thought it might do me some good. Sister, I was so inspired by the Pope that I went to confession and Mass and Holy Communion. And I'm back where I belong. Before leaving the apostolic Sister I gave her a set of the latest

Abp. Sheen tapes, Seven Burdens of Life, saying: "This is about pain, suffering, loneliness. It will be a comfort to your people."

From Sligo we went to the most northern part of Donegal, Rosapena Golf Club. I invited the local pastor, Father Gallagher (pronounced 'Gallaher') to supper. Drink is a problem with many nationalities, and the Irish are toward the top as the Jews are at the bottom. I asked Father Gallagher if he had any explanation. He said "Irishmen work hard in foreign countries, England, America, but in Ireland they tend to softness." "Why?" "Probably because they have a strong sociable trait. One drops off at a pub where friends gather, and they talk and drink. The 'everyone treats' still grips them as a social necessity. So if six men gather, each has to stand treat to the other five. After six Guinesses, that's a lot of alcohol. Even if a man stops in for a quiet drink alone, he is pressured to join a gregarious group already gathered together. Also it's expensive."

After supper we followed the social custom and stopped at the bar lounge. An American couple were sipping stout. After introductions the husband exclaimed: "Father, we're visiting my nephew and his family. They are grand people, but they're Pioneers! We're so filled with tea that we came here for something stronger." Pioneers are total abstainers. They wear a small enamel Sacred Heart badge. When the emblem is seen, no one badgers them to have a drink. There are 100,000 Pioneers in Ireland. It would be better if the figure were two million.



Fashion Show

Models Marva Barrett, Larry Hoysic and Thelma Rhode will be part of the Kaleidoscope of Fashion, the Women's Dental Auxiliary to the Seventh District Dental Society of the State of New York's fashion show-fund raiser. Proceeds from the event, slated for Thursday, Nov. 15 at the Gettysburg Crossroads Holiday Inn, will be used for a dental student scholarship. Tickets are available at Sibley's and may be charged on a store account, or may be reserved by calling Mrs. L. J. Giangreco, 482-6060

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Have someone who eats alone join your family for turkey and all the trimmings.

Better yet, feed someone who needs food.

There are millions of people in the world who have hollow eyes and swollen stomachs because they have no food.

We don't see them because they are overseas.

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Assumption Church in Muplyam, India, is over 60 years old. The front has collapsed. A new wing is needed to accommodate new parishioners who are mostly poor mountain folk who must work hard and long for their meager wages. Only \$4,000 will provide all the necessary repairs and additions.

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