COURIER-JOURNAL

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

On the Right Side

Anniversarv **Celebrations** Described

St. Bernard's Seminary class of 1940 is extraordinary, both in number - 18 - and quality. Recently I attended two anniversary 40th celebrations. St. Mary's parish, Waterloo, planned a celebration for Fr. Albert Shamon with the secrecy of the CIA and executed it with polish, in liturgy, music, arrangements. The Mass at 4:30 Saturday, May 17, brought a happy celebrant with his family and friends gathered to rejoice with him. By fate's irony, Bishop McCafferty was to have been homilist -God decided otherwise. So twin brother, Father Ed Shamon, took his place.

Father Edward Shamon was a vivacious priest of deep devotion to the Church, a dynamic man of strong convictions. His homily combined his firm convictions, his affection for his family and friends, and a humor reflecting his cousin, Danny Thomas. At the finale, the congregation burst into applause. With a broad smile, he took off his ever-present biretta, upswept his preaching cape, and like Fulton Sheen, bowed as the congregation thundered an ovation.

With this happy background, 650 people jammed into the Waterloo Holiday Inn reception hall. At 7:30, toastmaster Bob Blake welcomed all. Father Ed said Grace. The fruit cocktail was consumed. Suddenly Fr. Ed, at the head table, gasped and was stifled from a heart attack. One priest gave absolution. Another anointed him. Doctors Li and Smith of Waterloo, both guests, rushed forward to care for him. The Waterloo ambulance took him to Taylor-Brown Hospital. The shocked family and Father Doell, the associate, followed. The stunned gathering was calmed by the careful words of Mr. Blake. Fr. Heindl led in prayer, and suggested all proceed with linner. In half an hour a

thief in the night"? What a blessed death!

The next day, Sunday, was the anniversary Mass for Father Joseph F. Hogan of St. Vincent's, Corning. From years as chaplain at Notre Dame High Schooi, Elmira, Fr. H. remains the spiritual father for hundreds of graduates, and the godfather of dozens of Sisters of Mercy who taught there. St. Vincent's choir was at its finest. The K. of C., plumed and sabred,

added glamor. The patriarchal Fr. Thomas final sermon on the reality of death, which "comes like a

Wednesday, June 4, 1980

Brennan gave the homily. It was an object lesson in construction, substance, exposition, diction and unction. He spoke briefly on the virtues of Fr. Hogan. He spoke extensively and wonderfully on the virtues of the priesthood. It was so good I have invited him to give the same homily, with a few alterations for the occasion, at my own funeral Mass.

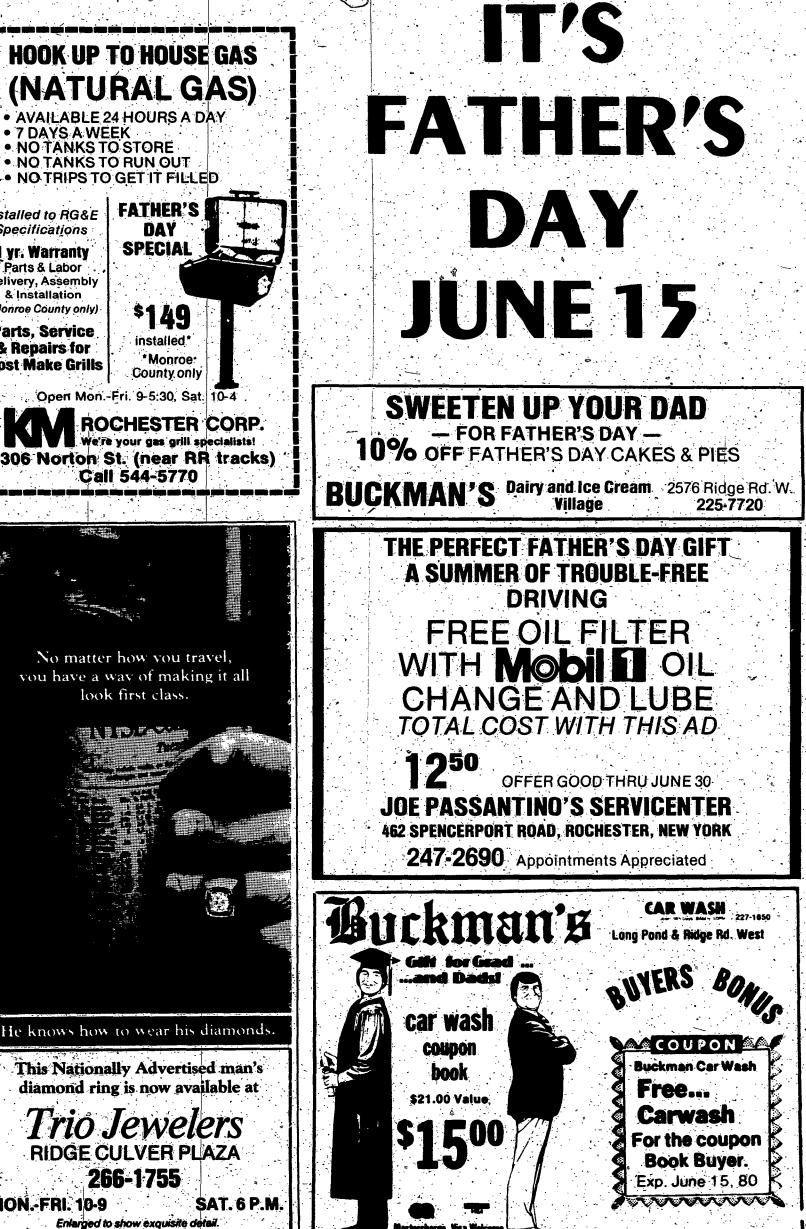
> After Mass, a group of relatives, neighboring priests

and Sisters, and the homemakers, Mary and Margaret Crane, had dinner at the Lodge on the Green, where Fr. Michael Hogan kept spirits high as Master of Ceremonies. Then a large reception was held in the parish hall.

Fulton Sheen, in his cassette talk on The Rosary, said: "As the Church ceases to be holy, it loses the love of the Blessed Mother. And the more we return to the love of the Blessed Mother, the more we love the Church." I have noticed that all the

priests of 1940 share a deep love of the Blessed Mother. At Father Shamon's Mass, during the meditation after Communion, a beautiful "Ave, Maria" floated from the choir loft and the heart of the celebrant, reminding all that Christ is also the Son of Mary. At the end of his Mass, Father Hogan walked alone to the shrine of Mary and knelt before her image as the choir sang: "On this day, O beautiful Mother, On this day we give Thee our love." God be praised for all the fine - priests in our diocese.

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beautiful! How many

persons have the privilege of

departing this world with all

the family gathered around?

Not only the family, but dozens of friends? How

many are so spiritually prepared? How many priests

could give so unplanned a

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phone call came: "Father Edward Shamon has died." Tears, prayers, sorrow. The gajety of the dinner turned into a somber compassion for all the family. Bishop Clark and Father Latus drove from confirmation in Phelos to the Waterloo rectory at 10 p.m. to comfort the family.

In retrospect, how

Dav Camp

Camp SSJ, a day camp for children between the ages of 6 and 11, is accepting. registrations for its summer program. The camp, located on the grounds of the Sisters. of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Pittsford, features programs of swimming, games, sports, arts and crafts and nature study. The season runs from July 7 through August 1. The camp is non-denominational and is professionally staffed. Further information and registration forms are available from Sister Pam Gabryel, SSJ, 453-3443.

