

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Prayer For Parents

Last June a thirtyish matron dashed into the sacristy after Mass, with a Paluch Sunday missalette in her hand. With a combination of humor, frustration and hope, she smiled, "Father, could I keep this missalette to take home with me? There's a prayer for parents on the back, and I think it was written just for me."

I know the matron and her fine husband and lively, lovable children, and could well imagine the little tugs of war that carry on in every normal family of growing children. So I replied, "Cheer up. That prayer wasn't written just for you. It was written for parents of about any normal family. Take it along." In the course of years, a little poem or prayer or saying in this column just seems to hit the needs of many people. This I think will be especially appreciated.

Parents' Prayer

"Most loving Father, the example of parenthood, you have entrusted our children to us to bring them up for you and to prepare them for everlasting life. Assist us with your grace, that we may fulfill this sacred duty with competence and love. Teach us what to give and what to withhold. Show us when to reprove, when to praise and when to be silent. Make us gentle and considerate yet firm and watchful. Keep us from the weakness of indulgence and the excess of severity.

"Give us the courage to be disliked sometimes by our children, when we must do necessary things which are displeasing in their eyes. Give us the imagination to enter their world in order to understand and guide them. Grant us all the virtues we need to lead them by word and example in the ways of wisdom and piety. One day, with them, may be enter into the joys of our true and lasting home with you in heaven. Amen."

Recently I met a man in a hospital as we both waited for the elevator. He said with much earnestness, "Father, what has happened to the country? Everyone seems so self-centered. Their whole orbit revolves around themselves." I listened with sympathy. This has been my own observation. This self-centeredness pervades our whole society. Professor James Hitchcock has a pertinent article on self-centeredness in "The New Covenant," a good

charismatic Catholic monthly. The article, entitled, "The Imperial Self," has a picture of a young man, with a crown on his head, preening before a mirror in self-admiration. Hitchcock writes, "Something has happened with a cluster of attitudes prevalent in our society that can be legitimately termed neopagan. Twenty years ago when the residual Christianity of our culture was strong, people were shocked by manifestations of even mild forms of hedonism and irreligion. The popular media and the schools, to cite two major institutions, treated traditional moral and religious values with respect.

"Today more blatantly offensive material appears on television in a single week than used to appear in a whole year. Yet people have given up being shocked. In brief, the problem is the willingness to take the self as the ultimate arbiter of right and wrong, truth and falsehood. Whatever seems good to me, or for me, is given sacred status. 'If it feels good, do it' has become the working philosophy of millions in the West. A kind of revolution has occurred without people even being aware that it has happened."

If parents wonder that "children are different than when we were young," they must remember the bombardment to alter the minds and values of their children, and their own, in an all-pervasive atmosphere: from TV, magazines, movies, advertisements, to pander to ignoble desires. Even some purported "spiritual" books and directors have been advocating "self-fulfillment" at the expense of the Will of God as taught by the Church for 2,000 years, and as practiced by the saints.

I took the name and address of the man at the elevator, and promised to send him the article on "The Imperial Self," which gives an explanation of the dreadful self-fulfillment complex all about us. And the next day, I ordered 20 more copies of that edition of "The New Covenant" to give to many puzzled and worried people.

Msgr. Whalen to Be Honored At Aug. 3 Birthday Party

A birthday celebration in honor of Msgr. Leslie G. Whalen, who is retiring as pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish, has been scheduled in the school hall after the noon Mass, from 1 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 3.

Msgr. Whalen will be 68 on Aug. 2 and has been instrumental in many parish and community events during the more than 22 years he served in the Brighton pastorate.

This involvement included

Novice

Barbara Tomasso, daughter of Angelo Tomasso and the late Assunta Tomasso of Holy Family Parish, has been formally received into the novitiate for the Sisters of St. Joseph. The graduate of Nazareth Academy and Eisenhower College has for the past two years taught history at St. Agnes High School. Sister Barbara's novitiate will last one or two years.

construction of the present church in 1964, successful consolidation of Lourdes and Our Lady Queen of Peace schools in 1972, member of the Advisory Board of the Brighton Youth Agency; and the 1980 Brighton Rotary

Club Citizen of the Year.

The parish birthday celebration is sponsored by the Parish Council under the President Gene Messner. All of his friends are invited to the celebration.

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Puzzle on Page 14
PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR SUNDAY, JULY 27, 1980
 I. 1. Luke 2. disciples 3. walk 4. yodel 5. fancy 6. sound 7. donkey 8. knit 9. win 10. AEIOU 11. donkey 12. roan
 Key Passages I. Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and it opens to you.
 II. The Lord said: "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great, and their sin so grave, that I must go down and see whether or not their actions fully correspond to the cry against them that comes to me; I mean to find out."
 III. In baptism you were not only buried with him but also raised to life with him because you believed in the power of God who raised him from the dead.