

Fr. John Reedy



Looking for the Lord

Come to The Party

From time to time, I come across a thought, a statement, an image which seems to open a curtain on a whole new perspective.

This was my response to a brief story which contained a number of comments by

Archbishop Joseph Raya, of the Melkite Rite, now teaching in a seminary in New York State.

Speaking of our church, he said: "We're intellectual, which means we carry junk. We have to celebrate our religion. We've been too busy teaching and writing books. We teach, but we don't live."

"Ours is not a teaching religion," he said. "Ours is more like a wedding."

I'd love to sit down with him for a couple of hours to explore the thinking behind those comments. But, even standing alone, they have for me a ring of theological truth; they throw light on a lot of issues in the church today.

In its long history, Catholicism has struggled with all kinds of complex theological debates. Out of them have come precise formulations, intricate theological arguments, careful definitions of positions which the church proclaims, of others which it rejects.

This theological work is necessary for a church which sees itself as guided by the Spirit in the work of proclaiming and protecting the truth of Jesus.

It is also important in the development and refinement

of basic theological teachings.

But Jesus was not a Plato or Aristotle, setting up a school for his followers. He did not train them in precise formulations and detailed processes of thought.

Instead, as Archbishop Raya said, He proclaimed a vision of Good News; he called them to a celebration. He told them to spread the word and to invite everyone they met to join the party.

Theology can enlighten and guide our religious lives, but Christianity is not primarily an affirmation of theological propositions. Rather it is the living of our lives in the light of that continuing celebration which the Lord proclaimed.

The real attraction comes when a person recognizes the spirit of celebration in the lives of Christians. He sees a quality which would enrich his own life; he wants to join the party.

And when these people draw close, they discover that the center of the celebration is a person — a man who is also God. The meaning of the celebration is our absolute conviction that each of us — with all our grubby limitations — has dignity and worth because we are loved by God.

With that belief, there can be no ultimate failure, no final tragedy in our lives. And, by God! that's reason for an ongoing celebration.

Puppet Show

A puppet show will be featured at an open house for the Rochester Waldorf Nursery-Kindergarten, 33 Monica St. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both Aug. 23 and 30. The event includes stories, songs, games and the puppet show performances at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

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THANKS TO St. Jude for favors received. M.M.

THANKS to St. Joseph, St. Jude, Sacred Heart, Lady of Fatima. B.F.

WHEN you believe in God and the Saints no favor is too great. Thanks St. Jude, Blessed Mother, Sacred Heart, St. Theresa, all the Saints and Angels in Heaven and Poor Souls. M.A.A.

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Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

A Letter From Canada

A good letter knits well bonds of friendship. Some letters bring joy; some anxiety for the person writing; some a bit of a puzzle. However, let me share with you, cum permissu, a beautiful letter from a student whom I taught in Canada 30 years ago.

"Thank you for your note, indeed, your many notes throughout the years. My letter, no doubt comes as a surprise after all these years... I must confess that though I have been active over the years and since Assumption I have not written many letters. This morning I've been up for three hours and the family is still sleeping. What better occasion for writing a letter to a long neglected friend.

"After graduation I worked in Windsor for a couple years — in a factory. I was only 20 years old and no competition for the veterans who deservedly got the jobs sought by graduates. At any rate, those two years allowed me to think about what I wanted to do with my life. I decided on a teaching career and attended Ontario College of Education in 1952-53 to qualify. In Toronto I boarded at St. Michael's College and naturally felt quite at home in another Basilian institution. Another Assumption grad, Tino Baggio, was also in attendance. I had not seen Tino for two years and was surprised that he too, after laboring for two years, wound up at the same place with the same goal in mind. You may remember Tino — a food football player and a guy who makes every situation, brighter by his cheerful presence. My first and only teaching situation was in Z. I came here intending to stay for one year and get some experience before returning to Windsor. Well, I'm still here and I like it better than ever.

In 1956 I married a wonderful girl, D.X., a nurse

whose family lived in Kingston. She was working for the Victorian Order of Nurses. Her job involved providing nursing services for shut-ins, new mothers, diabetic sufferers, etc. We have two children, Theresa who is now 22, and Paul who is 20. Theresa is somewhat handicapped, but a delightful girl. Paul is attending St. Michael's College in Toronto. Last year he attended X College but was disappointed with it as a Catholic college — not academically but with respect to the standard of behavior which was tacitly accepted. He did discuss his dismay with the chaplains who agreed but who didn't feel much could be done, and with the Registrar, who at first was annoyed. After successfully completing his year he wrote the President of X explaining why he was not returning. He sent a copy to the Bishop who is Honorary Chancellor and copies to the Registrar and chaplains. The bishop called a meeting where things were threshed out. Paul received a nice letter from the college president. At any rate, his action may have done some good.

"I have tried to keep active and have served, in quite a few organizations, including Grand Knight of the K. of C., president of Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation, Mentally Retarded Board, Library Board, etc., and have taken courses and was awarded an M.A. in history by Syracuse University. I have often thought of driving to Rochester but never have as yet. Maybe some day I'll surprise you by a visit."

"P.S. Your Marriage Encounter Group from Rochester deserves credit for launching the movement in the Kingston diocese. We made it, and it was really great."

Isn't that letter an inspiration, and a reminder that there are plenty of fine men and women who live their faith ardently, and are happy in their vocations both as parents and as citizens in the civic realm?

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