

Strazzabosco New CYO Head

Joyce M. Strazzabosco has been named director of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), according to an announcement by CYO Board President William F. Schmitz.

Strazzabosco has been acting director since the resignation June 30 of Thomas C. Cotterill, who took a post with the Archdiocese of Denver.

A graduate of Eastridge High School and SUNY at Binghamton, Strazzabosco joined the CYO in 1975 as program coordinator. In 1977 she was named program development director.

She is president of the National Panel of American Women and a former field director and volunteer trainer for the Girl Scouts of the Genesee Valley.



MS STRAZZABOSCO



Scout Award

The Webelos at St. Rita's School, Webster, recently received the Parvuli Dei (Child of God) award for their scouting achievements. Shown here (front row from left) are Danny Horsey, Larry Petrelli, Ted Stahl, John Serio, Bob Blickwede and Dan Robinson. Second row Jim Heidorn, Theron Wiggins, Mike Geraghty, Al Valle, John Gisel and Andy Gallo. Back row are George Blickwede, scout leader; Father James Burke, copastor of St. Rita's; and Brad Gisel, scout leader.

Sarah Child



All in the Family

Hounding The Hound

I was on my way to work recently when a sign in front of a Protestant church caused me to do a double take. The title of the following Sunday's homily read, "Twisting the Lord's Arm." I was puzzled for a second, then laughed out loud in recognition.

The first time I ever heard of putting pressure on the Lord some 10 or 12 years ago I gasped at the audacity of it: A visiting priest who came to help out every so often was on the altar. Tall, dark-haired and generally aloof, he was not one to inspire any great rapport with the congregation.

Then he began to speak. I can't remember much of it. In fact, only one line. "Trust in the Lord so implicitly," he said in his dry, toneless voice, "that you force him to answer your prayers."

Putting pressure on a human being I knew was risky. Putting it on the Almighty had to be a fatal error.

Subconsciously I must have been waiting for him to be struck down in the pulpit. But, no, when I looked up, there he was beginning the Creed in the same toneless voice.

Over the years I've thought of that homilist more, times than I can remember and for various reasons.

It gives me a strange kind of pleasure to realize that the Lord frequently sees fit to deliver certain truths via people or incidents we don't find particularly engaging. It has something to do, I suppose, with keeping us receptive — and humble.

I also thought of that brusque mannered priest every time I came across a couple of direct communiques in the Gospels: on the virtue of persistence in prayer, the other on how to handle "mountains," i.e. Arise and hurl thyself into the sea (Mark 11:23).

I came to realize that far from being cheeky, "twisting the Lord's arm" is not only acceptable, but invited. I practice it daily, as I'm sure a lot of others do, all of us calling it by different names. In my case, it's known as hounding the Hound of heaven.

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