



Cardinal Mooney students, parents and faculty offer their theatrical expertise in presenting the 1980 Follies. Opening night is Friday, Nov. 14 with an 8 p.m. performance. A Dinner Theater is scheduled, beginning with a social hour at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 15. A 2 p.m. matinee is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 16. There are 8 p.m. performances on Nov. 21 and 22. Tickets for all the performances (except dinner theater at \$25) are \$3.

Cardinal Mooney Readies Annual Theater Production

It's that time of year for the Cardinal Mooney Follies: The 1980 version, according to a news release, is a salute to the movies, from the "Jazz Singer" to the "Muppet Show". Second half will present a taste of Broadway

now with selections from "Chorus Line", "Company", and "The Wiz".

Opening night is Friday, Nov. 14 with a performance at 8 p.m. (tickets \$3). On Saturday, Nov. 15 there is a

special Dinner Theatre beginning at 5 p.m. with cocktails at 5:30, dinner at 6:30 and curtain time at 8 p.m. There will be a cabaret afterwards with cash bar and music by the "Father's", (tickets are \$25 per couple). On Sunday, Nov. 16, there will be a matinee performance at 2 p.m. with tickets at \$3.

On the following weekend, Nov. 21-22, performances will be at 8 p.m. each evening (tickets \$3).

Organ Recital

A Wurlitzer pipe organ recital will be presented at the Auditorium on Friday, Nov. 21 starting at 8:15 p.m. The concert, sponsored by the

Rochester Theater Organ Society, will be performed by Lance Luce. For ticket information call 482-1136 or 544-6595.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Sermons

About fifty years ago a new priest in Auburn gave the sermon at the Christmas Midnight Mass. He preached for a whole hour. Catholic people 50 years ago were more docile than today, and were more amused than annoyed. The young priest was horrified as well as mortified, and he told friends: "It was awful: I was like an airplane trying to find a landing and couldn't find one." To me, the pulpit is a terribly inadequate vehicle, to instruct and inspire, especially because it requires a monologue. Many times people need clarification of what we priests say, or sometimes even rebutted when we go off halfcocked with some personal hang-up rather than giving the teaching of the Church. However, the Sunday homily is what we have in the Mass rite, and we should use it to best advantage for the benefit of our people. Msgr. Hartley, who taught us homiletics at St. Bernard's Seminary, reminded us often: "The purpose of the sermon is to encourage people to take one step forward in the spiritual life."

In the past 20 years, the parish bulletin has become a great instrument not only of information but of instruction, and most parishes use it well. One of the best is "The Patrician" in Seneca Falls, edited by Father Michael Conboy, one-time secretary to Bishop Hogan, and a man with a vast sense of humor. He has a column entitled "Pastorized," which he wisely copied from his former pastor, Father Heisel. In the Oct. 25 bulletin he has a wonderfully funny and wise article on preaching, which he got from the tempestuous Father Andrew Greeley. And this is how it goes.

How To Improve A 10-Minute Homily.

Did you ever hear the story about the Canon's bitch? His female dog, of course. Canon McGonigle of a certain parish in West of Ireland had a reputation for long-winded sermons which was distinguished even in that highly verbal part of the world. One Sunday, after he had gone through his unusually brief one-minute opening, he astonished his congregation by announcing that he would have to conclude because the rest of

the manuscript had been destroyed just before Mass, consumed by his bitch. The pet dog had eaten the manuscript for breakfast. After Mass a young man approached the Canon and congratulated him on the fine Mass and sermon.

"You'd be a stranger hereabouts, wouldn't you, son?" said the Canon politely.

"I would," said the young man, with the typical Irish willingness to give detailed answers.

"And where would you be from, young man?" persisted the Canon, as only the Irish clergy can persist.

"I'm over from Ballyna way," said the stranger.

"Ah, that's Canon O'Toole's parish, is it not? A wondrous fine preacher the Canon is."

"Indeed that he is," said the visitor with a characteristically long Irish sigh. Then there was a significant pause, and he added: "Tell me, your Reverence, does that bitch of yours have any puppies?"

Father Conboy continued: "Oh, yes! Greeley mentioned four qualities essential to a good homily: wit, pertinence, disconcerting power, and brevity." I wonder what length of time should a sermon or homily have, according to the consensus of parishioners, and I further wonder why they so conclude.

Mass. Court Throws Out Death Penalty Statute

Boston (RNS) — The Massachusetts Supreme Court has thrown out a death penalty law saying it violates the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment and discriminates against racial minority groups, "particularly blacks."

The judicial panel ruled 6-1 in a sharply worded opinion charging that the 1979 state law was "impermissibly cruel" punishment that "brutalizes the state which imposes it."

The justices found the law in violation of the state constitution because, among other things, it is "a denial of the executed person's humanity, and a denial of all his rights."

A similar law in Alabama was also struck down in October by the U.S. Court of Appeals. However, California's capital punish-

ment was upheld recently by that state's high court.

No one has been executed by the State of Massachusetts since 1947 and no one is on death row now. But if the 1979 law were allowed to stand, four men could have been sentenced to death if convicted in current trials.

Justice Edward F. Hennessy, who wrote the court's opinion, said blacks convicted of murdering whites were

sentenced to death more frequently than whites found guilty of murdering blacks.

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