

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Sheen Autobiography

What do you think of Archbishop Sheen's autobiography?

Some wag asked: "Is that the one written before he died?" The title is "Treasure in Clay." He begins: "Clay has to be molded, and that is done primarily in the family, which is more sacred than the state. The determining mold of early life was the decision of my parents that each of their children should be well educated. This resolve was born not of their own education, but their lack of it. My father never went beyond the third grade because his father felt he was needed on the farm. My mother had no more than an eighth grade education when there was one teacher for all grades." I thought of this recently when there was a big noise made against the Rochester Board of Education by a noisy few. Why? They were protesting the decision of the Board that athletes must have at least a C average. Most people seem to agree that in not insisting on a decent academic standard, the students as well as the taxpayers are cheated. The work of the school is to produce literate men and women with a sense of responsibility.

"Treasure in Clay" is expensive, \$15.95, but it is quality: hardbound maroon cover, well bound, good print on 366 pages.

But what about the contents?

When I think of religious autobiography I think first of Cardinal Newman's "Apologia." This is a great book: closely reasoned, detailed, tense, unfolding Newman's mental and psychological states which led him under God's grace to enter the Roman Catholic Church. I am glad that Archbishop Sheen did not write in that style because few would read him. The autobiography is really a collection of anecdotes, with some pithy observations intertwined by which he unfolds his fruitful life. It is easy reading. To those who knew the the archbishop well, his chapter on his years in Rochester makes for interesting speculation. They were not happy years for him. His brilliant mind was frustrated because his sometimes meteoric proposals were often countered by more pragmatic priests and laymen. Visionaries are not always sensitive to practical realities. His greatest solace was his secretary, Father Michael Hogan, now rector of St. Mary's Church, Corning. His humor, loyalty, spontaneity and piety gave the archbishop a daily dose of courage.

Can you summarize the book?

In his chapter on Retreats, Archbishop Sheen summarized the different ways he served Christ and

Teachers Relax Under Old Roofs

The Social Committee of the Nazareth Academy Faculty is trying something different this year, according to school sources. Carol Gillis and Sister Maria Elena, committee members, planned and coordinated faculty get-togethers outside of the school. In October it was a "Halloween Howl" held in the Music House. After refreshments, teachers were treated to a tour of the 130-year-old house which included a trip to the cupola for a panoramic view of the neighborhood.

At Thanksgiving it was a "Pilgrims and Pumpkins" party in the 100-year-old Home Economics building. Next on the agenda is a Christmas social scheduled at the Immaculate Conception Convent in the historic Cornhill section.

To brighten up the winter doldrums, a wine and cheese party is planned at the Nazareth convent and in the

spring there will be a "Faculty Cast" party after the school play at Mariangela Annucci's home in Greece. In June, the teachers will head for St. Thomas More for a picnic in the convent's backyard. Aside from the scheduled socials there will also be spontaneous get-togethers for the faculty throughout the year.



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