

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

### Christmas Letter from Far West

"From the bottom of my heart I thank you for that beautiful Christmas letter. It is the single most beautiful thing I have received. I will soon write and send you a booklet, 'Pope John Paul II and American Catholicism,' by Dr. James Hitchcock. My physical condition is still not great. Lots of pain. Beginning to see a little daylight the past week. About 20 years ago, the doctors finally found the cause. It goes back to birth — surgery twice on the colon. Can't operate again. Spine can't be operated on. Danger of paralysis.

"It's through the cross that God gave me the gift of the Catholic Faith, after a long, long search of reading everything I could get my hands on. I am grateful I became a Catholic when I did ... in 1959. Now it would be a confused condition to be in if a person read everything that's printed by the theologians (at least,

some of them). As to Mr. X, he said several times that you had not answered his letter. Some of the things in the Church he objects to are not really essential. I finally quit trying to protect him from abuses in the Church and told him he would just have to understand the teachings of the Church. (Gave him the 'Adult Catechism by Lawler-Wuerl-Lawler) and he can't afford to lose his soul just because some in the Church are going off the deep end. When I first received your Christmas letter I thought: 'I want to show this to Mr. X.' Then I thought, 'No, it would do him a lot of good if you sent it to him personally and possibly that beautiful 'Treasury of Prayers.' His children should be getting more of the Faith at home that they don't get at all at CCD. He agrees, but does nothing about it.

"This is getting to be a gabby letter. Your reference to Chesterton reminded me of a quotation of his I carry in my little zip coin purse. 'Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live, taking

the form of readiness to die.' I am enclosing a check. Please send me Archbishop Sheen's individual cassettes: (1) The Meaning of Suffering, (2) Prayer and Meditation, (3) Continuing Passion of Christ. I have everything you have sent me and when I can, I pass them on and loan my tapes. 'The Foundation of Sanctity' is a beautiful favorite. Would you select a tape for Mr. X? I know it is difficult for him and I want him to realize there is a priest he can identify with. May God bless you in your evangelization."

(signed) Mrs. N.  
 Comment: Mrs. N is in her fifties, afflicted with painful afflictions. She is acutely intelligent, widely educated, with deep Faith. She took her instructions from a fine Jesuit at the University of Seattle. Her Faith impels her to evangelization as well as devotion, a remarkable fact for a woman who is often prostrated for days in bed from debilitating sicknesses. Her concern for 42-year-old Mr. X should remind our Church revolutionists of the harm they have given by undermining the Faith in the Magisterial Church, and downgrading helpful practices and devotions. Note that she reads Prof. Hitchcock, who is probably the number one apologist for the Catholic Church in the States, clerical or lay.

the Archdiocese of Louisville. It is a spiritual, yet functional, calendar which gives suggested family activities, prayers, major feasts, ethnic saint days, and some family trivia. Use the ideas you like and substitute for those you don't. (For information write Family Ministries Office, 1941 Bishop Lane, No. 206, Louisville, Ky. 40218.) Cost is \$2.50; less in bulk. And enjoy what's left of January.

## January Workshop Deals With Family and Faith

Interest in sacrament preparation, stimulated by the recent sacrament study in the diocese and the forthcoming guidelines, will be served by the workshop, Family Religious Education: Focus on Family, which will be conducted by Joseph and Mercedes Iannone from the Center for Family Learning Teams, Inc. There will be two seminars: a general session Sunday, Jan. 18, 3-5 p.m. at St. Agnes High School for all interested in family enrichment in the parish; and a workshop session, Sunday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m. to Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the Notre Dame Retreat House, for religious educators and family ministers.

The workshops will focus on the family and how the parish can facilitate the family's growth in faith. The Iannones were collaborators with Christiane Brusselmans

in adapting the process of Christian Initiation of Adults to the Family Learning Team concept. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the model not only for proper sacramental initiation but also for catechetical formation. The Iannones will help workshop participants reflect on how parish structures may

be adapted to support this process. This should be of interest to all who are in any way involved in sacramental initiation.

For registration forms or for additional information contact the Office of Religious Education, 328-3210. This is the last week to register.

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Talks With Parents

### Calendar '81

Early January is one of the best times of the year for the family because it's a respite from society. After a surfeit of programs, parties, and paraphernalia, everyone seems relieved to stay home and quietly catch up. The in word this year is stress and, because the family inherits most communicable conditions, the new phrase is family stress. I have a couple of suggestions for putting a little more, early-January time into the rest of the year.

First, it's time the family stops trying to fight the calendar alone. I've seen extremely successful ecumenical efforts in recent years in impacting community calendars. It works like this: The pastoral council or family life department of a church — frustrated at being unable to find any family time that isn't usurped by local sports activities, or organizations — contacts a few other churches who each contact a few more.

As a group, they meet with major leaders to discuss freeing one evening weekly for family/church activities. If the entire community agrees, it is overwhelmingly effective. It benefits all. Churches and families get an evening to call their own while organizations benefit because they aren't continually coping with the frustration of having one or two participants unable to attend because of church activities. If everyone in the community has church activity the same evening, the rest of the organizations lose only one evening, not parts of five.

I'd like to see the idea extended to one weekend

per month as well. Pastoral teams tear their hair in frustration trying to find one weekend free for a renewal, a family retreat, or a conference. Aside from the obvious — that the family forego a few Saturday games — a free weekend every month is a good answer.

Next, I suggest that families start learning how to get control of the calendar. Buy a long-range wall calendar and individual monthly calendars, one for each member of the family who can write. Put the wall calendar (available for about \$3 at stationery shops) on a wall near the center of family life. Mark school, holiday, and vacation dates. Then add predictable periods of chaos like "Getting ready for vacation," "final exam time" and "May end-of-school activities." One of our problems is that we agree to things far in advance, forgetting what else might be going on. A quick glance at the calendar prevents this.

To insure family time together, bring out your individual calendars on Sunday evening and go over the ensuing week together. Who has to be where when? Are there going to be days on end when family life consists of passing notes? If so, can anybody change any appointments so there can be some family meals together?

Finally, consider investing in one of the many good family calendars put out by church publishers, marriage enrichment groups, or diocesan family life departments. One of the better ones is The Family Calendar '81 put out by the Family Ministries Office of

### Cleric Gets New Post

The Pastoral Office this week announced that Father Laurence Tracy will serve four days a week as assistant to the Director of Social Ministries in community affairs. In addition, Father Tracy will engage in pastoral work two days a week at St. Francis De Sales Parish, Geneva.

St. Charles Borromeo

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