

Ralph Martin To Speak Here

Ralph Martin, internationally known lay leader in the Catholic charismatic renewal, will speak in Rochester Feb. 6 and 7.

Martin's first appearance will be at an 8 p.m. First Friday Mass at St. Lawrence Church, 1000 North Greece Rd.

He will address a Day of Renewal Saturday, Feb. 7.

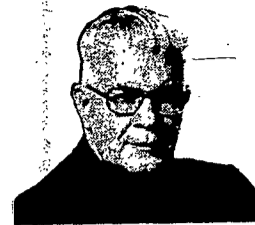
Mercy High School. That day, sponsored by the diocesan Charismatic Renewal Office, will begin at 9 a.m. and close at 4:30 p.m. Participants have been asked to bring their own lunches; beverages will be provided.

Martin is a leader in the Word of God, an ecumenical Christian community, in Ann Arbor, Mich., where he lives with his wife and four children.



MARTIN

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Victims of Crime

Why don't you ever write about punishing criminals?

Crime and criminals make a complex study, and no one seems to have sure answers. I think G. Gordon Liddy would be a good man for prison reform. On a Dick Cavett Show, Liddy discussed his book, "Will" (will-power), and in an off-hand remark, said he had some good ideas on prison reform. Here was a highly educated, brilliant lawyer who became a legally convicted felon. He was in prison for a long time, with felons, muggers, dopers, rapists, thieves, and the like.

Yet he established a valid rapport with many of them, and was trusted by criminals who rarely trusted anyone. The fact that prison officials did not or could not control some dreadful conditions, including the raping of a naive Quaker by 40 prisoners, indicates that Liddy could be a boon both to prisoners and to the civic community.

But why not give criminals their just deserts?

It's terribly complex, as anyone who sits for a day in court will testify. While I appreciate the work of our diocesan Jail Ministry, I wish there were a parallel ministry for the victims of criminals. The whole country has fumed and worried about the hostages in Iran, but should we not be equally worried about the thousands of people who are quasi-hostages in their own homes?

Columnist Bill O'Brien

wrote an article in the Jan. 18 Rochester D&C, entitled, "Crime strikes the elderly. Prisoners in their own homes." He unfolds the constant fear of old people who are practically imprisoned in their own homes for fear of criminals.

He records an interview with Ruth Hausknecht, 71-year-old widow, who had deadbolt locks put on three doors last month. Mrs. Hausknecht said, "That constant danger is always on my mind." What a way to live! O'Brien reveals:

"Six women, all in their 70s, who live in Rochester, were injured. Four were raped." These poor people are genuine hostages of fear of criminals. Who ministers to them?

Does the diocese have a ministry to victims of criminals?

Not to my knowledge. There are helping groups (e.g., Bethany House for battered women in

Rochester) who do good work. But for victims of criminals, we have nothing comparable to the local Jail Ministry.

Do you know that New York State offers a somewhat ghoulish help to victims of criminals? I carry in my wallet a plastic card given me by the Auburn City of Police. It reads: "State of New York Victims Compensation Board." And it has two benefits offered by the state:

(1) Injured victims of crime or their dependents may recover medical treatment and reimbursement for loss of wages. (2) If death results from the criminal act, the victim's funeral expenses may be paid by the State.

I phoned the Rochester Victims Assistance Unit of the Rochester Police Department, and a nice Denise Clements informed me: "Families of crime victims may be eligible for up to \$1,500 for unreimbursed funeral expenses, and up to \$20,000 for dependence of the victim if he is the main support."

Our diocese has a ministry to those in jails. Perhaps a ministry could be established for those who are victims of criminals.

Charismatics Grow in Depth

By John Dash

The Catholic charismatic movement may be slowing down in its growth somewhat, but its communities are "growing in depth," the head of diocesan charismatic groups said last week.

Father James Connolly, SJ, coordinator of the diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office, said in an interview that "people are being asked to make a much deeper commitment," in the movement and that may account for some attrition in the numbers of practicing charismatics.

His confrere in the office, Richard Pelino of Taylor Instrument, said, "The call to depth is difficult to handle for a businessman because of his life-style and his mind-set." However, he said, once one dedicated "his life to the Lord, you start thinking with a new philosophy. The Bible becomes the operating manual of your life."

Once that happens, Pelino said, one's business experiences success, not necessarily in terms of "money but peace."

No exact figure-count exists of Catholic charismatics in the diocese, Father Connolly said. Worldwide they number around three million. There



FATHER CONNOLLY

are about 75 active Catholic prayer groups in this area, he said.

A short while back, Father Connolly said, diocesan charismatics were represented at the Pastoral Office level only by a liaison. Last summer, charismatics themselves decided to fund a central office and provide for the services of a full-time priest.

Father Connolly's title was changed from liaison to coordinator at that time. Since then charismatics have obtained space in the old St. Monica's School, have refurbished their quarters and have officially opened the office.



PELINO

Father Connolly, a Jesuit, became active in the diocesan charismatic community when he was assigned to the chaplain's office at Cornell University in 1977.

Pelino remarked that with Father Connolly's visibility among charismatics, "the people saw the need to financially support him, and to establish the office."

The office sponsors a number of programs. The agenda for the year, based on the theme "Harden not Your Hearts," will culminate in a several-days-long workshop for charismatic leaders in August.

The forthcoming visit by Ralph Martin is being sponsored by the office.

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