

Real to Reel Shows Church at Work

Text by John Dash
Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

Catholic viewers this week are being asked to evaluate the television program



Robert Shea, executive producer of Portable Channel.



Jeff Mead at the editing machine.

Real to Reel, now halfway through its broadcast season across the diocese. The evaluation takes the form of a questionnaire printed in this week's Courier-Journal on Pages 23 and 24.

The program, the first diocesan effort at mass telecommunications, began broadcast March 1 and will conclude on April 26 in Rochester.

Real to Reel is financed through the annual national Catholic Communications Collection, initiated by the U.S. bishops in 1979.

Father Louis Hohman, a member of the committee which developed Real to Reel, said the program is a combination of locally produced features and nationally produced segments, fitted together in the popular television magazine format.

"It's a new approach to religious broadcasting," Father Hohman said, "one which is in tune with the evangelizing mission of the Church because it reaches out and touches lots of people."

The nationally produced segments are purchased from DABAR, a Washington, D.C., agency which also receives funds from the collection.

In the diocese this season, Portable Channel, under the eye of Robert Shea, executive producer, produces the local materials in conjunction with members of the diocesan committee who act as co-producers and advisers.

The format generally follows the pattern of a brief introduction by Bishop Matthew H. Clark; a nationally produced segment on some aspect of Church life; the local feature: a brief segment called "Celebrations," which this year covers the sacraments; and sections featuring Eugene and Patricia DePrez as host and hostess.

The Rochester production company is a not-for-profit establishment, operating with some state funds to provide an educational resource here in the arts.

A recent segment they produced for Real to Reel on the handicapped required filming at five locations for four or five days and an additional four days of editing, Shea noted.

A large board in their offices on

University Avenue gives evidence of the company's team approach to its work. While Shea maintains overall all production responsibility, he is aided by several others at the production facilities, among them Douglas Clapp and Jeff Mead.

It is a feature of Portable Channel's work, Shea said, that the team does most of its work on location and avoids "intruding" on the scene it is filming, thus giving the persons on camera a greater sense of freedom and naturalness.

The company's cameras take half-inch video tape which is edited at the studio. That master tape is then taken to Channel

10's recording facilities and processed on standard three-quarter-inch tape for distribution to the cities in which Real to Reel is shown.

Throughout the production, Shea said, diocesan personnel provide assistance, from the selection of the program's theme through indicating important material that may be overlooked by technicians unfamiliar with the Church, to reviewing the product.

Real to Reel is shown at 10 a.m., Sunday, Channel 31, Rochester; noon, Saturday, Channel 9, Syracuse; 7 p.m., Monday, Channel 36, Elmira. Cable television viewers should consult Wednesday schedules for showing times.



Shea, right, and Mead recently spent a weekend filming the Frank Staropoli family at their home in Spencerport for the final show of the series.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

On the Right Side



Friendly Greetings

In the days of my youth, there was a coffee and tea store in Auburn called Rea's Tea Shop. How words change their meaning! Today a Tea Shop envisions a small, intimate shop, with small tables and booths, serving little sandwiches with tea and coffee. In those days of sixty years ago, Rea's Tea Shop sold only packaged tea, and coffee-ground-while-you-waited. No tea or coffee to drink were served. The aroma of those freshly ground coffee beans is fresh in the memory today. If you ever get to Dublin, Ireland; do stop at Bewley's Coffee Shop on Grafton Street. It is not a swanky place, but it has a wide assortment of packaged tea and fresh ground coffee. It has been in business for 130 years, and looks like an old fashioned apothecary shop. In a room off the store is a cafeteria which will seat about 90 people, and serves the best coffee in Ireland.

Anyway, the Rea Tea Shop was a family store, presided over by a round faced, ruddy, smiling Mr. Rea who greeted every customer with the unvarying salutation: "Isn't it a wonderful day?", unless it was a wretched one. If that were the case he would greet us with, "Isn't it a dark day?"

When I was in Clyde some years ago we had a buoyant Sister of Mercy, Sister Agnes Teresa, who always saw brightness even in utter darkness. One dismal mean morning I met her going over to St. John's school about 7:30. With enthusiasm she greeted me: "Good morning Father. Isn't it a glorious day!" Funny thing is that she believed it.

In my youthfulness I thought Mr. Rea's greeting pretty hackneyed. Years later I read an article by Archbishop Sheen which said: "When a person says 'How are you,' he is not inquiring about your health; He's just saying: 'I love

you.'" Then I understood what Mr. Rea of the tea and coffee store was really communicating. And that's what most people are communicating when we make what seems a trite greeting, but which is really quite beautiful.

With this thought, let me share a poem someone sent me last year called, "A Wish for Every Day."

It seems to me, there is no way/ in which I could address you/ with more sincerity of heart/ than just to say "God bless you."

My words could wish that all your cares/ would be a little lighter./ And I could send you greeting cards/ to make your hours brighter.

My heart could wish you every good/ and happiness in planning/ And I could promise you the depth/ of human understanding.

But I am sure no other thought/ or message would impress you/ as lovingly or lastingly/ as asking God to bless you.

And so I say "God Bless You" In every good endeavor/ And may His Mother show you Christ/ This day, and forever.

A Time To Celebrate Your Good Marriage

The Marriage Encounter Weekend

A time to share
What's a Marriage Encounter weekend all about? Basically, it's a 44-hour experience (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon) designed to give married couples the opportunity to celebrate their lives together. It's a time to share feelings, hopes, joys, frustrations and dreams. In a private atmosphere — away from all the tensions and distractions of everyday life.

A time to look at ourselves
What happens at a Marriage Encounter? A series of talks are given by a team of trained couples and a priest. Each talk gives a husband and wife an opportunity to look at

themselves as individuals. Then they examine their relationship together, and how to build on the love they already have.

A time for us to be alone
There is no group discussion. On a Marriage Encounter, you concentrate on your spouse to such an extent, that you're hardly aware of the other couples present. The presentations are given to the group as a whole. After each presentation the husband and wife have time in the privacy of their own room for their own personal sharing. Marriage Encounter is not a marriage clinic, a sensitivity session, or a retreat. It's unlike anything you may have heard about or experienced before.

A marriage encounter weekend is not something you need — It's something you deserve.
Up-coming weekends:
April 10-12;
May 1-3; 15-17;
June 5-7; 19-21
A \$15. registration fee is required to insure reservations. Couples are asked to make a contribution on the weekend. However, we do not want money to be the reason for any couple staying away from the Encounter. An anonymous blank envelope contribution is asked for on the weekend, and more details given then.

Make "a weekend."
You deserve it.

WE'RE READY TO GO: WEEKEND OF _____

When using this form to reserve a weekend, please enclose a check or money order in the amount of \$15.00, made out to Couple Power.

WE NEED MORE INFORMATION

Mail to Couple Power or call 663-1727 and we will send you a brochure.

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Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Wedding Date _____

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