

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

A Visit To Corning

Were you in Corning recently?

Yes. Father Joseph Hogan of St. Vincent's parish invited me to give a Lenten mini-retreat April 4-7. I am not hesitant about preaching because I am bursting to tell the world about Our Lord and His Church. But I temporized. "I'd like to, but I hesitate because you had me last year. Another year seems a bit much." Anyway we agreed, so I left Webster for an overnight in Auburn, then to Ithaca to visit Ann Tressy, sister of my classmate, the late Father John Tressy. She is convalescing at the family home, but rustled up a nice chicken dinner rather than go out to a restaurant. It gave us a chance to talk. Reported to Corning at 4 p.m. for the 5:30 p.m. Saturday evening Mass.

How did the retreat go?

Only God knows that, but many expressed satisfaction. But I was greatly pleased that so many told me they listen regularly to our "Magnify the Lord" radio program which is broadcast from Corning station WCLL. I

CELEBRATE LIFE

Celebrate Life, the Horsheds based musical group, will present Godspell on May 2 in Webster's Herbert W. Schroeder School on May 2. The event is being sponsored by the local Knights of Columbus youth group. Ticket reservations are made by calling Peter Latona, (716) 265-3922.

brought a load of Sheen tapes and religious books to give the people an opportunity to buy them.

Before Mass I met a beautiful young couple in their early 30s, with their daughter Ann. I asked: "Will you help me carry in a load of stuff from the car? I have a theory that people don't pay much attention to the pulpit, so I bring Sheen tapes and religious books. They can get the message surely that way." The husband said, "Oh, I don't think that's quite so. I think many people do listen." With a conciseness I admired the wife said: "I don't." Many people bought tapes, Treasury of Prayers, booklets, and Living the Catholic Faith Today, by Archbishop Whealon.

Are you still peddling Living the Catholic Faith Today?

With enthusiasm. I don't know any book which gives so simply and understandably, so much information about our practices and doctrines, and why we so practice and believe. Recently a young soldier from our parish, who is at Fort Belvoir, Va., was home on furlough. He got ten copies to bring back with him, saying: "We have a lot of fellows who don't know much about their religion. This will help." I gave him two of the 21 cassettes which Archbishop Sheen made at Hadden Heights: Youth and Sex, and Prayers and Meditation, as a bonus.

What else did you do in Corning?

I think our people need instruction, so the retreat

talks were instructions. Heard loads of confessions. One highlight occurred when Father Michael Hogan had the local clergy to St. Mary's to help with confessions for the Confirmation class Sunday at 5 p.m. He gave a nice spaghetti and meatball supper afterward. Fathers Joseph and Michael Hogan, Thomas Brennan, Robert Beligotti, Philip Billotte and Francis Davis were there. After supper Fathers Al Ryan and James O'Connell came in with a Passionist who was giving a mission in Bath. It was a happy event for all.

You like Corning, don't you?

Yes. St. Vincent's is like home to me. The priests are fraternal. The twin housekeepers, Mary and Margaret Crane, have made a vocation of service with devotion. During the retreat I was again impressed by the good music, the fine altar boys, the attendance and assistance at Mass, and the enthusiasm to get religious tapes and books. It is exactly 100 miles from Corning to Webster, so I stopped for a few minutes with Father Harold Rogers at Painted Post, soon to be retired. Then to Wayland and had coffee with Father Paul Schnacky, for a moment in Rush to greet Father Robert Kress and his 90-year-old housekeeper, Nellie Helmer. At 12:10 I was at the altar celebrating Mass at my home parish in Webster. It was a good weekend.

Any future engagements?

Yes. A tour of Ireland is set for May 11-21. The group is about 20 and the schedule is dandy, including Mass at the Shrine of Knock. Anyone who wishes to join us should sign up at once. This will be my ninth year escorting people for the tour and it has been a happiness every time. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.

People and Events Of the World and Nation

Concentration Camp 'Vacation' Offer Stirs up Protests

New York (RNS) — A "vacation" offered in a mock Nazi concentration camp in England has aroused protests in that country and in the United States.

Object of the complaints is the "Alternative Holiday Catalogue," which has brought the British Tourist Authority under fire. The catalogue says that for about \$70, "you can join the ranks of 40 paying prisoners of war at a chillingly realistic concentration camp complete with barbed wire, searchlights, watchtowers and 50 guards in SS uniforms."

Howard Stanislawski of the American Jewish Congress said the offer shows "total disregard for the sensitivities of the many millions of Jewish and non-Jewish victims of the Holocaust," and "demonstrates an attempt to capitalize upon and trivialize the most profound tragedy of our time."

Leading Bishops' Aide Opposes Administration Cuts in Legal Services

Washington (RNS) — An official of the U.S. Catholic Conference voiced opposition to Reagan administration efforts to eliminate legal services for the poor. Msgr. Francis J. Lally, USCC secretary for social development and world peace, told a congressional committee that ending the Legal Services Corporation would "suggest, in effect, that the protections and benefits of the law will only be available to those who can afford to pay."

Testifying before the Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties and the Administration of Justice, the priest also said that the USCC "cannot support the inclusion of abortion services or referrals or abortion advocacy in any program designed to help the poor."

Pontiff Undecided About Basque Trip When in Spain

Madrid (RNS) — Plans for a tour of Spain in October by Pope John Paul II are being delayed by uncertainty whether he should risk a visit to the Basque region.

The region in northern Spain is a hotbed of separatist sentiment, with the hard-line military wing of the Basque separatist organization, ETA, responsible for more than 110 political murders in recent months.

In early April, three Basque bishops issued a letter criticizing ETA, but also faulting the Madrid government for taking "repressive measures" that threatened the future of the region's home rule. Sources here said the question of the papal visit to the tense region was dominating talks between Spanish and Vatican officials.

Cardinal Expresses Distress at War In Lebanon

New York (RNS) — Cardinal Terence Cooke has sent a telegram to the two Eastern Rite Catholic patriarchs of Antioch to deplore the escalating conflict between Christians and Muslims in Lebanon.

The Archbishop of New York expressed distress at the "tragic situation." He said he "had called upon government leaders and those in a position of authority and trust to do everything in their power to mount a strong diplomatic effort to stop the bloodshed."

He added he had also asked for "continued prayers for the people of Lebanon that, freed from international interference, they may determine their own destiny and find reconciliation and peace."

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