

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Sane Views Of Church Problems

Don't you think the Church is going down the drain?

Father John Hayes of Aurora/Union Springs loaned me his two volumes on Cardinal Newman, by Wilfrid Ward, which I am re-reading with devotion. When Newman was 81, his friend Sister Maria Pia Giberne wrote enquiring after his health. He replied, "I am well, thank you, though infirm. I wish people would learn the difference between the two words." There is a parallel. The Church is well, but suffering from problems. If you read NCR, the anti-Catholic Catholic weekly, or Wanderer, the weekly dispenser of ecclesiastical gloom, one gets the impression the Church is in complete turmoil. I don't think so.

Why do you so conclude?

Recently I had lunch with two bright businessmen, concerned about the Church with a healthy devotion. One remarked thoughtfully, "I suppose when all is said and done, the liberals are agitating to turn the Church upside down. The conservatives want to keep things with no change. But most people aren't that concerned one way or another. They just go along

as they always have." I think there is truth in that.

Why? Well, take this example. Father Lou Vasile, associate at St. Lawrence Parish, Rochester, asked me to fill in for him Saturday and Sunday after Easter while he attended a conference in Nevada with his Auburnian mother. Anyone preparing to put out the crape for the demise of the Church should go there. Pastor Father John Murphy, a Genevan without guile, gave me an enthusiastic welcome and shared his people with me. Just to behold them from the sanctuary was breathtaking: bushels of beautiful babies and young children shepherded not just by mothers but also by evidently devoted fathers; loads of fine teenagers who participated in the Mass with zest. Last year the parish had 75 baptisms. This April 146 were confirmed. This May 101 youngsters received their First Communion. Three competent groups and an equally competent organist led the music for five Masses, and the people sang! I wonder if some of these family ties are there so strongly because there are many of Italian extraction who continue to preserve the solid Catholic culture in family tradition. The 9 a.m. Mass, under the egis of Sisters Roberta Rodenhouse and Diane Dennie, was a touching Family Mass, with special liturgy for the occasion.

What of the Church's future?

Only God knows that; but my conjecture is that God has given us a holy, brilliant and determined pope who has inherited great problems. John Paul will continue to meet them firmly. He receives hostility from some religious who work to fracture Catholic Faith and Unity into a theological pluralism which defies reason, logic and apostolic tradition.

However, the pope is receiving the cooperation of most bishops and priests and other religious. The media certainly make it clear he is greatly loved by the people, who, after all, are the Church. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit moves in the Church in many movements: cursillo, retreats, Marriage Encounter, youth seminars, Legion of Mary, authentic charismatic and Scripture groups, Parish R and R, Reverence for Life, and also in a developing evangelization. From these has come a great rejuvenation of soul. Also, in a recent feature on education, the weekly Newsweek reports that Catholic Schools, despite the exodus of many religious teachers and great financial burdens, are flourishing. And most of our Catholic schools are becoming more clearly and firmly Catholic after a few years of diluting the Faith. Of course, the Church suffers from many problems, but there are too many plusses to put out the crape. Better put out a great big bouquet of Mary's roses and proclaim to the world: "The Church preaches Christ and Him crucified. We love the Virgin Mother. We continue faithful to the traditions handed on to us by the Apostles. Come and join us, as we praise the Lord!"



New Columbian Squire Circle officers, from left, Tom Flaherty, chief squire; Dave Zimmerman, notary squire; Sammy Cassarino, deputy chief squire; John Bosco, sentry squire; Jeff Flaherty, Chuck Bauerschmidt, Scott Schwind, auditors; Mark Dillon, marshal squire. Missing from photo, Tom Schmitz, bursar squire.

Squires Hold Investiture

Twenty-three Catholic boys participated in their inaugural Columbian Squires investiture ceremony Sunday, April 26, in Christ the King parish hall, Irondequoit.

The Columbian Squires is the junior organization of the Knights of Columbus for Catholic boys, 12-17. Major activities include athletic, spiritual, social, civic-cultural and service to others. This new "Notre Dame" Columbian Squires Circle is sponsored by the Irondequoit Pope Pius XII Knights of Columbus Council, chief counsellor, Dr. Bob Bosco.

The investiture was conducted by a team of Squires from the Very Rev. James McNulty Circle of Kenmore.

Charter members of the new circle are Chuck Bauerschmidt, John Bosco, Rudy Cassarino, Sammy Cassarino, Mark Dillon, Jeff

Flaherty, Tom Flaherty, Jim Grabowski, Todd Greavier, David Grout, Robert Grout, Tom Galen, John Heeks, Jim McAlpin, Steve Sorbou, Tom Schmitz, Scott Schwind, Peter Veitch, Scott Veitch, Jim Visconti, Tom Wesley, Dan Zimmerman, Dave Zimmerman, Rich Augusto, Mike Mull, Frank Bauserman, and Jim Eckert.

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Centering on Service



Office of Pastoral Planning and Management/Diocesan Computer Center

The Office of Pastoral Planning and Management has several responsibilities — research, planning, data processing and finances. The office is located in the Support Ministries Division which provides information and assistance toward growth of ministries in the diocese.

The diocese leases a computer to be a resource and management tool for diocesan personnel, the Bishop's Office, department and division directors, parish staffs and parish council committees in assisting them in more effective utilization of their resources for ministry programs and pastoral activities.

In this article, the services provided by the computer center to the parishes will be highlighted.

One of the main services

NFP Class

A class in Natural Family Planning is scheduled for Saturday night, May 23, at St. James Hospital, Hornell. The \$40 fee includes three sessions and all materials.

Couples interested in registering are invited to call the Natural Family Planning office at (716) 464-8705.

of the computer is record keeping for parishes who have engaged in the Parish Information Program. The program was developed to answer the need expressed in the pastoral letter entitled "Directory on the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops." Recognizing the importance of each individual to the Church, it points out the need for the pastor, the parish staff and its committees to take the responsibility for knowing who their people are, where they live and what their needs are. The letter directs that a common and united apostolic program of the entire people of God, an "Apostolate of the ensemble," should be initiated in each parish for designing pastoral programs around people's needs.

In a very small parish where each family is well known by the parish staff, computer processed information may be unnecessary. But in a large, rapidly changing parish, information can be an indispensable resource. While trying to keep a file of census cards up to date could take hours of human labor, new computer technology for pastoral use provides immediate access to volumes of information which can be easily updated and delivered

in a variety of formats.

The Office of Pastoral Planning and Management has used the computer facilities to take the information gathered from the census program and has transformed statistics and information into unlimited possibilities. Committee chairpersons have instant access to prospective members; persons can be listed within categories of special need for person-to-person ministry; age graphs have provided an important planning resource and listings of persons who wish to share their talent with the parish are invaluable to community building. Parishes have found that they can further evangelization programs in many ways. One parish found 20 catechumens from a listing of families where one spouse was not baptized Catholic.

The Parish Information Program has been enhanced by the experiences gained from 70 parishes that we have done and by insights collected from other dioceses across the country.

Future goals for the Office of Pastoral Planning and Management include research into the feasibility of small computers or computer time sharing at the parish level.

The computer has enabled us to take a step in responding to the direction stated in the "Directory on the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops" — to use "technology in service in ministry."



Scouts Set For Softball Opener May 9

George Manning, above, district Cub Scout Slo-Pitch Softball chairman, has announced that the Cub Scouts of Great Northern District, B.S.A., Irondequoit, are scheduled to open the ninth annual softball league at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 9, at Bishop Kearney High School. A special seminar will take place before the first game featuring Don Fazio, ex-Rochester Red Wing star and now player-coach of the Rochester Express professional slo-pitch team. Also assisting will be Express stars Rich Brown, Pete Castle and John Warren.

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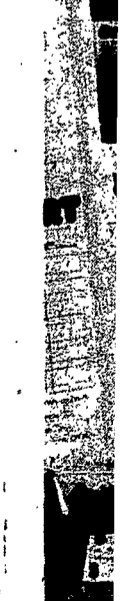
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