

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

At Elmira Correctional Facility

Father David Gramkee is the Catholic chaplain of Elmira Correctional Facility, once called Elmira Reformatory. He invited me to supply for him for the Masses of Saturday and Sunday, June 27-28. I was pleased with the opportunity. The facility has about 1,600 prisoners, convicted and sentenced. It is roughly divided into two sections. About 400 men from 16 to 21 come to the Reception Center from all over New York State for a period of two months to be tested in many ways: psychologically, educationally, intellectually. Their previous records, clean or repeaters, are considered. Then each prisoner is assigned to one of the state prisons — Auburn, Elmira, Attica, or the New York area. The prison is a forbidding-looking building. It stares like a brooding bastian, with barred windows, prison guards, and a bronze statue of two naked men near the entrance, modestly wearing a fig leaf each.

Mass was scheduled for 5 p.m. Saturday, so I reported to the Reception Center at

4:30. The Catholic chaplain's section has three persons: Father Gramkee, assistant chaplain Mike Stanley of Ithaca, and Auburnian Sister Josepha Twomey. Mike Stanley met me with a big welcome, introduced me to sundry guards, passed me through a half dozen clanging gates. Finally we reached the interdenominational chapel. Six young inmates were there to help as servers, lectors, sacristans. While waiting for the ingress of the congregation, I talked with the six. Forty-five percent of the inmates are registered as Catholics, but few know much about their faith. However, one of the six had spent 10 years in Catholic schools in New York. "How long have you been in the center?" "Just a couple of weeks. I was in jail in New York for nine months." "What did you do all that time?" "I did some work. Read dozens of books. Studied and got my high school equivalency diploma." "Good. You used your time well."

Soon the congregation was seated in the chapel, about 80 men. All between 16 and 21. All had fresh short hair cuts. They looked very much like the basic trainees I remember at Lackland Air Force Base, excepting their hair was long

enough to comb. Perhaps it was because of their likeness to the airmen of my memory that I felt an immediate affinity to these men, despite the fact that they were there for serious crimes. Holy Mass was much as in any parish. One inmate read the epistle in Spanish. Another the responsorial psalm in English. Each man had a missalette and followed the text carefully. They sang fairly well, led by Mike Stanley.

I wondered: "What does a priest say to a bunch of men living in an abnormal atmosphere of iron cages, regimentation, rigid discipline, probably carrying hostilities in their hearts?" Many are just "off the streets," a term which means a kind of aimless ramming around, jobless, feckless, spoiling for trouble, and part of a peer group sharing the same milieu. So I began: "The purpose of every sermon is to encourage people to take one step forward in a spiritual life. Tonight, I will teach you a new prayer. It has only 12 words, and it is called 'The Jesus Prayer.' It is greatly used by Eastern Christians: Russians, Ukrainians, Greeks. I want you to memorize it. Are you ready?" Then a pause. "Now this is it. 'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'" Repeating it again, I had the men repeat it three times. Then I proceeded to tell them a very funny joke which they got immediately. This broke the ice, and the talk flowed on to a discussion of heaven and hell, and the words of Jesus on the cross: "I thirst," was Christ's plea for our souls. These 80 men and a few guards listened more intently than those in a normal civilian parish. And many now have the "Jesus Prayer" in memory.

Deaths

Veronica O'Hern Carey

Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at St. Louis Church July 18 for Veronica O'Hern Carey, a member of the parish for more than 20 years. Mrs. Carey died July 15, 1981, at Strong Memorial Hospital.

Her cousin, Father Edward P. O'Hern, CSP, of Houston, Texas, was chief concelebrant at the rites, with Father John A. Reddington, pastor, and Father John Morgan, pastor of St. Gregory's, Marian. Family members who participated in the liturgy included Scott Bride, lector; Patricia and James Carey, gift bearers; and Robert Bride, eulogist. Virginia Guarino

Gritter, a close family friend, was the soloist.

Mrs. Carey was born in Olean and spent most of her childhood in Sharon, Pa. She graduated from Geneseo Normal School and began a teaching career at No. 28 School in Rochester. She married Dr. J. Henry Carey, DDS. The couple lived in Blessed Sacrament Parish, where she returned to teach for several years after she was widowed.

She is survived by two daughters, Jane, with whom she lived, and Noreen (Carey) Bride; two sons, William and John; several grandchildren, and a niece.

Dr. Thomas McNamara

Corning — Father Robert McNamara was celebrant and homilist at the Mass of Christian Burial for his brother, Dr. Thomas L. McNamara, Friday, July 17 at St. Patrick's Church here. Dr. McNamara died July 15, 1981, after a short illness.

The son of Dr. Thomas A. and Katherine Dwyer McNamara was born in Corning in 1888. He received his medical degree from Syracuse University 70 years ago, and after internship in New York he joined his father in general medical and obstetrical practice. During World War I he served in various U.S. military hospitals as a lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps.

Dr. McNamara was Corning city physician for several terms and was active in the management of Corning Hospital. In 1967 the hospital's medical staff

honored him for his half-century of service.

He was a member of St. Patrick's Church and of Corning Council Knights of Columbus; a life member of the Corning Lodge of Elks; a member of the American Legion, John P. Eaton Post; and a member of the Steuben County and New York State medical associations.

He is survived by his wife, Frieda Dibble McNamara; two sons, Thomas A. of Gasport, and Paul J. of New Milford, Pa.; two daughters, Katharine A. McNamara, wife of Richard Flaton of Evanston, Ill., and Susan Marie McNamara-TenEyck, wife of Dr. Raymond P. TenEyck of Ocean Springs, Miss.; eight grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Father McNamara is professor emeritus of St. Bernard's Seminary.

Polish Study Available

The Krakow-Rochester Sister Cities Committee plans to send two young people interested in Polish language, art, literature and history to study at Poland's Jagiellonian University next summer.

High school graduates of Polish descent are eligible to apply. Blanks are available at the Hudson Avenue Branch Library. Completed applications should be returned to John B. Stenclik, chairman of the Krakow-Rochester Committee, 92 Carol Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14617, no later than Aug. 15.

The committee will award two scholarships covering tuition and air fare for the 1982 Kosciuszko Foundation Summer Session. The six-week session covers topics such as Polish history, economics, literature, music, folk art and contemporary problems and includes Polish language instruction. The Jagiellonian is the birthplace of Copernicus' theories of astronomy.

Divorced Unit Plans Talk

The St. Charles Divorced Catholics Group has scheduled a rap session at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, in the St. Charles School Library, 3003 Dewey Ave.

Dorothy Williams will discuss the topic "Parents Are People, Too," which deals with topic of parents' and children's rights.

Further information is available from 225-9102.

At Your Parish . . .



Legion of Mary members from St. Thomas the Apostle Church staff a booth in front of the Irondequoit during recent community celebrations. Legionnaires distributed free copies of the Courier-Journal and displayed a typical meeting set-up. From left to right, legion members are Louise Herbert, Mary Murphy, Don Murphy, Don Foley and Jerry Coursey.



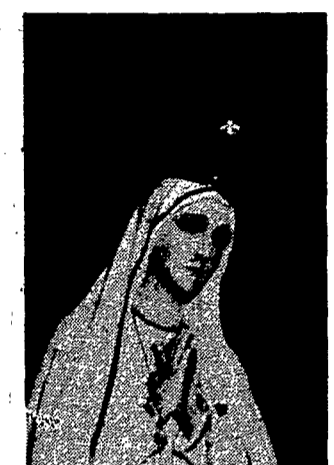
Parishioners of St. James Parish (left to right, top row), Dick Sinaglia, Leo Marcoux, Jim Fisolette, Bruce Migliore and Francis Calvaruso, (bottom row) Jean Sinaglia, Mary Jo Provenzano, Diane DeMarse and Linda LeBoo, are preparing for the annual parish picnic from 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday, August 2, at Ellison Park's Hazelwood Grove. Tickets are available at the rectory and participants are asked to bring a dish for the buffet.

St. John of Rochester

More than 100 children ranging in age from three to eleven attended a vacation church school program sponsored by St. John of Rochester. At the same time, Dr. Douglas Buffano of Genesee Hospital Mental Health staff led an adult discussion, "Parents are People Too."

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Human Development Committee of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 4536 St. Paul Blvd. will sponsor a blood drive from 2 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 30, in the school hall. Babysitting will be available from 2 to 4 p.m.



Words of Our Lady

Pray very much and make sacrifices for sinners, many souls go to Hell because they have nobody to pray and make sacrifices for them.

PRAY THE ROSARY DEVOUTLY EVERY DAY

- LEARN • HEED
- PRACTICE and SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA
- GOD WILLS IT
- OUR LADY WISHES IT
- OUR HOLY FATHER ASKS IT
- HELP RETURN THE WORLD TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

To help spread Our Lady's message via this series of Her quotations, please send contributions to:

Mary Kelly
c/o Blue Army
7 Harwood Lane
East Rochester, NY 14445

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