

Fr. John Reedy



Looking for the Lord

God's Call Is Unique, Personal

Since I've lived most of my life as a priest, as one who claims to act and speak for the Church, I feel competent to write about an error which is quite common among those of us who are Church people.

The error I'm talking about is the assumption that somehow we can identify a style of life, a pattern of action, a formula of religious response to which we can call all people, in God's name.

You found this error among some members of specialized Catholic Action in the 40s; later you found it among members of the liturgical movement; later still it turned up among people who promoted the Cursillo of the Charismatic Movement. You can find it today among some of the people working in peace and justice organizations.

And if you check out enough rectories and religious houses, you will still find plenty of us who feel the same assurance about a particular system of theology or about a particular response to authority in the Church.

There's been much of value in all these approaches; they have contributed to the religious lives of a great many people.

But I've always known good people, people who impressed me as truly religious, truly responsive to God, who rejected each of these enthusiasms. Even on the matter of obedience to Church authorities, there have been impressive people who looked on authority with reverence while recognizing it as only one of

the claims on their consciences. In deciding how they should act in a given situation, they had to balance all these claims.

All of this has led me to the conviction that there is no one formula, no single approach which represents God's call to each one of us.

On the contrary, no matter how much good there might be in any of these movements or attitudes, the uniqueness of the person and the special relationship of God to each one of us, suggests that we can't take the easy way out by clinging to any spiritual bandwagon.

Instead, we have to remain attentive and responsive to God's invitation in each moment of our lives. He summons us as persons, not as members of organizations or movements. We are surely social beings and we are part of a church, but first we are persons, no two of us identical in our experience, our perceptions, our sensitivity.

This notion can't be used as an excuse for spiritual individualism. If we are truly attentive to God's call, we need to look honestly at the various choices available to us. Some of those choices present themselves in the experiences and discoveries of the people with whom we live.

There can be an arrogance in rejecting the enthusiasm of a friend just because it's his enthusiasm... as there can be an arrogance in claiming that my response to God's invitation must be adopted by everyone who takes God seriously.

In general, I think it is true that we should be wary of any religious response which seems to smother our unique human qualities, those qualities of talent and service and sensitivity which God seems to give each of us for development in our lives.

We should be suspicious of any enthusiasm which makes us less sensitive to God's presence in the lives and needs of our neighbor. And we should certainly be alert to those patterns which deaden our lives through complacency and concentration on our own pleasure and security.

But, as I understand the teachings of Jesus, He did not proclaim salvation through legislation or through membership in an organization or through a particular form of religious enthusiasm.

He taught that He, a person, is the Way to the Father. And, as a person, He extended different invitations to his disciples, to Zaccheus, to the woman taken in adultery.

In the same way, He extends differing, special invitations to each of us at each moment in our lives. These are the calls to which we must respond.

Bishop Walsh Dies at 90

A memorial Mass was celebrated for Bishop James E. Walsh Monday in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

Bishop Walsh, former superior general of the Maryknoll mission society and who spent 12 years in a Communist Chinese prison on a charge of spying, died last Wednesday at the headquarters of the Maryknoll Fathers in Ossining. His death was ascribed to a heart ailment; he was 90.

It is believed that Bishop Walsh last visited Rochester on the occasion of Mission Sunday in October 1945. He came at the invitation of Bishop James E. Kearney.

Bishop Walsh reportedly had been weakened by an infection following surgery at St. Agnes Hospital in White Plains last month and had asked to return to his room at Maryknoll just one day before his death.

Bishop Walsh was a missionary in China when he was arrested in 1958 and sentenced to 20 years on charges that he had spied for the Vatican and the United States. When he was released in 1970, he vigorously denied having been a spy. It is believed that he was the last of 7,000 foreign Roman Catholic and Protestant missionaries to have been expelled from China.

He told of being in-

terrogated daily but added that he had no bitterness toward the Chinese Communists.

"I love the Chinese people," he said, and he approved of American efforts to re-establish relations with Peking.

He entered the Maryknolls in 1910 and became a priest in 1915. He went to China in 1918 and for a total of more than 40 years lived and worked in that country. To Chinese Catholics, he was known as Wha Lee Sou, or

Pillar of Truth. Pope Pius XI named him a bishop in 1927.

In 1936, he was elected superior general of the Maryknolls and returned to Ossining where he supervised the order's first mission efforts in Latin America and Africa. He returned to China in 1946. He remained behind after the Communist takeover in 1949 despite harassment and pressure to leave. The bureau he headed, the Central Catholic Bureau of Religious Organizations in Shanghai, was closed in 1951 and he was placed under surveillance.



Bishop Walsh at the time of his release from China.

Deaths

Sister Miriam Teresa Hughes

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Saturday, July 25, for Sister Miriam Teresa Hughes of the Sisters of St. Joseph, in the Motherhouse Chapel. Sister Miriam Teresa died July 23, 1981, at Park Ridge Hospital. She was 85 years old.

Father Francis Feeney, a former pupil of the deceased, was the principal celebrant. Other celebrants were Msgr. William Shannon and Fathers Michael Conboy, John A. Morgan, and Peter Bayer.

Sister Miriam Teresa was born in Seneca Falls and entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1913. Beginning in 1914, she taught in the parochial schools of the

Rochester diocese for 48 years. Because of ill health, she retired to the Sisters of St. Joseph Infirmary in 1962.

Among the parishes in which she taught are the following: St. Aloysius, Auburn; Blessed Sacrament; St. Ambrose; Corpus Christi; St. Francis Xavier; Holy Apostles; St. Augustine; Our Lady of Perpetual Help; St. Mary, Canandaigua; St. Mary, Elmira; Immaculate Conception, Ithaca; and St. Jerome.

Sister Miriam Teresa is survived by three sisters, Helen, Catherine and Alice Hughes, all of Seneca Falls, and by several nieces and nephews.

Conditioning Camp

Bishop Kearney High School will sponsor a conditioning camp for all interested high school athletes, starting Monday, Aug. 10 and

running through Friday, Aug. 21. The fee is \$25 and registration will be on Saturday, Aug. 8, in the school gym. For further information, call the Bishop Kearney athletic department, 342-4000, ext. 24.

CHARISMATICS

A charismatic Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, August 13 at the Church of the Annunciation, 1754 Norton St. The event is sponsored by the Annunciation Prayer Group. All interested persons have been invited to attend.

Deadline

The deadline for submitting news to the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday preceding the following Wednesday's publication.

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THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

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"Sharing Summer"

Summer - and all the outdoor fun that comes with it - is welcome change. The whole world seems to come alive, and thoughts stray to tennis, swimming, boating, camping and sunbathing.

As a part of your summer activities, plan a time to visit a friend who is in the hospital - or a shut-in on your block. Our friendship and visit will mean so much. A friendly chat, some of the latest news and a genuine interest in the well being of your friend will be long remembered.

Perhaps someone you know experienced the death of a loved one not long ago. Offering to include them in some of your summer activities would be a thoughtful way to express your concern. Friendship is a great healer - and only you can provide it.

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Business in Diocese



SAPHAR McCURDY
Audrey W. Saphar and Gilbert Kennedy McCurdy have been named to the Board of Directors of McCurdy & Company, Inc. The company consists of six department stores, six fashion specialty stores and Midtown Holdings Corporation. Ms. Saphar is managing partner of Saphar & Associates, an advertising and public relations firm, and is widely known for her accomplishments in the field of communications. McCurdy is the great-grandson of the founder of the company and is divisional merchandise manager of the Home Furnishings Division.