



New Directors

Sister Mary Noreen Granev, left, and Sister Sheila Stevenson have been named to directorates in the Rochester Sisters of Mercy congregation. Sister Noreen is director of Junior Professed, and Sister Sheila is vocation director. Both serve a three-year term.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Interviewing Father Heisel

Father Cuddy: You were in China recently?

Father Heisel: Yes. Monsignor Richard Quinn, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, and I joined a tour group of 28 people from various parts of the U.S. and Canada. We were especially interested in the Church in the Peoples Republic of China now that it has been given some limited freedom again.

Fr. C: Wasn't this the hot season?

Fr. H: Indeed it was. Every day during the two weeks, July 9 to 23, the temperature ranged over 100. We were issued fans every day. The tour buses in each of the six cities we visited were air-conditioned. The hotels? During some hours until they were cut off at midnight.

Fr. C: Sounds as if you had a bad trip.

Fr. H: Not at all. So many historical sights, some dating back thousands of years, were fascinating. Our American guide spoke Chinese fluently. In each of the six cities, a Chinese International Travel Service (CITS) guide was assigned besides the one who stayed with us from our entrance from Hong Kong to the exit through Tokyo.

Fr. C: What overall impression of China did you get?

Fr. H: It is a country of nearly a billion people. They were very friendly, warm and courteous to us. We saw literally millions on bicycles. There is no dope, alcoholism or prostitution. The children are darling but limited. Only three percent of the high school graduates can be admitted to the universities and that makes competition stiff. We asked one of our guides if he was a member of the Communist Party. He said he would like to be but the requirements are very strict.

Only three percent are members of the party, keeping it an elite group.

Fr. C: What do you mean "the children are limited"?

Fr. H: To control the population, the government gives free education and free medical service to the first-born child. Should the parents have a second child, then neither enjoys these free services. Should they have a third, not only are all three deprived of the free services, but the parents (both work) have their pay cut. Birth control materials are free.

Fr. C: A few months ago I read in the Times-Union an item, datelined Peking, that states many Chinese parents are continuing the traditional practice of murdering baby girls because they are of less value than the boys. The quarterly journal, "Population Studies," reported in its latest issue that some drowned their daughters or left them in the open to die of exposure. Did you get a chance to learn anything about the Church in China?

Fr. H: We visited the cathedrals in Canton, Shanghai and Peking and talked in Latin with the priests in all three. They are able to operate only as a National Church with no affiliation with Rome. The cathedral in Canton had been used as a warehouse until a year ago. Only the Tridentine Mass is being celebrated. In Shanghai, about 50 people were present, all fanning themselves, at a weekday Mass. The cathedral in Peking was set up for the consecration of five bishops that took place the day following our visit. All were elected by their fellow priests. This is now a schismatic church. The priests have spent the last several years working in the fields and factories.

Fr. C: Did you walk on the Great Wall?

Fr. H: We certainly did.

Fr. C: How was it?

Fr. H: Great!

SSJs Welcome Two

The diocesan Sisters of St. Joseph will receive two women into membership during a Mass Sunday, August 16. The two are Sister Marlene Diana Pape of Utica, and Sister Barbara Patricia Tomasso of Rochester.

Sister Marlene is a graduate of the University of Rochester where she received a bachelor's and a master's degree in nursing. She has been a pediatric staff nurse at Strong Memorial Hospital, and for the past year, she has been a school nurse clinician at the School of the Holy Childhood, where she will continue in ministry during the coming school term.

Sister Barbara holds a bachelor of arts degree in political sociology from Eisenhower College, Seneca Falls. She has been a retailer for Sibley's and from 1979 to 1980 taught at St. Agnes High School. Her ministry assignment for the coming year will be at St. Patrick's School, Seneca Falls.



SISTER MARLENE



SISTER BARBARA

NOBC Names Lay Director

Washington — James R. Henderson of Seattle, Wash., has been named executive director of the National Office of Black Catholics, headquartered here.

Henderson's appointment was announced by James McConduit, president of the office's board of directors. Henderson is the first layman to hold the post since the founding of the office 11 years ago.

Marianist Brother Joseph Davis of Dayton, O., was the founding executive director. He was succeeded by Marist Brother Cyprian Lamar Rowe of Washington.

In accepting the appointment, Henderson said that while the NOBC has made great progress in the past decade, the 1980s may prove a crucial test of the office's viability.

He noted that while efforts to make the Church meaningful for blacks will continue, it is unlikely that the organization will be able to ignore the concerns of young people, or the effects of neo-conservatism on minorities who are disproportionately represented among the poor.



Poetry Winner

Kevin J. Mannara, a 1981 graduate of Aquinas Institute, has taken first prize in a state-wide poetry contest sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. The poem, based on the idea of caring in friendship, earlier took first prize in a local CDA contest, and now will be entered in a national competition.

Volunteers Needed for Telethon

Volunteers are needed for the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Muscular Dystrophy Telethon, Sept. 6-7. For further information, call the Association, 244-5050.

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