

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

### Retreat Yields Questions

Stella Maris Retreat House is a beautiful place of renewal and prayer on Skaneateles Lake, on the outskirts of the village. It is run by Franciscan Sisters and is only five miles from Auburn. I was invited to conduct a day of recollection there on Sept. 15, under the auspices of Holy Family Parish, Auburn. Part of the program was an hour for retreatants to ventilate, i.e. to ask questions bothering them. Here are some:

**What is your honest opinion about the Clown Mass at Stella Maris Retreat House?**

I suppose this question comes from a full-page article in the Sept. 6 Sunday edition of the Syracuse Post Standard. It was captioned: "Clown Mass: Not Just Foolishness." The reporter, Kevin Hyland, struck the spirit of the ebullient service in the first paragraph. He wrote: "The rain is no match for the sunshined faces inside this little Skaneateles chapel, where a religious fantasy really happened." Then he records the dramatic personae: "one Jesuit priest celebrant, formerly of LeMoyné, vested in a red-white-and-blue, puffy-leaved suit and a bright red wig, who silences the clowning nuns with an opening prayer. The silence was called to some 20 nuns also in clown suits, dancing from dampness through a side entrance, and who fill chapel vases with balloons marked 'Love.'" The congregation was composed mostly of Sisters at a workshop at the retreat house. I think intruding such childish fantasy into the most august act of worship in the world is not what the Congregation of Religious Rites, and the Vatican II documents both on the liturgy and the Church, intend. I do think that the prancing, joyful, jubilant Sisters had a wonderful time for themselves, even as actresses upon the secular stage. Love of novelty and rejection of traditions are as old as the Church, and as deleterious as at the time of St. Paul. What does strike me as especially peculiar is the vigor with which the Tridentine Mass has been suppressed, while this vaudeville presentation is

tolerated in some dioceses. I doubt that the chancery of Syracuse knew what was being performed; but I do not doubt that there are dioceses where such performances would be accepted. To understand the spirit of these fantastic celebrations, please read "The Battle for the American Church" by Msgr. George A. Kelly. Its introductory sentence is significant: "A guerilla-type warfare is going on inside the Catholic Church and its outcome is clearly doubtful." (vii.)

**Are you opposed to the Clown Ministry?**

Of course not. Just because I think basketball should not be integrated into the liturgy of the Mass does not mean I oppose basketball in its proper place. Clown Ministry can be valuable to cheer people up; the sick and old and children, as play acting. It can be used to teach Gospel lessons and doctrine. But the Mass is the continued presentation of the Last Supper and of Calvary, and as such should be celebrated with reverence and awe.

**Do Episcopalians believe in transubstantiation?**

Episcopalians have three branches: Low Church, which is like Methodism in doctrine and liturgy; Broad Church, which tends to liberalism in theology and scripture; and High Church, which is close to the Roman Catholic Church. When Cardinal John Henry Newman was an Anglican, and a leader in the Oxford Movement, he certainly held belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and Sacrament, but he did not believe in transubstantiation. When he became a Catholic in 1845, he accepted transubstantiation as an integral part of Catholic teaching. His devotion to the Eucharist both in Mass and in the Blessed Sacrament should be a lesson to Catholics today who are tinkering both with the theology and the liturgy of the Eucharist. I think it safe to say that High Church Episcopalians, or Anglicans, believe in the Real Presence of Our Lord in the Eucharist; but not necessarily in transubstantiation. The Eastern Orthodox Churches, the High Church Episcopalians and the Lutherans are probably closest to us in doctrine and liturgy.

## Charismatics Host Father DeGrandis

Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ, internationally known speaker and healer, will be in the diocese this week and again Oct. 11 and 12. Father DeGrandis will speak today, Sept. 30, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's in Elmira.

He will present a Day of Renewal, "Healing/A Call to Holiness," from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 3, at St. Agnes High School. Coffee and tea will be available during the day, but participants are asked to bring their own lunches.

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Father DeGrandis will be the principal concelebrant at a First Friday charismatic Mass at 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 2, at St. Lawrence Church.

In addition, Father DeGrandis will speak to priests in Elmira on Oct. 1 and again, in Rochester, on Oct. 12. Further information is available by calling the Charismatic Renewal Office: (716) 436-6252.



## Southern Tier Auburn-Geneva

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## Brothers Now Shepherds

By Martin Toombs

**Big Flats** — The monks at Mount Saviour Monastery have taken up shepherd's crooks.

The Benedictines aren't becoming shepherds in the religious sense, but in the literal one, as they now are caring for 500 sheep.

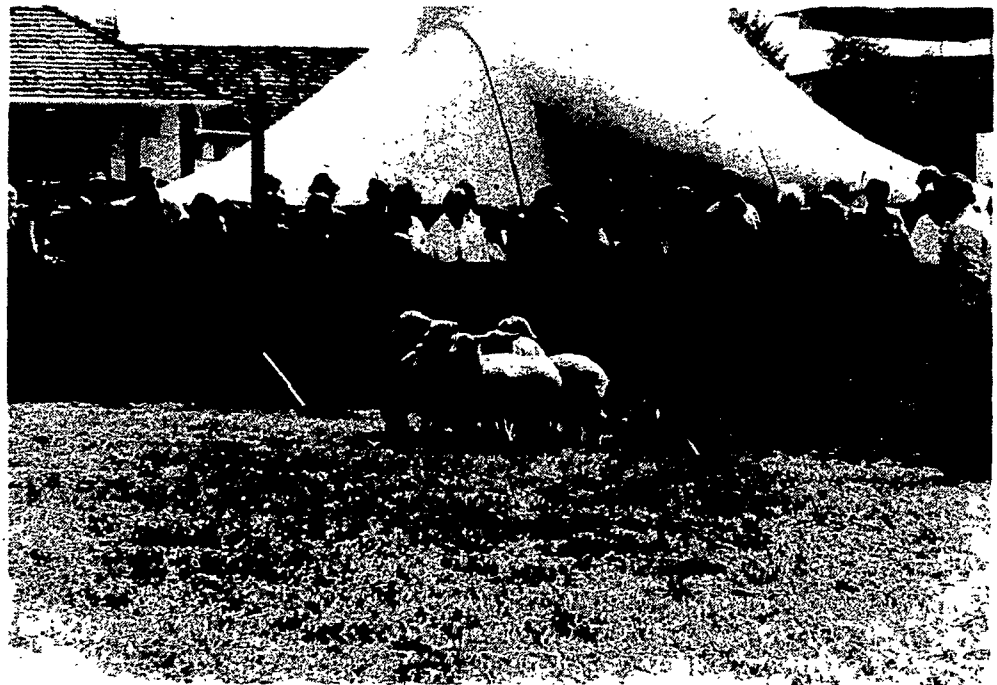
Formerly the monastery supported itself through its dairy operation, which included about 90 head of cattle, with 40 producing milk.

Father Martin Boler, monastery prior, said they decided during Holy Week last spring to make the switch. Many considerations went into the decision, he said, including the current market for dairy products, the long-term financial needs of the community, and the desire to eliminate some of the problems caused by the dairy operation.

"Milk is a surplus product," he said, although "it shouldn't be because people are starving." But too much milk is being produced in the country, he said, resulting in some of the production being destroyed to maintain what have been slipping prices anyway.

The dairy operation also required a great deal of specialization, he said, leaving certain individuals to be primarily responsible for the work. He also cited the poor hill-top land of the monastery, much more of which will be suitable for grazing by the sheep.

Last April, Father Martin said, the monastery's dairy herd had the highest



Those attending the Mount Saviour Monastery Festival Sept. 20 were treated to an exhibition of sheep herding with the use of trained dogs. Shepherds George Bancroft, shown, and John Bailey conducted the demonstration.

production in Chemung County, more than 18,000 pounds of milk for each cow in production.

Now the monastery is home to 500 sheep, which are being raised primarily for meat purposes, Father Martin said, although they will take advantage of the markets for wool and hides.

The new emphasis was evident at the monastery's annual festival which took place Sept. 20. In addition to sheep herding demonstrations utilizing sheep dogs, several spinners and weavers demonstrated their crafts.

Father Martin said they hope the monastery's work with the sheep may provide information for others in the area who may be looking for a way to utilize their grazing

land. But it will be five years or so before "we'll be able to give any advice," he said.

He said land which can't be used for crops can be used by the sheep. They also don't require grain feeding as the dairy cattle do.

The new operation also could add to the monastery's community life. "The modern dairy farm has become so specialized," Father Martin said, while with the sheep "we hope a lot of other people can get into the act."

## Statement on the Right To Economic Security Issued by Coalition

Elmira — The Chemung County Coalition for Equity in the Federal Budget adopted a resolution Sept. 15 stating that people are entitled to social and economic security.

The coalition claims the federal government has a responsibility to take actions which provide a positive economic climate and protection of those who cannot fully participate in that climate through no fault of their own.

The statement further urges the federal government to recognize its national responsibility to provide income security for those who cannot work because of age, disability, or pressing family demands.

The coalition was formed last winter in response to federal budget-cutting action; the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry is an active participant.

The coalition has had educational efforts, and has urged local residents to write federal legislators expressing their concerns over cuts being contemplated in social programs.

The coalition's resolution expresses particular concern over cutbacks in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program, energy assistance programs, housing subsidies, Social Security, Medicaid, and other programs "which are essential to the social and economic security of many citizens of this county."

The resolution also expresses concern over the proposed elimination of two programs which have provided means for poor persons to obtain access to services, the Legal Services program, and the Community Action program.

### Correction

An editing error in last week's Courier-Journal confused the pastorate of Father Fidelis Fosselman and the administration of Father Richard O'Connell. Father O'Connell is administrator of St. Cecilia's. Father Fosselman is pastor of St. Peter and Paul.

## St. Ann's Joining 'Walk for CROP'

Hornell — St. Ann's Church is taking an active part in an ecumenical program to help the hungry through a fund raising "Walk for CROP" Oct. 18.

Proceeds from the walk will go to Church World Service, a relief and development agency which serves the poor in the United States and 50 other countries.

Several churches of various denominations are taking part

in CROP fund raising. Coordinating the effort is the Rev. Charles Holm, pastor of the United Presbyterian Church; Mrs. Violet Larow and Mrs. Anna Clark of Church Women United; Sister Mary Jude, St. Ann's pastoral assistant, and a large committee from local churches.

Heading the project at St. Ann's, in addition to Sister Jude, are Josephine Fitzgerald of the Human Development Committee and Mary Ann Cicero of St. Ann's Youth Ministry.

A number of St. Ann's parishioners have volunteered to walk the 10-mile course, including Father Louis Sirianni, St. Ann's associate, and Sister Jude.

## Parish Sets October Fest

Elmira — St. Peter and Paul Parish has scheduled an October Fest to begin at 1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 4, in the parish hall.

A chicken barbecue, home cooked food, games and activities for the entire family will be featured.

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