

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

**Letters On Various Subjects**

**From a scholarly pastor:**  
I have often used the quotation which you quote as from Chesterton, "The purpose of the open mind is to close it on something solid." But are you sure of the quotation?

**Comment:** I phoned Robert Knille who is president of the Rochester Chesterton Society, and always a sure authority for any Chesterton information, and asked him for the exact quotation. He sent me a Xerox copy of p. 228 from "The Autobiography of G.K. Chesterton." The quote is especially interesting in its context. Chesterton wrote: "... I think he (H.G. Wells) has always been too much in a state of reaction. To use a name which would probably annoy him most, I think he is a permanent reactionary. Whenever I met him, he seemed to be coming from somewhere, rather than going anywhere. He always had been a liberal, or had been a Fabian, or had been a friend of Henry James or Bernard Shaw. But I think he thought the object of opening the mind is simply opening the mind. WHEREAS I AM INCURABLY CONVINCED THAT THE OBJECT OF OPENING THE MIND, AS OF OPENING THE MOUTH, IS TO SHUT IT AGAIN ON SOMETHING SOLID."

People who talk so much about the Open Mind, meaning that we can't arrive at any certain conclusions, do not have a Catholic mentality. We are quite convinced that God has made a revelation, and that it is undoubtedly true and knowable, and we have God's teacher, the Church. People who talk so much about the Open Mind, meaning they never close it to possess and cherish and propagate truth, remind me

of the man of whom it was said: "He keeps running after the bus even after he has got into it."

**Preface to a letter:**

A few years ago I had supper with five priests of another diocese. Four of the priests were young intern priests; i.e., newly ordained and still under the supervision of the fifth, who was older and the official supervisor of the young intern priests.

During the discussion at supper, the supervising priest spoke snidely of celibacy and other topics as brainwashing of the young. I was angry. I just found a letter which I wrote to him which still has relevance:

"Perhaps at supper last night, I should have been less belligerent during our discussion on freedom of conscience, sexuality and celibacy. But as an elderly priest who values fidelity to God, to Church, to our people and to ourselves, I was impelled to be blunt rather than polite. These are the reasons:

1. You used the expression to explain the docility of the past and even of the present for most priests who honor celibacy and personal commitment: "When men have been brainwashed about celibacy for centuries, of course it's hard for them to consider anything else." As a supervisor, I consider that a dangerous doctrine, and hardly fits the truth.

2. Had the attitude of 'centuries of being brainwashed' come from one of the newly ordained, I should not have come on so strong. They are disturbed anyway. It would seem to me that this particular distrust of the Church in discipline, and in morals and dogma, is sad for them. They live in incipient rebellion, and this helps to develop sundry neuroses as well as infidelity. If the Church is our Bride, I should hate to have her considered a baggage. And if the Church has any true authority, I think we should regard it.

**Play Your Hand**

The Aquinas Parents Association card party and buffet is at 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 14, in the school cafeteria. Serving as chairpersons for the event are Bill and Margie LaDue and Paul and Annette DeCarolus. Committee members are Bernard and Kathryn Hartman, Mary Ann Mills, Linda and Tom Bell, Jim and Katie Arieno, Bob and Carol Rule.

made by calling Marge LaDue at 247-7017, or Annette DeCarolus, 227-3381.

**Turkey Party Scheduled**

Elmira — St. Peter and Paul's Parish is having a Turkey Festival at 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 7, in the parish hall. Admission is free.

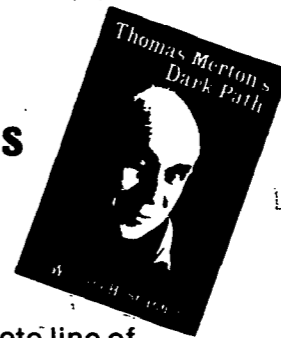
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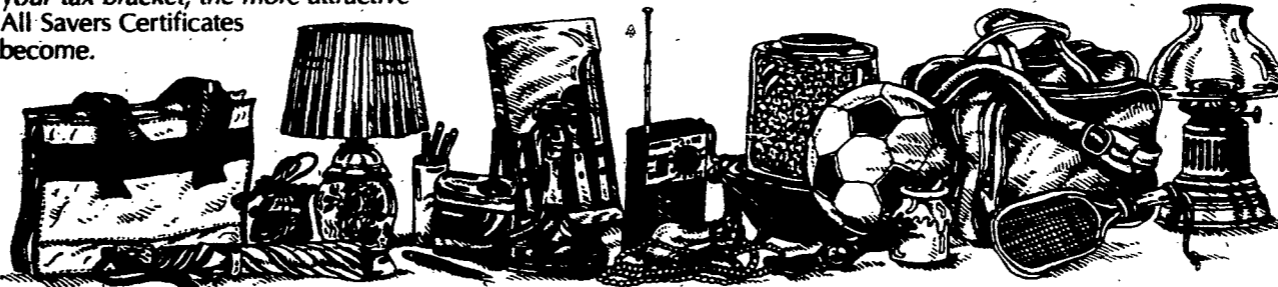
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