



## Happy 100th

Stephen Johnson, town supervisor of Irondequoit, hands William F. Schmitz a proclamation of Knights of Columbus Week, March 25-31, in the town. Schmitz is the grand knight of the town branch of the fraternal organization which is celebrating its 100th anniversary of founding this year.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

## Praise For an Old Friend

Father Robert McNamara of Hornell is a very literate pastor. With optimism he offered his people a series in Lent "to awaken interest in Catholic literature." The lectures were: "Thomas Merton" by Father William Graf; "Flannery and Frank O'Connor" by Father John Hayes; and "Father Leonard Feeney" by Father William Gibbs of St. Benedict's Center, Mass. Father McNamara phoned me and said, "Will you do Chesterton?" "Let me do Evelyn Waugh and 'Brideshead Revisited.'" So it was agreed. There has been great advertising of "Brideshead" but I think the best observation was in TV Guide: "The 'Brideshead Revisited' series will enchant the few and mystify the many, which would have suited the author just fine." It does enchant me.

On March 8, I presented to the group "Waugh, Brideshead, and Catholic Literature in General." More important than the lecture itself was a small four-page folder I made up for each participant. Why? Because the spoken word is quickly forgotten, but the printed word is a ready reference. The folder had a review of Waugh's life, and the names of great Catholic authors who are little known by this generation of priests and nuns and reading laity; and who are forgotten by most people in their 60s, the very people who read these authors 30 and 40 years ago. They included Robert Hugh Benson, Wilfrid Ward, G.K. Chesterton, C.C. Martindale SJ, Christopher Dawson, Graham Greene, Arnold Lunn, Msgr. Ronald Knox and Evelyn Waugh. It is peculiar that each of these was a convert, with a devotion to the Church which makes so many "born Catholics" come out pale and pallid. From this talk my hope is a renewed interest in Catholic literature, and a special hope that the Hornell public library and other

libraries will have the Waugh books available to the public, especially his biography by Christopher Sykes. Libraries will purchase what is in demand.

On March 9, the next day, I returned to Rochester for the funeral of Bill McCarthy. He was a friend of mine and had planned to join us on our coming May 11, tour to Ireland. But God had other plans. He died suddenly March 6. He was often called "Mr. Aquinas" for his devotion to Aquinas Institute run by the Basilian Fathers, which he served for more than 40 years: as a student, a teacher, a public relations man, an alumni coordinator. Older people have recalled him as a chunky, eager freshman, acting as water boy for the teams, with an infectious enthusiasm for the school and students which persisted to the day he died. He gave himself for years bucking up the spirits of the elderly and sick at St. Ann's Home. There was hardly a non-sacerdotal work at Corpus Christi parish which he did not perform. He was a friend of a multitude of priests and Sisters, and had a funny way of conveying the latest news which, if not always accurate, was always interesting.

After the evening funeral I met Tom Wahl of Avon. He said, "I had a brother, Don, who was killed at the age of 15 in an automobile accident, just before Christmas, 30 years ago. He was an Aquinas student. Nearly every year for 30 years Bill McCarthy came to the annual anniversary Mass."

The night of the funeral, Corpus Christi Church was filled with genuine mourners: Aquinas students in their maroon and white school jackets, alumni of all ages, parishioners, from Corpus, people from St. Ann's Home, and many other places. Some 30 priests were there. The pastor, Father James Callan, spoke for the parish; Father Bob Klem for the Basilians and Aquinas; and a nephew spoke eloquently for the family and friends. All were fittingly homely talks.

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