

Cork and Rochester The 'Twinning' of 2 Cities

By John Dash

In Cork, Ireland, they call it "twinning," the cultural and industrial linking of a city in one nation with a similar city in another.

Should all go according to plan, sometime early next year Cork will be "twinning" with Rochester — and therefore, by an accident of history, "trinned" with yet another city, Rennes, France.

Precious language aside, the lord mayor of Cork, Paud Black, was in Rochester last week discussing the serious business of joining Rochester and Cork under the "Sister City Program," a device first established by President Dwight Eisenhower to promote international cooperation, but on a municipal level.

Both Rochester and Cork, separately, are already linked with Rennes, France.

Black came to Rochester in response to a number of invitations from civic and industrial leaders delivered by William Sullivan, general manager of the luxury Strathallan hotel.

Black said last week that joining his city with Rochester would provide Rochester industry with opportunities for European industrial and technological bases with handsome tax incentives.

The other side of the coin is that both revenue and job opportunities would be generated in Cork.

Black's post as lord mayor will be given another member of the Cork City Council June 28. He said that the role is rotated so that the person who holds it can "stand above politics and speak for the city." He confessed that as lord mayor, he has even criticized his own party.



Paud Black, lord mayor of Cork, Ireland.

The attraction Rochester holds for Cork lies principally in that "we have a close national relationship," Black said. He rattled off the Irish names of those who had invited him to Rochester.

In addition, he said, Cork is already the home of a number of firms whose products are similar to those made in Rochester. Both cities boast light industry, high technology, and superior schools, museums and theaters.

He also noted that both cities have a similar spiritual characteristic, one he noted on his visit, "warmth and friendliness and a similar pace of living."

And even the two dioceses have something in common.

Seventeen years ago, Cork adopted the Diocese of Trujillo, north of Lima, Peru.

Black recently visited the diocese, to see for himself the work of the Church there and to encourage the Irish missionaries there.

He said that in the past 17 years, Cork has helped Trujillo raise a number of churches, 12 schools, and five clinics, all staffed by Peruvians.

Rochester's adopted diocese is Tabasco, Mexico.

He hopes that Rochester will be linked to Cork in January 1983.

Sullivan said, "They take this pretty seriously. It's not something they jump into."

UCM Blasts Immigrant Policy

The United Church Ministry of Rochester, headed by Rev. Raymond Graves, pastor of New Bethel Church, issued a statement recently asking for an end to illegal government seizure and deportation of immigrant workers here in the United States.

According to the statement signed by Rev. Graves, the U.S. government, through the Immigration and Naturalization Services and other law enforcement agencies, has begun "a campaign to seize non-American people suspected of being 'illegal aliens' from their rightful employment."

"These poor people, most of whom are Mexican and other Hispanics, are being arrested in order to free up their jobs for American workers who, according to our government, are more justly entitled to work," Rev. Graves said.

The statement also cited that many arrest procedures have been quite brutal, adding that women and men have been yanked from their jobs with undue force and placed in detention. The statement

also added that many have already been sent back across the borders to their homes.

"It is the position of the United Church Ministry," Rev. Graves said, "that these very poor people have come into our country seeking to improve their life condition, and seeking some form of economic justice for their families and for themselves."

The report also stated that

not only Mexicans and Hispanics are being abused, but Caribbean, Canadian and other non-Americans also "are being victimized by this unjust action."

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'Padre Pio Will Find It for You'

On May 14 our tour group of 21 went from Killarney to Cork to Blarney Hotel, five minutes from Blarney Castle with the "stone of eloquence." I well remembered the hotel from a 1975 experience. We stayed there en route to Dublin, Scotland and Lourdes. At night when I packed for morning departure, I was terrified. The packet with my passport, a large check for a Dublin tour agent and other documents had disappeared. I implored St. Anthony. I phoned the previous hotel and the police, alerted the hotel staff. All to no avail. My night was sleepless from anxiety; breakfast without appetite. As we prepared to board the coach, about 9 a.m., Nicholas McLoughlin, the manager, came to see us off. I told him of the dilemma. Confidently he

said, "Don't worry. Padre Pio will find it for you." He prayed and within 10 minutes a room attendant came with the packet. "It was hidden in a drawer in your room."

Remembering this traumatic event I have always connected Padre Pio with Mr. McLoughlin, and recently bought a biography: "Padre Pio: the true story," a detailed life by a Lutheran minister, Pastor C. Bernard Ruffin, published by Our Sunday Visitor. We were to stay at Hotel Blarney so I brought the book to give to the manager, and recalled to him the incident of seven years ago. He chuckled and said, "A while ago, an American priest locked his car keys in the trunk of his car. He was raging mad. I said to him, 'Don't worry. Padre Pio will get them for you.' That made him madder still and he said, 'It will take more than your Padre to get them.'" I opened the front car door to see if the keys might have fallen

on the floor near the ignition. The priest kept making such a scene that in anger I slammed the car door shut. Then, the hood of the trunk compartment opened up. The priest stared. I said, "Did you open the hood?" "No." "Did I?" "No." Then he took out a pad and said, "What's that name of that Padre? I must read up about him." The next morning as we were leaving, Mr. McLoughlin came and said, "I did not bless you this morning. We had three large dinner parties last night and I got to bed late. Started to read Padre Pio and read until 3:30 this morning. It's a fine book."

Who is this Padre Pio? He was an Italian Capuchin (1887-1968) who had gifts like the Cure of Ars, St. Jean Vianney. He read consciences and was often violent with the insincere, screaming in great Italian passion, "You pig!" He had the stigmata of Christ on his body which were seen by our own Father Elmer McNamara, long time Scripture professor at St. Bernard's Seminary, now pastor of St. Bridget's, Bloomfield. He had terrible enemies within the Church. He was revered by Pius XII and Paul VI, but was not well regarded by Pius XI and John XXIII. His cause for canonization is in the works.