Wednesday, February 9, 1983

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Fr. Paul J.

On the Right Side

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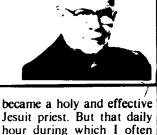
A Letter To a Seminarian

Thank you for your letter and the good news that you are standing firm in your vocation. After 47 years in the priesthood I do not know of one day or even one moment that I did not regard my priesthood as my greatest gift from God, and am humbly grateful.

You ask for suggestions about spiritual reading for Lent. What profits one need not profit another, but some books commonly used by holy men for years evidently are worth our own using. Since your purpose is growth in piety prayer, the virtues. especially magnanimity, rather than intellectual — let me suggest these.

The New Testament. I am aghast at the way the Bible is used by many well-meaning people. No book has so divided Christians as the Bible. And the most bizarre, like the Witnesses, Adventists and ultra-Fundamentalists, seem to have a hang-up on the mysterious Book of Revelations. Since your Lenten purpose is devotion, take the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, Ephesians and Corinthians. And since you aspire to the priesthood, surely Timothy whom St. Paul ordained.

The Imitation of Christ, the 15th-century classic of a'Kempis. It was used by that spiritual master, St. Ignatius of Loyola, who read it every day in addition to his breviary. It was read devoutly by John Wesley. founder of Methodism and a very holy man. And curiously enough it was read by August Comte, the positivist French philosopher, who read it not for its spiritual insights but for its insights into human nature. I first met the book in 1928 when a student at St. Andrew's Seminary. A friend had gone to St. Andrew-On-the Hudson for his novitiate with the Jesuits. Each day for 60 days I spent an hour before the Blessed Sacrament at Ss. Peter and Paul Church that he would persevere. He did and



hour during which I often used the Imitation had much to do with my own spiritual formation.

Lives of the Saints. No book excepting the Imitation has affected my life as the life of St. Ignatius which I read in 1932 while at St. Bernard's Seminary. And it was a book on the saints which, under God's grace, changes Ignatius from a worldly military man to the saint whose spiritual guidance continues to direct souls throughout the world today.

Get some life which interests you: Ignatius, Mother Seton, Vincent de Paul, Catherine of Siena, John Bosco; or Chesterton's Francis of Assisi and Thomas Aquinas; or Evelyn Waugh's life of the Jesuit Martyr, St. Edmund Campion. There are many books on Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Cardinal Newman. And I think you would find the autobiography of Pope John XXIII Journey of a Soul, inspiring. Pope John was also a devotee of a 'Kempis' Imitation of Christ.

Let me add a P.S. to these notes. If you can, do your spiritual reading in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. What a privilege you have to have the Divine Presence so intimately with you in the seminary chapel. Begin and end your reading with a simple prayer. Nail down a definite time: an hour if possible. However, Lent without ascetical selfdenial will be spiritually anemic. Archbishop Hickey taught us: "The basic rule of the spiritual life is 'agere contra;'" i.e., to act against panderings for self-satisfaction. The Eastern Church, Orthodox and Catholic, by law and practice, still insists strongly on self-denial during Lent. I regret that much contemporary spiritual direction in the Western Church has become tainted through 'disregard for self-denial in favor of self-gratification. If

Notre Dame Launches Annual **Fund Drive**

Plans to initiate an annual Support Program were announced at Notre Dame High School on Tuesday, Jan. 25. According to a school news release, the first year's goal has been established at \$65,000 and solicitation will begin April 19 and continue through May 13. The release further reported that since its beginning, Notre Dame has met operational expenses through tuition income, donations from parents and friends, subsidies from the Sisters of Mercy, who are responsible for the operation of the school, and other fundraising activities.

"To maintain a high quality education for those who choose Notre Dame," said Ralph Meyer, president of the school's Board of Governors, "it is essential that we look for other sources of funds to offset the continued increase in costs and to provide for future students." He further explained that "Notre Dame operates on a financially sound footing and this effort is designed to reinforce that position."

General co-chairpersons for the initial appeal are the Honorable Daniel Donahoe, recently retired family court judge, and Mrs. John Frawley. Other co-chairpersons are: John Battersby, Judge Peter Buckley, Mrs. Julius Carozza, Robert Julius Carozza, Robert Carroll, Joseph Danaher, Stanley Douglas, Margaret Drake, John Gough, Martin Harrigan, Kathleen Koz-demba, Dr. A.J. Leahy, Joseph Lynch, Mrs. John McInerney, Harry O'Donnell, Joel Ramich, James Rogers, Dr. John Rurak, David Seely, Ralph Simon, Mrs. David Swindells, Francis Tokar and G. Thomas Tranter Sr.

Women's Clubs **Plan Twin** Celebration

The Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs has a double celebration scheduled for noon, Tuesday, Feb. 15 its 85th birthday and the 163rd birthday of its founder, Susan B. Anthony. The luncheon will take place in the Windsor/Tiffany Room at the Genesee Plaza/Holiday Inn.



Notre Dame has served the

Elmira, Corning, Athens,

Sayre and Waverly areas for

28 years and at present serves

515 students. The school

currently draws students from

seven surrounding school

districts and is open to

students of all faiths.

Becket Man Aids Program In Appalachia

Michael Yarger of Canandaigua, a junior in the Becket Hall program at St. John Fisher College, was one of a number of college students who contributed their mid-winter vacations working as Glenmary volunteers in Appalachia.

The volunteers represented 21 states and the District of Columbia, 37 dioceses and 49 colleges, universities or seminaries.

Glenmary Home Missioners, founded in 1939, work in 12 states of Appalachia and the South. The mid-winter volunteer program is in its eighth year.



Items intended for publica- Wednesday publication. The tion must be typed and in the Courier Journal is located at Courier-Journal offices by 114 S. Union St., Rochester, noon Thursday before the N.Y. 14607.

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you cut off much of the TV. that's a start. It gives time for prayer. It is a mighty form of self-denial for many. Try it and you will see.



Anniversary Celebration

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kuba celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last Friday, Feb. 4, renewing the vows of their union in a service at St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Church. Among those attending were the couple's sons, Ed and Dennis, with their wives, Lois and Carol, respectively; and daughters Charlotte Marsh and Arlene Bell. Special guests were Kuba's sister and her husband, Lillian and Bud Sorenson from Orange, Calif. On Sunday, Feb. 6, relatives and friends were entertained at an open house for the Kubas.

Rosalie C. Hanson, executive director of Rochester Sesquicentennial, will be guest speaker. Hostess clubs are Beta Sigma Phi Council, Women's Club of Rochester, Susan B. Anthony Republican Club, Catholic Women's Club of Rochester, Monroe County Legion Auxiliary and the Roosevelt Women's Democratic Club of Irondequoit.

LONDON STUDIES

Diana Georger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Georger of Gates, is studying at the Ithaca College London Center, England, where she will complete the Spring semester of her junior year. She is a 1980 graduate of Cardinal Mooney High School and majors in drama at Ithaca College.

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