

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Battling Disinformation

To Father Joseph F. Hogan, Elmira:

I am sending you the 20-minute tape of the radio interview held from Hornell radio station WLEA with Arnold DeBorchgrave, regarding the manipulation of oftentimes good hearted liberals by the Soviet Bureau of Disinformation. It is an eye-opener.

His latest book, co-authored with British Robert Moss is "Monimbo," a sequel to "The Spike." It has been on the N.Y. Times best seller list for nine weeks. Since it deals with the "Cuban Connection," the present Grenada affair will make it more read. I spent two whole days glued to the book and I recommend it to you and other bright people.

The media: newspapers, stage, cinema -- and especially TV -- are the special sources which shape the thinking of Americans, including our politicians. This should be a matter of great concern to all religious people. Professors Robert Lichtner and his wife Linda recently surveyed more than 100 Hollywood writers, producers, etc. Here are the results:

Ninety-eight percent are white males with vast incomes -- 89 percent earned more than \$100,000 in 1981; and one-fourth earned half a million. They are urban, college-educated, alienated. In politics they are ultra-liberal. Only one in twenty attends church. Most believe in using their control over America's popular culture to advance their own concepts. Let's face it. These are the most influential teachers of our people.

We have supper at six. I get the national and international news at 6:30; MASH at 7; and then turn to CNN (Cable News Network) for liberal Tom Braden and conservative Pat Buchanan. Their sparring is mentally stimulating, with Buchanan making more sense than Braden.

However, in listening to the news I have concluded that Dan Rather on CBS and much of the CBS staff is more influenced by disinformation mind-set than they would ever

imagine. NBC with Brokaw, etc. seem to follow a similar line. And of course Donaldson of ABC is an enthusiastic liberal. I listen to them with fingers crossed.

Hollywood seems a long time from Elmira and the Rochester diocese, but the moral poisons pour into the living rooms of our people. The enemies of Christ sit high and firm in the chairs of influence. The National Catholic Reporter, no friend of orthodox bishops or of the Holy See had a curious feature on the satellite TV success of Mother Angelica (NCR, Oct. 7).

On Thanksgiving Day, 1982, with a dozen of her Franciscan Sisters in Birmingham, Ala., she activated from her monastery the first and only Catholic TV satellite station in the Americas. It is called EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network).

Although admiring Mother Angelica's success, the Reporter seems unhappy that EWTN, which reaches 1.3 million homes by cable, presents traditional scripture, morality, ecclesiology. And it considers the movies and programs too schmaltzy. However most of us would say they are wholesome, edifying and satisfying.

Mother Angelica said: "We want to remain spiritual in content and non-political. The guy in the living room and the man in the pew don't have to be knocked on the head with social justice all the time. Let us do the spiritual work."

No one in the Rochester area has yet been able to get EWTN on cable here. Have you had any success in the Elmira or Binghamton areas? That does seem a good project for some enterprising Catholics interested in an evangelization which encounters the paganism which pours into our homes through television. Greetings to all Elmira and Corning folk.

Deadline

Parish correspondents are reminded that items for At Your Parish must be typed and in the Courier-Journal offices, before noon on Thursday preceding Wednesday publication. The address is 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

Mothers To Meet Nov. 17

The Greater Rochester Mothers of Twins Club will meet at 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 17, at the Laurelton Presbyterian Church, 335 Helendale at Empire Boulevard.

The club offers organized support for mothers of multiples and their families. The meetings consist of a used clothing exchange, a business meeting and a planned activity -- this month a holiday gift sale.

Transportation may be arranged by telephoning Trish Ward at 225-1093. The club also offers family parties, a monthly newsletter and a library of information about twins. Any mother of multiples is invited.

Spanish Play Scheduled

The Nazareth Arts Center will present the Repertorio Espanol of New York City in "La Zapatera Prodigiosa (the shoemaker's prodigious wife) by Federico Garcia Lorca at 10 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 17.

The production begins the second year of a joint venture between Eastman Kodak and the arts center. About 675 students and teachers from the Rochester City School District will be the guests of Kodak for the performance.

The Repertorio Espanol, an internationally proclaimed theatrical troupe, has performed many productions at Nazareth.

Further information is available from the center box office, 586-2420.

Msgr. Shannon To Speak on World Religions

Msgr. William Shannon, professor emeritus and former chairman of Religious Studies at Nazareth College, will present a lecture, "Christianity and Other World Religions," as part of a Continuing Education series sponsored by the Newman Community of the University of Rochester.

The lecture will be at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 20, at the Interfaith Chapel. Admission is free and the public is invited.

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Pre-Planning For Parish Councils

Dear Father Hohman, You mentioned in your presentation on planning as a function of the parish council the need for a parish ministry workshop. How important is it to have one? What is it intended to accomplish? How does one go about setting up such a workshop?

First, let's deal with what a parish ministry workshop is. I would define it as a meeting of all members of the parish who are engaged in some sort of organized ministry to evaluate past ministries, to assess needs for the future based on a common parish vision, to begin the formulation of plans to meet the prioritized needs and to set up a common parish calendar for the year ahead.

One of the real problems in parish ministry, especially now that so many people are directly involved, is that it tends to become compartmentalized and carried on in isolation from the center. The workshop tries to bring the total picture into focus and coordinate the entire ministry of the parish as a whole. The many facets of parish ministry today need coordination.

How would a hypothetical parish ministry workshop come about and operate? Obviously there is no single way to do it, but the following is one

we have found workable, if not perfect. We suggest that the workshop be held in the Spring, at the time when budgets are being formulated. All people involved in organized parish ministries are asked to attend. The parish council is especially involved. Interested parishioners may attend.

All committees and organizations are asked to assess needs relating to the mission of Jesus Christ in this time and place. They must not be simply needs "of the parish."

The workshop should be held in a large enough space to accommodate the whole group as well as enough space for small group meetings and meals. Approximate time for the workshop is five hours, providing the whole group has previously undergone an orientation so that all speak with a common understanding and vocabulary vis a vis shared leadership and ministry in a parish.

Each committee and organization should present its list of needs on newsprint so that all present may ask questions, comment and add to the list. When all groups have presented their lists, some method of prioritization should be used to determine from the group which needs are more urgent and which are more feasibly met at this point.

From the prioritization the small groups (based on committees or area of interest) begin to work on plans leading to the meeting of these needs.

The first thing the large group needs to do is to look at last year's goals and accomplishments, what is in the works now, what needs to be done to complete the goals of last year. Only in the light of this can the group proceed to assess needs for the future.

The workshop as a whole decides on its next steps, sends the incomplete plans to committees for fleshing out and appoints a sheepdog (usually parish council president) to keep in touch with this ongoing work, so that at the appropriate time the completely formulated plans can be brought before parish council for approval and implementation by the proper agents.

Finally, a calendar, including all projected events in the parish for the coming year, is put together leaving room for programs or events which are already prioritized and are being formulated.

By the time the new parish council convenes after July 1, much of the groundwork for the new year has been completed. Incidentally, all candidates for parish council should be in attendance at the workshop.



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