

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

MY 1984

It was a wonderful... I was to be available for predictables and unpredictable.

So successful was the tour that Tony Costello suggested a tour of Ireland in the fall. Such was the genesis of 13 years of conducting groups to many countries.

third consecutive trip and ready for dual citizenship, American and Irish

Betty Carlin of St. Anthony, whose father was the late Dr. Clarence Carlin, a well known surgeon and chief of staff at St. Mary's Hospital, traveled with us.

er of the late Frank and Vi Cuddy. Both are Auburnians

Of Berardette Fisher, Holy Ghost, Rochester, I have no line excepting that she sure knows how to enjoy travel.

Representing ecumenism was Dorothy Little, who is a deacon of the Batavia Presbyterian Church and a past matron of Eastern Star.

Mercy Graduation Scheduled June 20

Our Lady of Mercy High School's 53rd annual graduation exercises will take place at 8 p.m., Wednesday, June 20, at the Eastman Theatre with Bishop Matthew H. Clark delivering the commencement address.

The bishop also will celebrate the graduates' Rose Mass Wednesday, June 19, in the Mercy Motherhouse, according to Sister Judith Heberle, principal.

Seniors Maria Gerace and Karen Paradies are valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively. Gerace of Penfield is in the honors program and plans to

study liberal arts at the University of Notre Dame. She has been an editor of Mercedes, the school's literary magazine, and a reporter for the school newspaper, Quill.

Paradies of Pittsford plans to major in English and communications at LeMoyn College. She also is on the Mercedes staff and was news editor of Quill.

Advertisement for Century 21 Home Spirit featuring Jean Herrera and Robert Malone. Includes 'WANTED' section for career salespersons.



Father Bruce Ritter

CORRUPTED YOUTH

In the jargon of the street he's known as rough trade and he plies his wares, himself, up and down the Minnesota Strip.

We faced each other across my desk casually, relaxedly while I carefully arranged my face and my eyes and my mind, so that nothing I said or did or thought or felt for the next hour was spontaneous or unconsidered.

He used the shreds of his innocence with a kind of detached hapless malevolence to evoke my sympathies. By turns he was cynical and calloused, winsome and desperate—and for knowing moments at a time, even vulnerable.

The Minnesota Strip is the slimy underbelly of Manhattan, a 15-block stretch of Eighth Avenue porno parlors, strip joints, cheap bars, fleabag hotels—home for thousands of drifters, hookers, and pimps.

Father Bruce Ritter, OFM Conv., is the founder and President of Covenant House, which operates crisis centers for homeless and runaway boys and girls all over the country.

castoffs and nomads and derelicts mingle with the crowds of affluent theater-goers from the high rent districts and suburbs. A lot of kids go there to make their living. Like the boy across my desk.

"He plies his wares, himself, up and down the Minnesota Strip."

You don't say very much to kids like that. It's always much more a thing of vibes and perceptions and boundaries. The trick is to offer what he needs at that moment and that's rarely a lot of God talk.

"Maybe that child, who was never a child, will become a child. Maybe."

We play the same game with God all the time. We don't like His "no strings" love for us either, particularly if the "us" includes a depraved innocent, a vomit-splattered derelict or a pimp with a stable of children whom he rents by the hour.

And so I try to love the kid across my desk in a way he really can't understand. But grace does, and God working in a depraved and empty and terrified heart does and maybe, just maybe, the innocence will return to that face and he will take his eyes off my jugular and stop pushing his toe into my foot under the desk.

He is yours and mine. Like it or not, he is part of us. Thanks for your own "no strings" love—your help.

Form for Covenant House donation with fields for name, address, city, state, zip, and amount. Includes logo and text: 'The street is NO PLACE FOR A CHILD'