

Father Curran Slated In St. Mary's Series

Father Charles Curran will address the topic of "Morality, Legality and Public Politics," 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6 at St. Mary's Church in downtown Rochester.

The talk is part of the church's Sesquicentennial Lecture Series, "The Church on the Brink of the 21st

Century: New and Enduring Questions;" and is free and open to the public.

Father Curran, a priest of the Diocese of Rochester, is known internationally as a theologian, and is professor of moral theology at Catholic University of America in Washington D.C.

The former president of

the American Society of Christian Ethics and of the Catholic Theological Society of America, he also served as a senior research scholar at the Kennedy Center for Bioethics at Georgetown University.

No stranger to controversy, both within and outside the Church, Father Curran is the author and editor of numerous books and articles on ethics and moral theology. His most recent efforts are "Critical Concerns in Moral Theology," and the soon-to-be-published "Perspectives on Catholic Social Ethics."



FATHER CURRAN

Father Curran will also preach at all of the weekend Masses at the Church: 4 p.m., Saturday; 8:30, 10 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday.

Further information is available from the rectory, 232-7140.

St. Nicholas Church Slates Annual 'Hafli'

The annual "Hafli," or dinner-dance, of St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Melkite Church, will be held 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6.

The public is invited to the event which will feature traditional Lebanese foods and entertainment.

Among the dishes offered will be kibee, baked, finely ground steak with wheat germ, pine nuts and special seasonings; fatayer, small triangular pastries filled with ground steak, pine nuts and onions; grape leaves rolled with meat and rice and light lemon flavoring; lubee, green snap beans cooked with meat and tomato sauce; mahroul, a walnut-filled cookie; and humous, a special appetizer.

Entertainment will be provided by The Chris Omron Ensemble, specializing in Lebanese vocal and dance music; the Bal Aziz Dance Group, making its fourth appearance at the event; and Karima Gameel, described by her fans as "a folk dancer of unsurpassed charm and grace."

Also available at the event will be "Lebanese Cuisine," a book now in its sixth edition, by Dr. Madelain Farah.

Tickets are \$15 per person. The ticket chairperson is Wadiah Maroon, 467-8925. Table reservation chairperson is George Harb, 342-8064.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

A Quick Tour Of Duty

Our chancellor, Father Peter Bayer, is also chaplain of St. Joseph's Sisters Infirmary. He phoned: "I have to be away. Could you say Mass for me at the infirmary chapel Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 24-25?" "If it can be at 10:30, yes." "Good. I'll tell the sisters."

Always trying to coordinate things according to time, geography and opportunity, I thought, "I want to be in Corning Monday at 5:30 for the Mass celebrating the coming of the Sisters of Mercy to St. Mary's Parish; and for the parish celebration of Father Thomas Brennan's 80th birthday."

So, after the 10:30 Mass at the infirmary, I arrived at Hornell, 60 miles south, at 1 p.m., where I had arranged to have lunch at Johnny's Restaurant with Kevin Doran. He is manager of radio station WLEA and head of the pro-life committee of the area.

He flies an airplane and I have wanted to arrange with him to fly me to Cheshire, Conn., to visit the novitiate of an exploding religious order, The Legionnaires of Christ, burgeoning with vocations to the priesthood.

They have a system of training which St. Ignatius used for the early Jesuits: a passionate love for Christ and His Mother; complete loyalty to the Pope; a firm adherence to the doctrines of the Church; and a camaraderie among themselves which forms a beautiful religious community.

When Fathers Wohlrab and Heisel and I were in Rome last January we were told dark things about them: "They come by bus together to the Gregorian University. They all wear the same black suits. All carry the same kind of briefcase. They never smile. They do not mingle with others. They are clones of their founder."

Edward Hopkins of Cazenovia, whose father is a lawyer in Syracuse, is a student at the Legionnaires' motherhouse in Rome. So the three of us took a cab and went there. I have never met a community of more cheerful and earnest men; most of them in their

mid-20s to mid-30s. They do wear the cassock. They all have short and neat haircuts. Their discipline is austere. Their concept of the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience is unweaseling. They have a spectacular choral society, and music is integral to their spiritual formation.

The 5:30 Mass of Thanksgiving to the Sisters of Mercy at St. Mary's was celebrated by the pastor, Father Richard Murphy, formerly of Notre Dame, Elmira and Cornell University in Ithaca. Several priests concelebrated. The music was good and included a Gregorian Gloria sung in Latin by the congregation. After Mass the auditorium was filled with parishioners who hold the lovable and healthy Father Brennan in great esteem.

Father Brennan is in good health and helps in parochial work. It was a happy affair to honor a great priest; and the gathering, the cuisine, the decorations and the spirit indicated the affectionate esteem of the people for a fine priest.

To break the long trip back I intended to stay overnight with Father Paul Schnacky at Wayland. But Father Bart O'Brien was giving a week's parish retreat, and had copped my bed, with the second best mattress in the diocese. So I moved into the Dansville rectory about 10:30 and was ushered to my room by Father McCaffery, where I read Thomas Merton's "Seven Storey Mountain" until midnight.

While I had read it nearly 40 years ago, I found it equally interesting today, but wonder if it would make much sense to people who are unfamiliar with the Church of pre-Vatican II days. When published, it brought many vocations to the priesthood, and revived a great interest in the Catholic religion.

Returning to the infirmary, I celebrated Mass for these fine sisters who, thank God, are well taken of by their community. The homily was about the convert, Madame Rose Loomis who, strangely, is unknown in our diocese despite the fact that she single-handedly established the Church in Sodas Point, where St. Rose's Church is named after her, and in the surrounding area. The sisters were greatly interested.

First Vows Taken By Mercy Sister

Sister Joanne Bringley, a teacher at St. Andrew's School, will profess her first vows as a Sister of Mercy during a liturgy on Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Motherhouse Chapel.

Sister Joanne is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bringley of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Greece. She graduated from Cardinal Mooney High School in 1975 and received an associates degree in Special Education from Mohawk Valley Community College in 1977. In 1979, she earned her bachelors degree in Special Education and Elementary Education from Geneseo State.

In 1981, she joined the Sisters of Mercy. She taught at St. Rita's School, West Webster, for three years.



SISTER JOANNE

Deadline

The editorial deadline for the Courier-Journal is Thursday noon, preceding Wednesday publication.

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