

Naples Churches Set Elections Program

Naples — A program on local and national issues from the viewpoints of both major political parties will be presented 7:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 29 in the Naples Firehall on South Main Street.

The program is the sixth in a series sponsored by the Naples Council of Churches under the title of "Judge for Yourself."

Patricia Boland, mayor of Canandaigua

will speak to the Democratic viewpoint. Assemblyman Richard C. Wesley will address the Republican viewpoint.

The program will be moderated by Willard F. Rock, superintendent of the Naples Central School District.

Participants will spend 20 minutes on an initial presentation and then field questions solicited from the audience.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Merton Remembered

"Dear Father Cuddy, "The purpose of this note is to comment on a portion of your column of Oct. 3, in which you wondered if Merton's 'Seven Storey Mountain' would make much sense to people unfamiliar with the Church of pre-Vatican II days. Obviously I cannot make any sort of a general answer. But I can make a particular answer on my own experience, and it is in the affirmative. I did not know the Church of pre-Vatican days. Yet the book had meaning to me. I read the book in January 1982. So did my wife. In the Spring of that year, my wife and I began our instruction in the Catholic faith, and were received into the Church in December 1982.

"Now I don't mean to imply a cause-and-effect relationship between reading Merton's book and becoming a Catholic. My move toward Catholicism was over 40 years in the making. Yet, that book was at least one of the influences moving toward that very happy decision. I must re-read it again. Thank you for reminding me of it."

COMMENT: What a good note. It reminds me of the famous English author, Sir Arnold Lunn, the father of modern skiing. For years he was convinced of the truth of the Catholic Faith, but did not move to enter the Church. One day he was reading "What Are Saints?" -- a series of BBC radio broadcasts by the convert Jesuit, Father C.C. Martindale. When he finished the chapter, he thought, "What am I waiting for?" And he went to the Jesuit House in London's Farm Street and was received into the Church. On Oct. 7, I was driving to Auburn from Penn Yan and Ithaca and turned on a "call-in" show from Ithaca. Some lady Catholic chaplain from Ithaca College who was fielding questions rather well made one strange answer. She said, "I would explain our religion but I would not proselytize." Not to work to share our wonderful religion with others certainly belies the thought of St. Paul, St. Athanasius, St. Peter Canisius, Cardinal Newman, and Jesus

Christ. Our Lord gave the command to get out and make disciples for Him, and get them baptized. Why would anyone be reluctant to enthusiastically share the Faith with others? **Are young Catholics leaving the Church?** Surely some are taking a vacation from it, but I am hopeful for the return of most of them. Much of the fault is in terrible religious education classes to which they were subjected. In the October 1984 "Homiletic and Pastoral Review," there is a provocative article by a Jesuit Father Fisher, professor of systematic and biblical theology at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, entitled, "Why Are Young Catholics Alienated from the Church?"

Here are a few items: "Our youth are quick to discern that there is considerable confusion in the Church, both doctrinally and morally. They sense, even though they cannot articulate, a theological pluralism perceived as more contradictory than complementary. They recognize that Catholic discipline is honored more in the breach than in the observance." (p. 19)

"Most Catholic undergraduate students are monumentally ignorant of the fundamentals of Catholicism. To quote our students: 'Father, what is the Eucharist? What really happens at Mass? What is the Incarnation? What and when did Jesus ever condemn fornication and divorce? How do we know that Jesus is God, and not just a famous prophet? How do we know for certain that Jesus established a Church?' Most Catholic young people are biblical fundamentalists. The majority cannot name any outstanding Catholic intellectuals, not just theologians; names like Chesterton, Belloc, Newman, Maritain, Rahner, Brown, Murray, etc., are unrecognizable."

On the positive side, Father Fisher says, "These shortcomings do not detract from the fact that the faith of Catholic students is stronger today than it was in previous generations. Among our students today, there is a rich vein of good will and theological curiosity waiting to be tapped."

Clyde to Note CDA Day

Clyde -- Court Gleason 924 will observe National Catholic Daughters of the Americas Day with special activities Sunday, Oct. 21. A 7:30 a.m. Mass at St. John's Church, celebrated by Father Thomas F. Nellis, pastor, will launch festivities, according to Mrs. Mary Steve, regent.

Breakfast for members, husbands, families and friends will take place at St. John's Restaurant, Wayne Avenue, at \$2.50 per person.

A Living Rosary will be formed at 4 p.m. in the church with Father Nellis participating. Youngsters of the Confirmation class will assist members. The general public is invited.

The court meets the third Monday of each month, excluding July and August.

Home Security

Persons who qualify will be able to have deadbolt locks or basement window bars installed in their homes through a 19th Ward Community Association Home Security Grant. Documents showing proof of ownership or proof of occupancy, and proof of income must be presented before applications will be taken. Further information is available by calling Joan Hurley, 328-6575, 1-5 p.m. weekdays.

St. James Hospital to Offer Free Mental Health Program

Hornell — "Mental Health Clients and Staff Relations," a program presented by the Elmira Psychiatric Center Mental Health Players will be sponsored by St. James Mercy Hospital, 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 31 in Lincoln School gymnasium. The program is free and open to the public.

According to Sister Pat Prinzing RSM, director of the hospital's quality of work life department, the purpose of the Elmira Mental Health Players is to develop a community understanding of the mental health problems of everyday life.

John Edwards, senior public information specialist at the Elmira center, noted that players work with any subject in the broad range of

health, mental health and social agency interest.

He said, "A moderator tells the audience about the players, about role-play and about the problem to be portrayed. Then, the players, working without a script, spontaneously role-play a real-life situation. At the conclusion of the scene, the

audience participates by questioning the players. The players respond in character, sustaining the feeling of authenticity. The presentation is then closed with an interpretive synopsis."

Further information and registration is available by contacting Sister Pat, 324-3900, ext. 490, by Oct. 24.

Anthony Mullen Wins Oppy Award

Elmira -- Anthony F. Mullen, director of cardiopulmonary and neurodiagnostic services at St. Joseph's was presented with the "Oppy" award recently at the hospital.

Mullen is an active member of the American Association of Physicians Assistants, State Society for Respiratory Therapy, American Association for Respiratory Therapy and other local and national groups. He developed the home care program in respiratory therapy at St. Joseph's and has been a leader in CPR instruction.

Mullen was department head of respiratory therapy at Hotel Dieu Hospital in El Paso, Tex., before joining St. Joseph's in 1974.

Sister Martha Gersbach, administrator, presented Mullen with a plaque and pin. Attending were his wife Judy and children Judy, Katherine, Michael and Daniel.

The award is presented twice each year to someone at the hospital who exhibits outstanding qualities. A com-

mittee screens and reviews all nominees and selects the winner.

The \$500 1984 James E. Swartwood Award, selected from the names of previous Oppy winners, went to Mrs. Dorothy Hughes.

Elmiran Honored

Elmira -- Arnold B. Jerome, vice president of the board of directors of St. Joseph's Hospital, was given the hospital's "Centurion Award" at the seventh annual Century Club reception on Thursday, Oct. 11.

According to a hospital press release, the award is given annually to a community resident "who has been involved in some aspect of the health care industry at St. Joseph's."

Jerome was cited for his numerous community activities, including Rotary Club, B'nai Israel Temple and many urban renewal projects -- "as well as for his many endeavors at St. Joseph's, primarily in the areas of health care planning and programs for the aged," the release stated.

He founded the Southern Tier Health Management Corporation, and was a delegate to the 1971 White House Conference on the Aging.

'Parish Alive' Is Theme of NW Assembly

"Parish Alive" will be the theme of the Northwest Regional Assembly, 7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 26 at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

The assembly will include four mini-sessions: "Parish Alive in Prayer," led by Father Thomas Mull, director of the diocesan Liturgy Office; "Parish Alive in Service," led by Father John Mulligan, pastor of St. Anthony's Church; "Parish Alive in Education," led by Rose Boice, religious education coordinator at St. Michael's Church; and "Parish Alive in Play," led by Sister Diane Branch, pastoral assistant at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will preside at Evening Prayer after the mini-sessions. Refreshments will be served at a social following the prayer service.

Advisory

Correspondents are advised the Courier-Journal is restricted by law from publishing any notice of games of chance, the prizes won in such games or the winners of such prizes.

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