

# Anti-Catholic Bias Subject for Lecture

Geneseo — Father Gerald S. Twomey, a parish priest who is also known as a writer and lecturer, will be the featured speaker at a presentation entitled "An Ugly Secret: the Rising Tide of Anti-Catholicism in American Social and Academic Life," 8 p.m. in the Chanler Room of the Interfaith

Center on Franklin Street here. The event is sponsored by contemporary issues forum of the Geneseo Newman Parish. A panel of local experts will comment on Father Twomey's presentation. Father Twomey, a priest of the Diocese of Rockville Centre is a graduate of

SUNY Geneseo and is a frequent guest on radio and television programs in New York City.

As a writer, his works include articles and reviews in "America," "The Social Studies," and "Theological Studies." He has also written several books, among them, "When Catholics Marry Again," and "Thomas Merton: Prophet in the Belly of a Paradox"

In addition, Father Twomey is adjunct professor at St. Joseph's College in New York and the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception.

On the subject of anti-Catholicism, Father Twomey recently stated:

"Twenty five years ago, Arthur Schlesinger commented to his historian-colleague, John Tracy Ellis, 'I regard the prejudice against your church to be the deepest bias in the history of the American people.' Presently, in the decade of the 80s, we are witnessing a strong resurgence of this ugly phenomenon. Today, anti-Catholicism is flourishing once again in America, and the time has come for our concerned persons to recognize and deal with this blight upon our land."

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

## What Gives With the Jesuits?

To Father Michael Kavanagh SJ, from St. Augustine's Parish, now over 50 years a Jesuit; a former classmate at St. Andrew's Seminary and friend of 55 years.

"What gives with the Jesuits? Sunday evening, Oct. 28, my home parish, Holy Family, Auburn, ended a year of celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the founding of our parish, with a dinner-dance held at the Holiday Inn. Most of the living priests who served there, and many of the Sisters of Mercy whose community had served in the schools there for over 100 years, were there. There were many of my vintage: cheerful and stiff in the bones, recalling our school days and parochial events. There were many younger ones. It was a happy affair for 350 persons present.

"But a strange thing. The chairman of this event was Jack Geherin, who is a loyal alumnus of Holy Cross College. I presume because of his H.C. connections, Jesuit Father John E. Brooks, president of Holy Cross, was invited to give the main address. After a few introductory pleasantries, Father Brooks launched into a four minute vehement exposition of the historic conflicts between the Jesuits and the popes and bishops and other powers. For the life of me, I could not figure out why such an exposition and why such vehemence.

"When he got that off his chest he gave a fine, polished talk on Jesus Christ, and His living and acting within the parish and the souls of the parishioners. I was sorry he did not mention Our Blessed Mother, whose presence has been so alive from the beginnings of the parish. I recall the gratitude our family gathered together after supper, not always with enthusiasm from us youngsters, before the dishes were done: my father leading the rosary, and my mother leading the Litany of Our Lady afterward.

"I wonder if I have found the answer to Father Brooks' distress. James Mercik, a graduate from a Jesuit college, teaches CCD in our parish. Tuesday he gave

me a paperback, 'The Pope and the Jesuits' by James Hitchcock. I wondered if Father Brooks had just read the book and was angry. Hitchcock is a reputable historian, and tenured professor at the Jesuit University of St. Louis. His 1974 "Decline and Fall of Radical Catholicism" was almost the first glimmer of hope for faithful Catholics who had watched the debacles within the Church brought on by theological liberalism tainted with antagonism toward our Catholic traditions.

"The Pope and the Jesuits' has a significant subtitle: 'John Paul II and the New Order in the Society of Jesus.' As chapters unfold, one gets the uneasy feeling that much of the post-Vatican II leadership among the Jesuits has been taken over by men whose zeal for the transcendent and supernatural of Ignatius pales before social and political action. An extreme example is Father Joseph O'Rourke. At his ordination Mass he ostentatiously rejected the Sign of Peace from Cardinal Cooke because he was the bishop over the military ordinariate. After creating ructions for years, he was finally expelled from the order, and Father Dan Berrigan wrote an angry letter of protest to Commonwealth entitled 'To Hell with the Glory of God: or How We Got Rid of Joe.' (Oct. 18, 1973)

"While the book is dismaying I am cheered by the fidelity of such Jesuits as Fathers Morton Hill and Virgil Blum and John Hardon. I am cheered by the fidelity of the 'Homiletic and Pastoral Review,' edited by Jesuit Father Baker. While I have had some Jesuit retreat masters at Auriesville in the past who were doozies, Father Vincent McCorry continues to follow the Ignatian tradition. People speak well of the retreats of Father John Walchars who comes occasionally to the Cenacle in Rochester. Thank God there are many carrying on the spirit and traditions of the early Jesuits, though it would seem they are in the lower eschelon.

"If you want to get a copy of 'The Pope and the Jesuits' send \$3.95 to National Committee of Catholic Laymen, 150 E. 35th St., New York, N.Y., 10016."



Principals of the Seton Ball are, left to right, (seated) Nancy Palvino, chairman; Mary Schnepf, benefactors chairman; Gen Greisberger, advisor and former ball chairman; (standing) Sis Martin, finance; Ellen Wrona, finance chairman; Beth Messner, tickets; and Lucille Blum, finance.

## Seton Ball Nov. 17

Rochester and the celebration of its sesquicentennial will be saluted at this year's Seton Ball, slated Nov. 17 at the Rochester Plaza Hotel.

A reception for Bishop Matthew H. Clark will precede dinner and dancing to the music of Tom Monte and his band. Throughout the evening, individuals playing important personages of years past,

appropriately costumed, will dine and visit with the guests.

Proceeds from the ball will be used to benefit the new Seton Ambulatory Center of St. Mary's Hospital.

Ticket information is available by calling Annabelle Pugliese at the hospital's volunteer office, 464-3255.

### Holiday Sale

A holiday arts and crafts sale, sponsored by the Rochester Regional Eldercraft Conference, Inc., is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 17 at the Municipal Center, 120 West Commercial St., East Rochester. Christmas decorations, paintings, prints, jewelry, birdcarvings, woodcrafts, fiber arts and needlework will be on display. For more information contact Jeanne Kelsey, 381-9710, or Yvonne Cupolo, 288-0840.

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