

Youth Day Scheduled

Livonia - "Youth and Peace" is the theme of the Livingston County Youth Day, 1-6 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 9, at St. Joseph's School of Religion, 41 Spring St.

Youth activities and discussions will be offered from 1-4 p.m. This will be followed by the musical performance of "Alice in

Blunderland" at 4 p.m. at the Livonia Middle School auditorium. Admission to the play is \$1, and is open to the public.

The day is sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry. Any group planning to attend should call 1-716-226-8959 by Dec. 5 to register.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Whence Comes 'Kevin'?

"Kevin" is a popular name. About two-thirds of the many Kevins I know are faithful Catholics. One-third are careless, which is both a pity and a shame.

The first Kevin I ever knew was Kevin Voell. He was from Syracuse and is a brother of the Dominican theologian, Father Urban Voell who taught theology at Trinity College and Catholic University in Washington; and at the Anglicum in Rome. My first meeting Kevin was at Sampson Air Force Base in 1952. He was the GI assistant to a Catholic chaplain. In January '52, as an Air Force reservist, I received a bundle of orders recalling me to active duty for the Korean conflict. I had finished a year's stint under Msgr. Naughton at St. Anne's, Rochester, and a short interlude at St. Andrew's Seminary. When the orders came I went to Sampson, near Geneva -- which had been a Naval base for World War II, and in '52 became a booming air base -- to get some uniforms, shirts, ties and shoes. Kevin took me in tow. On the way to the PX (Post Exchange) he regaled me with his life as chaplain's assistant. "Father was away one night, and he had about 30 fellows under instruction as a group. He said to me: 'I can't be here so you take over the instruction.' Well, I did my best, but some GI asked a question I couldn't answer." "What did you do?" "I glared at him and said: 'Sit down and shut up and don't be a wise guy!'" This is hardly a model of catechesis, but at least it wasn't heretical.

"Voell" is as German as sauerbraten, but his Irish mother named him "Kevin" so the world would know that a genetic strain of shamrocks ran through his person. I have rarely known a Kevin who knew anything about his patron saint, so have made it a peripheral apostolate to tell those who carry the name what little there is to know. There are many legends about early Irish saints, but little authentic history. However, this we do know: Kevin (Coegmen in Irish) means "well born." He was born in County Leinster, Ireland of royal descent in the early part of the seventh century. He was baptized by St. Cronan, educated by St.

Petroc, ordained a priest and he became a hermit in the vale of Glendalough, about 20 miles from Dublin. Glendalough is a "must" place for tourists. After seven years as a hermit, so many hardy Irishmen gathered round him for spiritual direction that he founded a monastery which became a center of prayer, spirituality and learning. Monks fanned out from Glendalough and brought holiness and learning throughout Ireland and Europe.

Recently I was in Clyde, 35 miles from my home harbor in Webster. I phoned Ken DiSanto, a friend of mine for many years, who is a super-engineer at Xerox in Webster. "Ken, I have a bunch of boxes to get to Webster. Can you help me?" "Glad to, Father. I go there every day." I brought the boxes to his home in Clyde. His son, an enthusiastic high school football player, was there. "What's your name?" "Kevin." "Hmmm. Where did 'Kevin' come from?" Ken's uncle is Brother Ignatius DiSanto SVD, in New Guinea. Ken said: "We just liked the name." To the youth I asked: "Do you know anything about your patron, St. Kevin?" "I didn't know there was such a saint." "Well, he was very important. I'll send you some information about him."

Later, while in Auburn I got a small pewter statue of St. Kevin at the Nolan Catholic Shop, blessed it, and sent it to Kevin with a short account of his patron saint. He sent back a letter so good I would share it with you.

"I got your package in the mail the other day. I'm glad you remembered to send me St. Kevin. We looked in our book about the lives of the saints but could not find St. Kevin."

"I put the statue on my shelf next to my football trophy. Thank you very much for sending it to me... Sincerely, Kevin DiSanto."

It might please Kevin to know that the ancient Irish monks were rugged men, a far cry from the fussy Father Mulcahy of MASH. Those monks would be highly prized by the Irish football teams which play with a violence that borders on a kind of organized mayhem. This may be male chauvinism and macho, but it probably is the ideal of most American high school boys, and from such we should like our vocations to the priesthood.

Disabilities Ministry Group Begins Second Year of Action

This season marks the second year for Catholic Charities' "Ministry with People with Disabilities" in the diocese.

Among the projects that the group will pursue this year are:

1. A study of the accessibility of all parishes in Monroe County, leading to a study of all parishes in the diocese;

2. The organization of a "gathering" celebration in the spring, where people with disabilities gather for liturgical celebration and a speaking-out forum;

3. Assisting similar committees and activities in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes region.

In addition, the group has begun defining its role as advocate for people with disabilities. It will identify several key issues affecting

disabled people and will communicate its position on these issues to legislators, the media and community leaders. Furthermore, volunteers working with the ministry will be available to advise and consult agencies and parishes on how to include disabled people in their activities and programs.

According to William Privett, associate director of Catholic Charities, "All of this activity reflects two important goals... One is to enable disabled people to take a more active planning and leadership role in programs, activities and parish and community life. The second is to begin to break down the barriers that separate able-bodied people from disabled people in our community."

He cited the U.S. bishops' 1978 "Pastoral Statement on

Handicapped People" which called for the church to reach out in new and creative ways to address the serious needs of people with disabilities.

In addition the letter recommends the church at both diocesan and parish levels become more involved with disabled people in the community.

The aim, Privett said, is to reduce and eliminate the separation between disabled people and the community in general.

In 1983, as the result of a task force report, Bishop Matthew H. Clark affirmed the commissioning by the Catholic Charities board of trustees a Rochester Area Steering Committee for a Ministry With People With Disabilities. The committee was charged with determining the need and feasibility of a permanent ministry to address needs and concerns of disabled people.

The board recently approved the committee report which stated that up to 60,000 Catholics in the diocese are physically or mentally disabled.

In addition while many programs, services address particular needs of disabled people, more is seen needed to develop a totally inclusive

Church with full involvement of disabled people in diocesan and parish activities.

The report recommends that a permanent ministry be established to carry out three functions:

1. Program monitoring to insure that educational, social and liturgical programs include and be responsive to people with disabilities;

2. Community education to help staffers and volunteers become more aware of people with disabilities and more skilled in dealing with them;

3. Legislative advocacy. The report further recommends that disabled people be included in the leadership of the ministry and in leadership roles and planning throughout the diocese.

Lastly, the report suggests similar committees be developed in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes region.

The Rochester committee meets the fourth Saturday of every month at Monroe Community Hospital. Meetings are open to interested observers.

Further information on the committee is available from Maureen Havens, 235-3322; or Gregory Zuroski, 546-4894.

Father Lonergan Dies, Leading Jesuit Theologian

By Jerry Filteau
NC News Service

Jesuit Father Bernard J.F. Lonergan, one of the 20th century's leading Catholic theologians, died Nov. 26 at the Jesuit infirmary in Pickering, Ont. Approaching his 80th birthday, he was suffering multiple ailments which forced him to stop teaching two years ago.

His funeral took place last Thursday at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, a Jesuit parish in Toronto, with burial the next day at the novitiate in Guelph, where he first joined the Jesuits.

Among Father Lonergan's many books and hundreds of articles, he was most noted for his 1957 work, "Insight: A Study of Human Understanding," and his 1972 volume, "Method in Theology."

"There is no doubt in my mind that he is the greatest Catholic theologian North America has ever produced," said Father David Tracy of the University of Chicago's School of Divinity, perhaps the best known of Father Lonergan's students.

The Canadian theologian never received the wide popular recognition that went to his German Jesuit confrere, Father Karl Rahner. But several theologians contacted declined to say which of the two was greater or more influential.

"He was a teacher of teachers. His impact will deepen and increase," Father Tracy said.

More than 200 doctoral dissertations have been written on Father Lonergan's thought, two international symposiums have been held on him, and an academic newsletter and a theological journal are devoted to Lonergan studies. There are more than a dozen centers for Lonergan studies at academic institutions in countries ranging from Canada and the United States to Australia, Italy, the Philippines and Ireland.

The Canadian Jesuit thinker's real importance in the 20th century is "his significance for the 21st century," said one of his early students and closest followers, Jesuit Father Frederick Crowe.

"His work is seminal. It's



FATHER LONERGAN

foundational," Father Crowe said. He compared it to the "Organon" of Aristotle and Francis Bacon, something that could influence the very way that future generations of thinkers would approach reality.

Father Crowe has written studies of Father Lonergan, edited collections of his works and founded the Lonergan Center at Regis College, Toronto, where Father Lonergan began his teaching career in 1940.

Bernard Lonergan was born Dec. 17, 1904, in Buckingham, Que. He entered the Canadian province of the Society of Jesus at Guelph, Ont., in 1922.

Blue Army Vigil

The monthly vigil of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima will be held 9 p.m.-midnight, Friday, Dec. 7 at Holy Rosary Church. Fathers Charles Addams, Robert Werth and Raymond Fleming will lead the rites.

Knights Dinner

Newark -- The Newark Council, Knights of Columbus, has scheduled its annual Christmas dinner party at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 8, at the council home on East Miller Street. Activities will follow dinner.

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ABOUT CEMETERY PROPERTY

Question #2:

When you purchase cemetery property, do you need to pay the full amount all at once?

Answer:

Not as long as you buy pre-need. When you buy at the time of need, of course payment must be made in full prior to interment. With pre-need purchases, however, White Haven offers a convenient, monthly payment plan. Payments start as low as \$15.00 a month for a 2-grave plot and there are no interest charges.

This series of questions and answers is presented in the public interest by White Haven Memorial Park, not-for-profit, non-sectarian. If you have additional questions you would like answered, please let us know.



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