

## Serra Funds Book for Priests To Help Encourage Vocations

Chicago (NC) — A new booklet funded by Serra International offers priests practical suggestions on how to invite young men to follow in their footsteps.

"First Steps: A Guide to Encourage Young Men Toward the Catholic Priesthood," written by Father John C. Cusick of Niles College, Chicago, was designed to help parishes develop programs for recruiting men for full-time ministry.

Printing and distribution of 40,000 copies of "First Steps" was funded by a \$25,000 grant from Serra International as part of its 50th anniversary. Serra,

based in Chicago, is an organization of Catholic laymen devoted to encouraging vocations to the priesthood.

Despite declining vocations, surveys show that 18- to 30-year-olds are interested in full-time ministry, according to Serra's executive director, John A. Donahue.

He said that "studies indicate that priests are not encouraging vocations as they have in the past. They may preach sermons about the priesthood, but they are not inviting specific young men to consider it."

The Serrans believe "First Steps" could help. "The book is a compilation of lots

of good ideas that have really worked," said Donahue.

Father Cusick, a recruitment and admissions officer for the Chicago archdiocesan seminary system, said although priests feel sympathetic toward promoting vocations, they also see it as a difficult task.

In the 44-page booklet, Father Cusick encourages recruiting at the parish level, including having young men spend a day with a priest, visiting local seminaries, inviting guest speakers and holding parish vocations nights.

Copies of "First Steps" may be obtained at \$2 each from the ACTA Foundation (the booklet's printer), 4848 N. Clark St., Chicago, Ill. 60640.

## Summer Camp In Need of Volunteers

Volunteers are being sought to help children who have cancer, as well as their brothers and sisters, to enjoy two weeks of Summer day camp at Camp Open Arms, a United Cancer Council program.

Volunteers may serve for the entire two weeks or for a few days. Those with camping and group skills are needed but also important is the desire to be a friend.

Camp Open Arms will be July 8 to 19, Monday through Friday. A volunteer get-together is planned for April, with training and orientation taking place during early June.

Further information and application forms are available from the council, 473-8230.

## 'Minstrel' Set

The Off-Monroe Players will stage "Minstrel," 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 10; and 7:30-9 p.m., Monday, Feb. 11 at the New Life Presbyterian Church, 243 Rosedale St. Further information is available from Patti Montros, 428-5600 (days).

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

## A 'Fine' Time at St. Michael's

Where have you been supplying lately?

Months ago, Father Richard Orlando invited me to supply for him at St. Michael's, Lyons, near Geneva, from Jan. 14-30. Passionist Father Bertrand Farrell used to supply, but he died in 1977. Then Father Spilly, who was with Social Ministries supplied, but now he has the care of a mini-diocese: Cayuga, Union Springs, Aurora and King Ferry. So Father Orlando engaged me.

Were you glad to come to Lyons?

Yes. I spent 13 years of my priesthood in Clyde and Wayne County, and know the territory and the people well. I phoned secretary Pat Jelomono from Webster that I would arrive about 6 p.m. Sunday. She welcomed me, showed me to the comfortable guest quarters. However, after a week I moved downstairs to the housekeeper's quarters, vacant because there is no live-in housekeeper. The mattress was more comfortable to my body.

What did you do for 20 days?

Most effective was making available prayer booklets, rosary beads, books, medals, bibles, missals. We sold hundreds of the 32-page "Treasury of Prayers." A Mrs. DeVito stopped in after Mass and asked for a couple more prayer books. "Such a beautiful collection of prayers. I sent mine to my daughter who is teaching school at the Arctic Circle." Spreading prayer books is like the dandelions. Remember how the yellow flower turns into a gray feathery ball, and each "feather" has a seed? The seeds are carried by the wind to settle in many places, and often at great distances. So booklets are scattered to take root in many souls.

Anything special happen?

Well, in a way. I had asked Miss Angela Sykora to teach a confirmation class, and went to the Social Services office where she works, to nail it down. Many small towns have an attractive park in the center

of the village. Bath has one of the nicest; and Newark and Clyde and Lyons. The S.S. office is located off the park. On coming out, a parking ticket was on my windshield. So I went to the police station and paid the \$3 fine, and was awarded an attractive receipt. After Sunday Mass at 10:30, a smiling man thrust \$3 into my hand saying, "I want the privilege of paying your fine." I did not deprive him.

What impressed you most?

Oh, many things. Secretary Pat Jelomono and housekeeper Marie Palmer and four efficient factots: Art Hile, Joanne Gutchow, Mac Quagliata and Ralph Damato were invaluable. The nice children at CCD and their teachers. I am troubled that so many Catholics, since the dismissal of the catechism, cannot give a clear, concise explanation of the Faith. I visited the CCD classes, and with a cordial smile said, "Know how to explain our religion. Don't be religious dumb-heads!" The next day a cheerful mother said, "My son was tickled by your visit. He said you called them a bunch of dumb-heads, but he liked you." "Well, not quite. I said, 'I don't want you to be a bunch of dumb-heads in religion.' A bit different."

There is a fine folk group and a small, but competent choir to which some men should volunteer. An excellent organist, Brian Keyser, was beaming over the birth of his first born, who is being given the glorious name of Michael Brian. (Brian is the Irish for Bernard, the great 12th century saint who rejuvenated monastic life, and was advisor to popes and kings and scholars.) Daily Mass as well as Sunday Mass was served by alert high school boys, with the exception of 9:00 Sunday Mass, which is served by middle aged men who were young servers years ago, and are now back in this service of the Lord. There was a lacuna of 10 days when I left, so Father Joseph McDonald of Newark, who just celebrated his 80th birthday, took care of the Sunday Masses. I am grateful to Father Orlando for his invitation; and to the people for their warm and devout welcome.

## Bishop to Answer Youths' Questions

Youngsters will have the opportunity to ask questions of Bishop Matthew H. Clark as part of The Bishop's Day with Youth scheduled Sunday, March 3, at Bishop Kearney High School.

With the theme "Peace and Youth Growing Together," the day will include a format for the bishop to answer the teenagers' questions.

Patrick B. Fox, diocesan director of the Department of Youth Ministry, said a special format was established for the question-and-answer period.

"Teens will serve as leaders for a workshop round devoted to brainstorming questions," Fox said. "The 30 workshop groups will have 45 minutes to brainstorm as many questions as possible and then select what they feel

is the best question. They (the 30 questions) will be placed in a fishbowl to be drawn for presentation to Bishop Clark during an hour-long dialogue with him."

The members of each workshop will be asked to save all their questions so that they might be addressed through a variety of means throughout the rest of the year, Fox said.

Deadline for registration is Monday, Feb. 25

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## Notre Dame Anniversary Mass Feb. 11

Notre Dame High School will host a Mass of celebration in honor of its 30th anniversary at 1 p.m., Monday, Feb. 11 in the school auditorium.

Father Joseph Hogan, the first chaplain at the school, will be the main celebrant. Ray Repp, noted songwriter and folk musician, will lead the music.

Repp will perform at a noon concert at the school before the Mass. All alumni and friends are invited to attend.

## Religious Ed Program Scheduled

Deacon Thomas Driscoll will present a five-session course entitled "An Experience of Prayer, Ritual and Worship," beginning at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 14 at Blessed Trinity School, Auburn.

The program is being sponsored by the diocesan Office of Religious Education. Deacon Driscoll is director of religious education at St. Louis Parish, Pittsford.

Fee for the sessions is \$10. For further information and to register for the course, contact Charlotte Richardson

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## Visit St. Jude Shrine in Baltimore during Lent.

Thousands visit this Shrine during Lent to seek St. Jude's powerful intercession. They trust that St. Jude will help them overcome their various problems. Take your problems to St. Jude, the patron saint for hopeless causes—attend Solemn Novena Services in his honor starting on Ash Wednesday, February 20 (7:45 a.m., 12 Noon, 5:45 p.m., 7:45 p.m.) and on Sunday, February 24 (7:45 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.). Visit the Shrine by yourself or with others as a group. Group bus trips are welcome. Write or call for your free St. Jude Novena Prayer Booklet.



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