

DPC Agenda

St. Mary Our Mother — Horseheads, New York
March 23, 1985

9-9:15 A.M.	Opening Prayer (Chemung-Schuyler Region) Approval of the Minutes Approval of the Agenda Chairpersons Remarks
9:15-10:15 A.M.	Bishop Clark's Open Forum
10:15-11:15 A.M.	Needs Assessment Process, Claude Lester
11:15 A.M.-12:15 P.M.	Task Force on the Laity, Report and Proposal Discussion
12:15-1 P.M.	Liturgy prepared by the Chemung-Schuyler Region
1-1:45 P.M.	Lunch will be served compliments of St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads
1:45-2 P.M.	Summary of Discussion on the Laity Recommendations
2-3 P.M.	Regional Concerns Appointed Members Concerns Evaluation Closing Prayer

Fr. Paul J.
Cuddy



On the Right Side

Media Mailbag

To: American Broadcasting
Company
1330 Avenue of the
Americas
New York, N.Y. 10019
Gentlepersons:

Is it assumed that Catholics are fair game on your network? Occasionally I have watched the Donahue spectacle, when weird canonical Sisters are given the opportunity to vent their contestations against Catholic doctrine, the Church, and against the Holy Father -- while they insist on staying in like adders on the bosom of the Church. And I have watched selected priests, like Father Greeley who seems to be six notches higher in wisdom than Pope John Paul II.

Worse than Donahue's vitriol against the Church are the audiences who seem to be packed to harass any who propose purity, concern for the unborn, loyalty to the Church and her Vicar.

Last week I caught part of his show which had two beautiful, bright nuns, seemingly Dominicans from their habit, and two intelligent, knowledgeable, articulate lay women -- all proposing purity, fidelity and concern for the unborn. Donahue treated them more shabbily than I have ever seen him treat any of his panelists. He interrupted them constantly, disrupted their expositions begun; denied them the opportunity to express their views. He gave great time and opportunity to a vociferous, hating opposition in the audience.

In the spirit of equality, are you willing to try those tactics on blacks and Jews? I have never seen either of these groups likewise badgered, and I hope I never will. But the question is, are Catholics fair game for selective insult and assault?

To: TV Station WXXI
Rochester, N.Y.

Last Sunday I watched with glee the last of the "Bless Me, Father" series. Excepting for "Brideshead Revisited," I enjoyed that series above any you have presented. While it was a rerun, I hope in time there will be another rerun. I understand that "Father Duddlesworth" has died, and there will be no more in the series. But what was presented was fun and wholesome; and in its peculiar way, edifying. While Father Duddlesworth was a kind of clerical Archie Bunker, he had so much real kindness and understanding that he was a loveable character. Anyway, on behalf of many people, let me express sincere thanks.

From: Molly, an 11 year old niece
Dear Uncle Paul:

I did receive your letter asking if I was getting the Catholic Digest as your Christmas present. Thank you very much. I got a card telling me I was going to receive the Catholic Digest. I also got the January edition. I read some of it. It is very interesting. Thank you very much! It was a good gift to give. I am sure I will enjoy it. Love, Molly.

To: Molly, in Auburn

I suppose the Catholic Digest is kind of advanced for an 11 year old girl, but you are in the fifth grade at Holy Trinity School in Auburn where I hear teachers expect a lot from their pupils. I am glad that you are enjoying it. There is an interesting article in the February Digest about a little girl who adopted a big wolf. It seemed kind of scary to me, but it was nice to read. Love to Grandma, and to the family, and to the dog; and to Sister Walter Anne O'Malley, the principal. I hear she runs a tight ship, and a good one. Love, Uncle Paul.

Deadline

The deadline for submitting news to the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday

preceding Wednesday publication. Items must be written.

Fr. Louis J.
Hohman



The Open Window

Easter Vigil Is Unique

This is a question which will inevitably come up sometime on the evening of April 6.

It has to do with the Easter Vigil. Some people come to church thinking that the Mass they are attending is simply another (perhaps extra) Mass or the same as anticipated Mass any other Saturday of the year.

Are they surprised when they find out the Mass is two hours or more long, and in some parishes the whole first part is held in a place separate from the church building!

They are not aware of the fact that in the revival of the more ancient form of Holy Week, the Holy Saturday service was changed back to a bona fide vigil even though somewhat shortened.

In more ancient times, the celebration of Easter was the feast par excellence, far outranking any other. The last three days of Holy Week were (and now again are) regarded as a single feast, celebrating the Death and Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ.

On Saturday evening, in anticipation of the feast of the Resurrection itself was the custom for those preparing to be baptized that night to spend the night along with the rest of the faith community in vigil -- in prayer and reflection on the great truths of our faith. That vigil is now revived in a shorter form for faith communities, especially those in which there are candidates for the Sacraments of Initiation. Some parishes feel that the Vigil can be better handled if held in a place or room separate from the body of the church.

The Mass for Easter (the Resurrection) is an integral part of the vigil but is held in the church building.

People have been known to get upset about two things: the placement of the Vigil outside the Church building, and the overall length of the celebration.

As far as the latter is concerned, this is once a

year and as long as one is not taken by surprise, the idea of spending two hours with the Lord and our fellow Christians in celebration of the unbelievable love of God in the dying and rising of Jesus is by no means an extravagant expenditure of time.

However, "we are where we are," and if we're not yet ready for such an experience, well -- hopefully next year.

The separation of the Liturgy of the Word is merely psychological (and not by any means done in every parish), since it gives a sense of moving toward the Lord in faith and allows for a greater sense of community and sharing in the prayers and readings. Here again, it's "different strokes for different folks." If it's not for you right now, maybe later.

Fish Fry March 22nd

5-7 p.m. at Wayland
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