

Turning Homeward With Deacon Joseph Holleran

The stillness has evaporated with this dawn. The quiet has been placed away on the shelf. Now is its turn to wait.

They had ruled out the school halls for the last few months. Halls and classrooms had enjoyed the attention of fresh wax and paint, window washing and dusting. Blackboards are cleaned now and ready for the next year to be written.

A funny time to begin a year — in September — though it is a clock most of us have grown up with and still listen to as parents, students or teachers. The school year has begun.

Homes are resounding to many "thank Gods!" and just as many "Oh Gods!" Sales on school supplies will peak while we may find that the notebook or folder we bought is not exactly what the teacher had in mind. With time, this month will settle, returning to the familiar. Getting back into the routine, though, could be like the playing of a record we've heard just once too often. It can become a routine, just habit. The lunch bags, the faces and assignments, the rooms and walls, the teacher's voice, the bus — all become a blur that uses up the day.

Any job or business, any homemaking or vocation is susceptible to the same malady, where days are lost and become meaningless. Only the weekends and days off are lived for. The day-to-day living is endured, but not embraced. It is a loss. But a loss of much more than time, for we are part of it too.

My first year of teaching is a clear memory. Leaving my car by the school, I would always stop and drink in the day, eager to start, anticipating all the variety and grace it could bring. Each of the simple actions of the day were special because they contained the possibility of touching someone, of making a difference, small but real, in someone else's day.

Years later, I found myself falling into the slide of teaching and living out of habit. The specialness had worn off or perhaps I had stopped thirsting for it. A friend reminded me of the words Jesus once said: "You are the salt of the earth" and "You are the light of the world," Matthew, 5:13-14. That was meant for us too. As creations of God, we have much of His specialness within us. Salt and light — one is a substance, one is an energy. One enhances flavor to reawaken the inside senses. The other changes the way we see outside. In this light, the beauty of each



moment is revealed and with this seasoning, its taste can be appreciated.

There are times though, and jobs, about which I wonder how anyone could live them for long and still find something special. Working on a typewriter assembly line in Elmira was one such. Part of my job was to put the bell on the typewriter that goes "ding." Over 300 machines and "dings" a day. Some workers had been there for more than 25 years. What I see now is that work was not the important thing. It was the people. Their interactions and stories, their individual needs and gifts made it liveable for me. They taught me that living in order to work diminishes, bit by bit, the special grace of each day. There is something more. Later, I learned that it was someone more. He is Jesus, who speaks to us about being salt and light for each other.

Amid the boredom or complexities of some days, the endless tasks and doings for, the next load of laundry or pile of dishes or pile of papers to correct, He becomes the stillpoint. The voice saying "Stop and breathe in the uniqueness of this day, the individual grace of each life in it you may touch. Don't let it slip away. Even the tear that falls, the hurt that endures is a reminder of your humanness, its quality to feel and recognize, its capacity for compassion. Each will have its moment."

There is enough in each day to fill a volume of lives if we would seek it, thirst for its specialness, be light and salt for each other.

That means I can't use the same bulletin board this year, the one that has welcomed the last few classes. This class is unique as they all are. It is composed of young people excited by this beginning, a little frightened by the challenges, yet just wanting to be accepted and loved and allowed to grow into the persons they are becoming. Except for age, then, much like you and me.

We need what we can bring to each other, each moment, each day.

In your life there is that meeting also, that beginning, maybe this month, maybe today as your own light and flavor is realized as special.

September — it's a good time to start the year.

Correction

The Wednesday, July 31 issue incorrectly identified a Sept. 20 Cenacle retreat with Father John Walchans, S.J., as being for men. The retreat is open to both men and women.

On the Right Side

With Father Paul J. Cuddy



About three years ago, I was visiting a fine family in Cayuga County. They had several boys: virile, intelligent, virtuous. All had served as altar boys. I longed that some should become priests, and I mentioned that to the mother. I was bowled over when she said: "I don't think I would want them to be." "You wouldn't! Why not?" "Because the way things are today, I wonder would they stay in the priesthood." It was the first time I ever heard such a doubt expressed, and I suppose it has some validity. However the same applies even more so to marriage.

Recently, I was talking with another mother, and was puzzling aloud why young men of virility and idealism were not drawn to the priesthood. She replied seriously: "Well if you were to begin today, would you choose the priesthood?" "Indeed I would!" "But why would you want to be a priest today?" "For the same reasons I had 50 years ago: to tell the world about our sovereign Lord and His Church; to bring people into the Church and recall the drifters; to offer Mass, the most wonderful privilege in the world; to give the sacraments; to preach God's word; to teach about our Lady and her rosary. I want to share my love for the Church and the pope and the bishop. The priesthood today has more complications than 50 years ago, with interminable meetings and goal-settings; with a terrible increase in bureaucracy within the Church, which I think impedes the care of the people like nurses bogged down by a plethora of reports, obstructing the intimate care of the sick."

The Church suffers from confusion caused by dissident theologians, journalists and fancy-Dan priests. The Church of my youth certainly had its weaknesses and an unreasonable autocracy from some pastors. But we survived because we considered the good of the Church more important than our individual wishes. We had a strong sense of the fraternity of the priesthood, based on an enthusiasm for our Lord and His Church. Consider this beautiful letter.

From a WW II Fighter Pilot:

"Since I never fail to read your column in the Courier, I'm aware that June 15 is the 50th anniversary of your ordination to

the priesthood. I'm happy that God preserved you to reach that milestone because I believe the world needs some of the old-time religion that you constantly preach. Incidentally, your 50th coincides with our 40th wedding anniversary which was June 7.

"I am thinking back to the first time I met you when I was a bright-eyed, gung-ho cadet at Napier Field, Dothan, Alabama. Although I had never been an altar boy, you made me serve benediction at an evening service. Also I still remember the sermon you gave on Christmas Eve, 1943, when you charged us with the obligation to remain pure and loyal to wives and sweethearts who faithfully were awaiting our return. Somehow, Father, you had the ability to make me and hundreds of others feel that the God and Church we knew at home were still close and available even though we were in military service.

"I thank God that my life has been filled with much more happiness than sorrow. I still look back occasionally on my Irish luck. I flew 63 missions over Germany in a P-51 and returned without a scratch. The five buddies who joined the squadrons in England with me in September, 1944, did not share too well. Three were killed; another a POW. One of the six along with me finished out combat tours. I met him and the ex-POW two years ago at our 364th Fighter Group reunion.

"Ten years ago when I lived and worked in Belgium for three years, I looked up and visited the graves of my three roommates — all in military cemeteries in Belgium, Holland and England. But enough, Father. Again, congratulations on your 50th anniversary and may God give you many more."

Fred T. O'C

Class 44 B Napier Field, Alabama
Doesn't this splendid letter combine gratitude for the priesthood, the dreadfulness of war, and the unique comradeship built up among servicemen, which persists even after many decades of separation? To have been a chaplain in the service was a great grace both for priest and for our military men and women.

The Classifieds

COURIER-JOURNAL

To place a classified ad, call 454-7050 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Classified ads cost 50 cents a word with a \$7.50 minimum. If you mail your ad to us, you may enclose payment or include a billing address.

General

Card of Thanks 2
THANK YOU Sacred Heart, Sts. Jude, Joseph, Anne, Theresa for favors received. J.A.W.
THANK YOU Sacred Heart, St. Jude, Blessed Mother, St. Anthony for favors received. F.R.

Announcements 7
MORTGAGES WANTED If you took back a mortgage when selling your property and would like cash CALL Al Overaker 594-8267

Employment

Male Wanted 14
AID for invalid women in West Irondequoit, Toss. and Thers. 8AM-4PM. 544-5677.

OCCASIONAL BABYSITTER for evenings. Dewey/Latta area. References a must. 885-7914 (after 5)

Part Time Opportunity
Major U.S. Company needs reliable persons with car, phone to assist manager with customer services in CNY area. Can average \$7-\$10/hr. Flexible hours.
For interview call 396-2585

NURSING AIDES
Needed to give in-home care. Jobs immediately available. Choice of hrs. & locations. Qualifications previous health care exp. & reliable.

UNLIMITED CARE
232-1899

Wanted 16
CONVALESCENT CARE by certified aide. Superior qualifications and references. 864-3275

EXPERIENCED DELIVERY DRIVER with own van available for regularly scheduled or express deliveries in Rochester area. Paul 286-5781.

Will Care For Elderly Lady or Companion Evenings, 8PM-3AM. Call After 7:30PM 647-1712.

Buy/Sell—General

Wanted To Buy 27
DON'T THROW IT AWAY—Sell it! Will buy your accumulations or manage your household sales. Nancy Flaherty, 533-1748.

FURS: Any kind, good condition - cash. Corie's, 544-3331 Tues. thru Sat., 11-4.

Household Goods

Appliances 28
Viking Sewing Machine. Recently traded, mint condition with guarantee. The Sewing Machine Shop, 467-3100
SINGER CREATIVE TOUCH 1036 free-arm, all modern stitches, self-winding bob bin. \$449 when new. Excellent condition, 3 yrs. old. \$125. The Sewing Machine Shoppe 467-3100
HOOVER DIMENSION vacuum with 4.0 h.p. Newest model, retail \$369.95. Have 3 at \$258. The Sewing Machine Shoppe, 467-3100

Electrolux Silverado with power nozzle, almost new, guaranteed, \$249.95. The Sewing Machine Shoppe, 467-3100 or 427-2290.

For Sale Kirby Classic with attachments, excellent condition, recently overhauled, \$75. The Sewing Machine Shoppe, 467-3100 or 427-2290.

Sewing Machines, 84 models, closeouts 1/2 price on all White Jeans Machines will accept trades. The Sewing Machine Shoppe, 467-3100 or 427-2290.

Singer Sewing Machines, Heavy dual school models, recently trade \$45.00. The Sewing Machine Shoppe, 467-3100 or 427-2290.

KIRBY CLASSIC with attachments. Excellent condition, recently overhauled. \$75.00 The Sewing Machine Shoppe, 467-3100

Household Sales 41
FABULOUS FINDINGS Let our friendly staff manage your estate or household sale-garage sale. Experienced, fully insured. Marian Swartz, 467-5341.

Property

Homes for Sale 51
GOVERNMENT HOMES from \$1. (U repair). Also delinquent tax property. Call (806)987-6000 Ext. GH-1467 for information.

Rooms for Rent 59
FURNISHED ROOM \$45.00 weekly. Share kitchen and bath. Female. 271-5618.

Wanted to Rent 64
EMPLOYED Gentleman would like room or two with Catholic family in South Wedge. 271-8523 or 232-7100 ext 3312.

Services

Driveways 82
DON WARNER BLACKTOP, sealcoating. Driveways, parking areas. Free estimates. 24 years' experience. 254-7481 or 458-1357.

Electricians 83
ELECTRICAL WORK - No Job To Small. Free Estimates. CALL Frank after 5, 225-8475.

Firewood/Fuel 88
FIREWOOD (Dry) 5 Cords-\$45.00 each; 1 cord-\$9.00 Call Woody 594-9267

Instructional Schools 104
"DESPERATELY SEEKING STUDENTS!" Enthusiastic piano instruction: Nazareth College graduate. Enjoy the piano! 223-8418

Plumbing 118
ACCU-PLUMBING Service Today! Free estimates, senior citizen discount. John Vies, 342-0618, Near Ridge Rd.

Painting/Papering 113
PAINTING & PAPERHANGING textured-swirl ceilings. Free estimates, quality work. Dan Burgmaster, 663-0627

Roofing/Gutters 121
GUTTER CLEANING \$24.95. Fully insured, friendly service. Call 533-2260 or 334-0701
GUTTER CLEANING \$24.95. Fully insured, friendly service. Call 533-2260 or 334-0701
PAINTING, roofing, gutters and chimneys. Complete improvements and repairs. Free estimates, fair prices. J. Kress, 288-8103

NYSCAN Classifieds
New York State Classified Advertising Network
25 word ads reach 3.2 million readers in 157 weekly newspapers in NY State
for only \$125.
For more info call: 716-454-7050
NYSCAN is a service of NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION