

On the Right Side

Father Paul J. Cuddy



Lotto Winning Dreams

Would I like to have won that \$40 million Lotto jackpot in January? Yes. And what would I have done with it? Well, I'd help Sister Pat Flynn to expand her St. Michael's Woodshop for underprivileged youth, to give them a skill, self-reliance and self-esteem. (Sister Pat recently phoned. "I started a woodworking class at the Forensic Psychiatric Ward for the criminally unbalanced at the Psych Center. A new patient asked me, 'Do you know Father Cuddy?' 'Oh, very well.' 'The Judge sent me here. Will you get in touch with (Father Cuddy)? He can get me out!'" I asked, "Where is he from?" "Syracuse." "Oh, he wants my nephew, Father Bill Cuddy, who is in the Syracuse Jail Ministry. But I doubt he can be of much help. He was arrested for the third time with the Berrigan brothers at Rome Air Base for some disturbance against the law. We expect he will be in jail himself at the end of this month." I suppose the Church needs earthy priests like me and visionary priests like my nephew.)

I would help 78-year-old Jesuit Father Leo Welch buy the property across the road from his church in the Philippines, the property that some rock'n roll disco outfit is threatening to buy, and help him establish a school for his poor children. I certainly would shell out to Bishop Raphael Ndigni, who graduated from our own St. John Fisher College. Now he has established a flourishing community of native Kenyan sisters who teach and do social work in Kenya. They have many vocations, and there is a great potential for the Church.

Rochesterian Father Richard Kraft, SVD, runs a radio station in the boondocks, also in the Philippines.

Consider the need and effectiveness of the radio apostolate. He wrote:

"So many thanks for your check. I gave half of it to a Filipino confrere whose rectory burned down completely on New Year's Eve. He needs help to get some things he needs urgently now. After the fire, he had nothing except the clothes he was wearing at Midnight Mass. He mentioned last night that he misses most not having a bed. He is living in the sacristy — and using the school lavatory for other needs.

"Your gift is also a great help for our radio apostolate, which is more important than ever now for the Philippines. We are doing our best to help have an election that is somewhat clean and honest. The opposition cannot even get time on radio stations in this part of the country. One bright spot is that Marcos chose an honorable man as his vice-presidential candidate.

"Please excuse the late acknowledgement. My niece, Kathy Muller, sent the notice with a list of Mass intentions the day before her mother, my sister Rosemary, died. I was listing the Mass intentions before Christmas, when I saw also listed the \$500 gift from you.

"Kathy will carry on the work of her mother for the Philippine missions. She will make the third generation helping our mission work — my mother, my sister, and now my niece. Best regards to Father Hart and to all at Holy Trinity who might still remember me. I have pleasant memories of Holy Trinity."

What would I do with that \$40 million? Well, the above is just a start. Money is like good seeds: productive when planted, nourished, to do good. There is so much good that can be done.

A Word for Sunday

Father Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Luke 5:1-11; (R1) Isaiah 6:1-8; (R2) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11.

The popularity of the preaching of Jesus indicated that it was designed for the whole world. Thus it became necessary to prepare a group of workers to carry on His work. The growth of Christianity always depends on securing people who will publicly confess and follow Christ.

The men Jesus called were fishermen, strong, sturdy and independent. They weren't strangers to Jesus, nor had they been indifferent to religious truth. They had listened to John the Baptist, and they had come to regard Jesus as the Messiah. Now they were called to leave home and work, and become His constant companions and disciples.

"As the crowds pressed in on Jesus to hear the word of God" — not that St. Luke calls Jesus' preaching "the word of God" — "he saw two boats moored by the side of the lake." He chose Simon's boat as a pulpit from which to address the crowd.

Luke puts the spotlight on Simon. Simon stands alone during the entire first part of the story. The dialogue is between him and Jesus. Andrew isn't even mentioned. James and John are named at the end, but only as shipmates of Simon, and the call is addressed to Simon. This is Luke's effort to present Simon as the key person in the Church. The others would retain in their fishing of men the same relative position they had in this "fish story."

When Jesus had finished speaking to the crowd, He gave the disciples an object lesson in what their work would entail. By making a pun on the word "fishermen," he made them "fishers of men." And if they would consent to leave everything behind and follow Him, their success would be phenomenal.

The miracle was especially impressive, since it was based entirely on faith. Common sense dictated that both the time and the place were useless for fishing, and that an inland carpenter would know nothing about fishing. But Simon said, "If you say so, I will lower the nets." The result was a marvelous

catch of fish.

This marvelous catch evoked a faith response from Simon, the first person in the public ministry to call Jesus "Lord" (no longer "Master"). Upon this confession, Luke refers to him not as Simon, but as Simon Peter, presaging his future role as "rock."

Simon Peter is aware of the distance between himself, a sinner, and the Lord. Like the centurion, he says, "Lord, I am not worthy." But Jesus did not come to drive sinners from His presence. Rather, He came to call sinners to His ministry. All He asked was that they trust Him.

Jesus chose simple folk, not the educated or those from religious officialdom or the aristocracy. He chose fishermen — unlettered, simple, ordinary people.

Few believed in ordinary folk as Jesus did. George Bernard Shaw said his only feeling for the working classes was to abolish them. The Greeks labeled ordinary folk *hoi polloi* — "the many," nameless numbers only. Marxists called them the "proletariat" — the masses, good for nothing but to provide offspring ("proles") for the State. Ernie Pyle, champion of GI Joe, wrote sadly, "... and they were expendable."

But a great man, like Lincoln, loved the ordinary folk. "God must love the common people," Lincoln said. "He made so many of them." In the darkest hours of the Civil War, he told a Boston Journal reporter, "I have faith in the people. They will not consent to disunion. The danger is in their being misled. Let them know the truth and the country is safe." During war, he devoutly desired to preserve a government "of the people, by the people, for the people."

Lincoln, of course, was created in the image of Jesus. Jesus chose for His mother and foster father ordinary people. For His apostles, He chose fishermen, not aristocrats like Isaiah (R1). He changed them, and through them, the world. One must, therefore, never think of what one is, so much as of what Christ can make one. Nor of what the world thinks of one, but of what Jesus thinks!

Scripture and Jazz

A lively blend of scripture and jazz compositions will be offered by Unit-y, the never-married Christian singles group, Sunday, Feb. 9, from 2-5 p.m. at the

Cenacle. Tom Tosti and other Rochester musicians are organizing the program. A donation of \$3 is requested. For more information, call (716)271-8755.


Marriage and Church Law

Diocesan young adult ministry will sponsor a workshop on "Marriage and Church Law" Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Holy Name Recreation Center, St. Martin's Way, Rochester.

Father Robert O'Neill of the diocesan Tribunal, the presenter, will challenge

possible misconceptions about annulment, mixed marriages and divorce. He will also address marriage preparation and possible pitfalls.

The program is open to all. Donations will be accepted at the door. For more information, call (716)586-1919.



The **COURIER-JOURNAL**
presents its . . .
Wedding Supplement
Thurs., Feb. 20th, 1986
Serving the Rochester Catholic Diocese

Our most popular supplement every year is our Wedding Supplement.


More weddings are performed in the Catholic Church than in any other.

This section, in addition to appearing as a supplement in the issue of February 20, is also distributed to couples attending Pre-Cana instruction throughout 1986.

Included in this Package are 12 one inch ad insertions in a Wedding Guide appearing monthly in the Courier-Journal where your company name will be seen throughout the year.

1/4 page	5 x 8 inches	295.00
1/2 page	5 x 15 1/2 inches	495.00
1/2 page	10 1/4 x 8 inches	495.00
Full page	10 1/4 x 15 1/2 inches	795.00

Phone: 454-7050 For Information



THE 1986 DIOCESAN DIRECTORY IS HEAVEN-SENT!

MAIL TO:
Official Directory, 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607


Enclosed please find my check for	1986 Diocesan Directory Prices
\$ _____ to cover the	\$12.00 Single Copy
cost of _____ Directories.	\$21.50 Two Copies
	\$25.00 Three Copies
	\$10.00 Each Additional Copy

Don't be devilish...order today!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Make Checks Payable to Courier-Journal Directory