

Columnists

Ten saints to inspire today's youths

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

Last November, Lola DeJohn, religious-education director of St. John's in Clyde, where Father Thomas Nellis is pastor, phoned me in Webster. She said: "I know you are interested in the saints. Could you give two hours, from 5-7 p.m. Sunday, January 11, to our confirmation class and talk about the saints?" "What's it all about, Lola?" I asked. "Part of our confirmation program is to have those to be confirmed and their sponsors or at least one parent each week for a meeting to prepare for confirmation." "Good," I said. "I'll be glad to come."

Now, I am convinced that most people do not remember much of the spoken word unless it is reinforced by the printed word. So I made a folder, with the names of 10 outstanding holy people who should be attractive to youths. Of the 10, most of our confirmation group — including sponsors and parents — recognized only one, Mother Teresa of Calcutta. So, here is a test for you:

1) **Padre Pio**, a Capuchin stigmatist near Naples, Italy, died around 1966. A good biography was written by a Lutheran minister, Pastor Ruffin.

2) **Charles De Foucauld** was murdered in 1915. He was a French soldier, explorer of Africa and cartologist. He was about as wicked as a man could be up to the age of 25. Then he had a spiritual conversion and became a Trappist, a Holy Land hermit and developed a profound prayer life. He ended up in a hermitage in the Sahara, which he built as a prayer retreat, a sanctuary for run-away slaves and neighboring Muslims. One of the best biographies is the one by the convert English author Ann Freemantle.

3) **St. Edmund Campion, SJ**, a 16th century martyr under Elizabeth I. A good biography was written by convert Evelyn Waugh.

4) **St. Peter Claver**, 1581-1654, was an apostle to negro slaves at Cartagena, Colombia. Convert Father C.C. Martindale, SJ, wrote a moving biography.

5) **Damien, the leper**, a Belgian priest, was apostle to the lepers in Molokai, Hawaii. A good biography was written by convert John Farrow, the husband of Maureen O'Sullivan.

On the Right Side

6) **Dr. Tom Dooley**, 1927-1961, a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and a U.S. Navy medical officer. After leaving the Navy, he dedicated the rest of his short life to establishing clinics, training natives and treating the abandoned in Laos, Vietnam and East Asia in a work comparable to that of Mother Teresa. The libraries have several biographies that could inspire all.

7) **Mother Teresa of Calcutta**, a native of Yugoslavia, the communist country in which Our Lady is said to be appearing in the village of Medjugorje.

8) **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**, the foundress of the Sisters of Charity, who run St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester. She established schools, hospitals and orphanages.

9) **St. John Bosco**, born in 1815 in Piedmont, Italy, just after the battle of Waterloo and the tremors from the Industrial Revolution. He was the predecessor of our Father Flanigan, founder of Boys Town in Nebraska. Several moving biographies have been written.

10) **Father Miguel Pro, SJ**, was martyred in 1927. This Mexican priest, successfully evaded the Mexican police during the savage persecution of the Church under Calles, Obregon and Cardenas, bringing Mass and the other sacraments to harassed Mexican Catholics. As he was being executed by a firing squad, he cried out, "Via Christo Rey!" A simple biography by the Daughters of St. Paul is entitled, "God's Secret Agent."

If our youngsters can be enthusiastic about Boy George, Elvis Presley, the Beatles and such like, how much better it would be to be enthusiastic about those who reflect Christ in His Church. And isn't it curious that so many biographies of holy people are written to by converts to the Catholic faith? I wonder why.

An extraordinary life of service

By Father Richard P. McBrien

Martin E. Marty — the Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Professor of the History of Christianity at the University of Chicago and the man *Time* magazine once described as "the most influential living interpreter of religion in the United States" — turned 60 this week. It was a birthday that ought not to pass unnoticed.

Marty, a Lutheran minister, is one of North America's most prolific writers and editors in the field of religion. He is the author of more than 40 books, including the award-winning *Righteous Empire*, and the first volume in a projected decade-long effort on a four-volume history of *Modern American Religion*. He is senior editor of *The Christian Century*, one of the nation's leading ecumenical journals, edits his own fortnightly newsletter, "Context," and is co-author of the scholarly quarterly *Church History*.

He is currently president of the American Academy of Religion and of the Park Ridge Center, an ecumenical institute for the study of health, faith and ethics. He is past president of both the American Society of Church History and the American Catholic Historical Association.

An unabashed admirer of Dorothy Day, Gandhi, Pope John XXIII and Martin Luther King Jr., Marty once described them as religious people who "wrestled with their traditions and at the same time were expansive and available to people of other traditions." He could have said the same thing of himself.

The January 1 issue of his "Context" newsletter finds Marty reflecting on his life, ministry and academic career as he begins his seventh decade, his second quarter-century at the University of Chicago and his 20th year as "Context" editor.

He places his wife, Harriet, and children first, occupying a "zone of life" to which he will devote attention for as long as he is given life and health. His teaching at the University of Chicago, he insists, is "the most localized, least visible, most demanding, and... still the most-rewarding of all my work," sustaining

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everything else he does.

Beyond teaching, writing and editing, Marty has in recent years found himself surprisingly engaged and engrossed in the Park Ridge Center, devoting at least one day a week to his responsibilities. As if all this were not enough, Marty has just been asked by the American Academy of Arts and Letters to chair a five-year comparative study of fundamentalism around the world — in Islamic, Jewish, Christian and other religions.

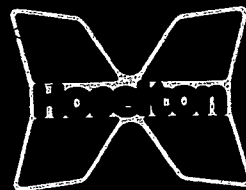
Meanwhile, he serves this year as president of the American Academy of Religion, the largest organization of scholars devoted to the study of religion. He says that next year — after 13 years — will be his last on the board of the National Humanities Center (North Carolina), and he has just ended a term on the board of Scholars Press in Atlanta. But he is just beginning another — on the board of advisers of the Carter Presidential Center.

Over his study in his Riverside, Ill., home, there is a motto given him by his former Lutheran bishop: "Life is short and we have not much time for gladdening the hearts of those who travel the way with us. Oh, be swift to love! Make haste to be kind!"

Martin Marty has gladdened many hearts, is swift to love and hastens always to be kind. He is, in the words of Jay Dolan, a colleague of mine at Notre Dame and one of Marty's former doctoral students, "the quintessential Christian gentleman." He has been a gift to the Church, and his 60th birthday is an appropriate time to say thanks, both to him and to the One who empowered him for his extraordinary life of service.

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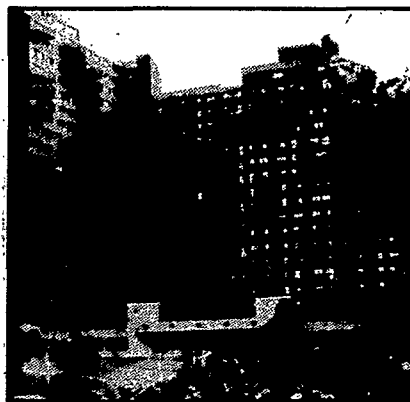
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