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## Columnists

## Raising children of joy, not sorrow

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

It is about 40 years ago that I stopped at the married-students' apartments - which were converted barracks from Navy days - at Sampson College, in order to visit a young couple recently married. As the Catholic chaplain, I kept good track of my flock. The couple left the following year. The husband, who had been a student, went to another college, got his degree and worked for years at Kodak Company in Rochester. I never saw them again but once, which I greatly regret, but used to exchange Christmas notes and news of the family, which increased to seven children. Recently the wife, Ann, wrote a long letter which might give courage to others.

"We're retired! What do we do? We keep busy with volunteering. Right now we're down in Florida, helping our daughter and her husband with their new baby, Sean Christopher, born two days ago. We drove from Brockport after Christmas. Traffic was congested from South Carolina to Miami. All those football fans going to the bowl games.

"Our youngest is 22, so he helped a whole lot with the driving. He's flying out of Miami for Mexico. He's going to teach English as a second language. Of course, there is a girl down there. He met her last year when he went to Cuernavaca as an exchange student. All seven are now finished college, and we are giving a sigh of relief. Five are married, and we have nine grandchildren. We do enjoy them.

"Patricia is a nurse here, and Keith a Dade County sheriff. Mostly, he picks up the mangled bodies in vehicular fatalities. He marveled at this new life. Sean is a beautiful baby, and we thank God for his safe arrival.

"We read your column weekly, and always enjoy it ..."

I sit back and ponder at the work and love that went into raising those seven children, and give thanks to God that the children have been a joy rather than a sorrow. Last year, a woman sent in a column to Ann Landers, which might profit young parents: **'HOW TO RAISE A CROOK** 

"1) Begin from infancy to give the child everything he wants. This way he will grow up

On the Right Side

to believe the world owes him a living.

"2) When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. It will encourage him to pick up gutter phrases that will blow the top off your head

"3) Never give him any spiritual training. Wait until he is 21 and then let him decide for

"4) Avoid the use of the word "wrong." It may develop a guilt complex. This will condition him to believe late, when he is arrested for stealing a car, that society is against him and he is being persecuted.

5) Pick up anything he leaves lying around - books, shoes, clothing. Do everything for him so he will be experienced in throwing the responsibility onto others.

"6) Let him read any printed matter he can get his hands on, or feast his eyes on sexy TV programs. Silverware and drinking glasses are sterilized, but let his mind feed on garbage.

"7) Quarrel frequently in the presence of the children. Then they won't be too shocked when the home is broken.

"8) Give the child all the spending money he wants. Never let him earn his own. Why should he have things as rough as you had

"9) Satisfy his every craving for food, drink and comfort. Denial may lead to harmful frus-

"10) Take his part against the neighbors, teachers and policemen. They are all prejudiced against your child.

"11) When he gets into real trouble, apologize for yourselves by saying, 'I never could do anything with him?

"12) Prepare for a life of grief because you are sure to have it."

## The crucifixions of two robbers

By Cindy Bassett

"Jeriel! Jeriel!" the young man shouted as he struggled to catch up with his friend. "Didn't you hear me calling you, Jeriel?" Jeriel quickly grabbed his companion's arm and forced him into an alley.

"Don't you ever listen when I talk to you, Dan?" he shouted. "We must do nothing to call attention to ourselves! There are nearly as many Roman soldiers here in Jerusalem as there are people who have come for the Passover celebration." Then, seeing Dan's downcast look. Jeriel softened a bit and added, "I just want you to be careful. How much did you get?"

"Five hundred dollars!" Dan announced proudly. "A great crowd lined the road leading into the city waiting for his arrival. Some of the people had even thrown off their coats for him to ride over. They grabbed branches ever they could find one was waving wildly!"

"Dan, you're not making sense!" Jeriel snapped. 'Who was arriving?"

"It was Jesus, the great prophet from Nazareth," Dan replied. "He is known as the miracle worker. But today, the crowd greeted

him as 'God's son'." "What do I care about prophets or so-called

miracle workers? But, perhaps such a man will be good for our business," he reconsidered. "There should be quite a take for us this week, with all these devout Jews coming to Jerusalem to make their temple offerings."

"It will be good for your business, all right!" yelled a voice in the alley. The voice belonged to a Roman soldier, who quickly led the two robbers off to prison.

Jeriel and Dan spent several days in their cells, awaiting punishment. Roman law was harsh in the case of robbery - stipulating death on a cross. Their executions were set for Friday morning, both to avoid trouble with the Jewish leaders — who would be offended if the bodies hung on the crosses on the sabbath, Saturday — and to set an example. Hebrews from all over the region were in Jerusalem this week, and a crucifixion would serve to remind them that Roman law ruled the land.

On Friday morning the condemned were required to carry their own crosses to the execuThe Bible Corner

tion site. When the two robbers reached the "Place of the Skull" just outside the city, they saw a third condemned man.

"What has he done?" Jeriel asked one of the

"He is a rebel against the government," the soldier responded. "He claims to be a king." "That's Jesus!" Dan pointed out. "He's no criminal; there must be some mistake!"

"Silence both of you!" the guard shouted

In the end, Jesus was crucified between the two robbers. A huge crowd gathered at the scene, and some of the women were praying and weeping for Jesus. But the Jewish leaders began jeering, "Jesus, you saved others, save yourself! If you are a great king, then come off that cross and do a miracle!" A great many people joined in on the mockery.

Dan looked at Jesus. He had been badly beaten, but Jesus spoke no condemnation: "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."

Still the insults from the crowd continued. Jeriel joined with them, scoffing, "Jesus, aren't you the one who claims to be the Messiah? Well, if you really are God, then save yourself

"Jeriel, how can you say such things even as you die?" Dan shouted. "We have sinned against God and we deserve to die for our crimes. But not Jesus! He has done nothing wrong!" Dan paused to glance over at Jesus, whose head hung low. "Jesus, remember me\_ when you come into your kingdom," he

Jesus looked up with compassion. "I promise you that this very day you will be with me

Scripture reference: Luke, chapter 23.

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