

Shared stories from a winter's sojourn in Lyons

By Father Paul J. Cuddy
Courier columnist

Each year Father Richard Orlando, pastor of St. Michael Church in Lyons — designated "Richard the Lion Hearted" by Father John Dillon in his outrageous Sodus bulletin — has engaged me to supply for him when he takes his pre-Lenten vacation in a warmer clime. This year he engaged me for three weeks, beginning Jan. 9.

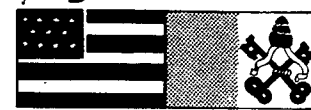
Lyons is a happy assignment. It is a dozen miles north of Geneva and seven miles west of Clyde. It is a village of 5,000 souls with a plethora of Protestant churches, no synagogue, and one Catholic church. Because I served in Clyde for 13 years of my priesthood, there are many friends and many good memories throughout the area.

The rectory is one of the finest in the diocese, beautifully maintained. The church has been newly renovated. The altar boys are among the finest I know. The first week of my arrival, the parish Women's Club, like the Rosary and Altar

Society of yore, had a dinner at Bridge Tavern, with 38 of the 46 members there to welcome the newly arrived priest. There is a Sunday folk group and a Saturday evening choir. The organ is presided over by Bryan Keiser, who has a music store in North Rose where he displays a beautiful grand piano which he bought from the estate of Liberace. The CCD program goes well, but it is a sorrow to me that some children are not participants, which makes me wonder about the parents.

I smile to remember a miracle I performed there on three Sundays. The high school students have class from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. on Sundays. After class, they drift to the church for 10:30 Mass. As teenagers do, they hang around the front of the church chatting. As teenagers do, they amble into the church just before Mass and slump in the back pews. Just before Mass, I sauntered to the back of the church, beamed at the group of 20-some, and said: "I'd like you to come to the front, because

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



my Sunday talk is really for you." There was that questioning pause, then they got up, took the front pews, and participated with the hymns, the responses, in liturgical action. How much better than dopy slumping in the back with utter liturgical inaction.

I have a special devotion to teenagers. They are going through the throes between adolescence and maturing, a period of personal uncertainty. They suffer from peer pressure. I said to them: "I don't know why peers so often follow some eightballs, instead of good peers. Maybe it goes back to Adam and Eve, when God told them what to do, and the devil told them the opposite — and they followed the eightball devil. Do you think that was very bright?"

Teen years are also the age of idealism, and as I looked at the young boys in the front pews, I thought: What good priests these would make if only their priorities could shift from automobiles, rock-and-roll and the like to Christ their Lord, and to His Holy Church, which I love so much. How to get the message over? Teen seminars seem to help. Father Phil Billotte has organized some successful weekend renewals which have inspired many boys and girls. The best I can do is to give them the facts — that every vocation has its joys and its frustrations and crosses. Marriage certainly does. And so does the priesthood. But I know of no vocation more fruitful and happy than that of the priesthood.

A Samaritan woman's unlikely encounter at the well

By Cindy Bassett
Courier columnist

By noon, the shopowners in Sychar had already pulled down their awnings to shut out both customers and the intense heat of the afternoon sun.

The streets in Sychar were deserted except for a woman who made her way to the well on the outskirts of town. She preferred her solitude and this was the usual time when she made her daily trek to the well.

As the woman approached the well and saw the stranger sitting there alone, she was annoyed at the prospect of having her routine disturbed. He was a young man, perhaps 30 years of age, and looked tired and dusty — sure signs that he had been traveling. It would be rude not to offer him a cold drink of fresh water.

But as soon as she reached the well, she saw at once that such courtesy would be entirely inappropriate. By all appearances, the stranger was a Jew. She was a Samaritan and there was a longstanding separation between the two cultures. Although both Jews and Samaritans worshipped the same God, the Jews considered Samaritans "un-

clean" because they had intermarried with foreigners who worshipped false gods.

The woman had begun to draw her water from the well without another thought about the stranger when he broke the silence saying, "Give me a drink of water, please."

She said nothing for a full minute as she looked directly into his face. The stranger's expression was kind and honest. So she replied, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan. How is it that you can ask me for a drink?"

The words he spoke were as puzzling as his request. "If you only knew who is asking you for a drink, you would ask me to give you life-giving water," he replied.

"Sir, I see that you have no bucket and the well is deep," she said. "Where are you going to get this water you are talking about?"

"The water that you take from this well only satisfies for a short time," he replied simply. "Whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty again."

"Never be thirsty! Please give me this water," she asked eagerly, casting all logic

THE BIBLE CORNER

aside. "I will never have to come to this well and draw water again."

"All right," he agreed, "but before I do, go home and bring your husband back here."

Suddenly the woman's expression changed. "I don't have a husband," she said, looking away from his gaze.

There was no condemnation in the stranger's reply. "You have spoken the truth. For you have had five husbands and the man you are living with now is not your husband," he said.

"How do you know that?" she asked nervously.

"I know everything about you," he said. "Even now, you are not happy with your life." And he began to relate things to her

about herself that even she had forgotten.

"Well, you must be some sort of a prophet then," she concluded. "Even in Samaria, we worship the same God as the Jews and look forward to the day when the Messiah will come."

"I am he," Jesus said. "The one you are speaking to now."

With that statement, the woman dropped her water jar and ran back to town. She began telling everyone that she had met someone who knew all about her. He must truly be the Messiah.

Scripture reference: John, Chapter 4:1-42.

Meditation for Lent: "I am the Lord, your Savior; I am the one who created you." (Isaiah 44:24).

The Shadee Lady
"The Most Unique Lamp and Shade Shop in Rochester."

SPECIAL ATTENTION TO YOUR SPECIAL NEEDS

- Ready Made and Custom Shades
- Lamps From Casual to Elegant
- Distinctive Gifts
- Lamp Restoration and Repair

WINTER CLASS SCHEDULE

- Decorative Painting.....3/7, 3/14
- Faux Finishes.....2/22
- Fabric Shade.....2/27
- Easter Basket.....2/28
- Cut & Pierce Shade.....3/9
- Marbleizing.....3/15
- Half-basket.....3/21

385-7559

Northfield Commons Tues.-Fri. 10-4
Pittsford, N.Y. Sat. 10-2

WHISPERING WINDS BUS TOURS

PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW
March 10-12
3 Dinners, 2 Theaters: "Fiddler on the Roof," "Lily Langtrips," plus flower show **\$220⁰⁰** p.p. twin

MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL
March 30-April 1
Emlira, Ontario SUPER VALUE! **\$174⁰⁰** p.p. twin

SHAW FESTIVAL
May 3
Showing "Man & Super Man," plus dinner **\$47⁰⁰**

WEST COAST
May 9-18
Includes: Air Fare, Overnight on the Queen Mary CALL FOR MORE DETAILS **\$1500⁰⁰** p.p. twin

Chartered Buses & Customized Tours GROUP SPECIALISTS
435 Trabold Rd., Rochester, NY 14624
(716) 247-3213

Go Greyhound
and leave the driving to us.


A sign of FUTURE

CONSIDER THE BENEFITS OF A PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH GIFT ANNUITY...

Security... You can make a gift to the Propagation of the Faith and receive an income for the rest of your life.

Safety... The amount of your income is guaranteed. It is not affected by falling interest rates or stock market uncertainty. A portion of your income will be tax free each year.

Satisfaction... You can claim a sizeable charitable contribution if you itemize your deductions on your income tax return. More importantly, you will have the enjoyment of playing an important role in bringing Christ's message of love and salvation "to the ends of the earth."



Bishop William J. McCormack
National Director

Brighton Catholic Schools
Our Lady of Lourdes
and
Seton Junior High
OPEN HOUSE
Welcome all prospective students and families
Tuesday, February 21
7 - 9 p.m.
165 Rhinecliff Dr. (716) 473-6604

The Society for THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH
...all of us committed to the worldwide mission of Jesus

Please mail coupon to: Bishop William J. McCormack
National Director, Propagation of the Faith
G.P.O. Box 1950, New York, NY 10116 (Dept. C)

Please send me information on a Gift Annuity
 Enclosed is my added contribution to the General Fund of the Propagation of the Faith

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
If Gift Annuity: Date of Birth _____
Amount Considered _____

#344 2/16/89