

Glimpses of people and places in the Southern Tier

By Father Paul J. Cuddy
Catholic Courier columnist

Analysts of the Catholic faith would probably say of the Southern Tier, i.e. the Corning, Elmira, Hornell area: "It tends to be traditional, faithful to Mass, without Fancy Dan interpolations affected by some; honoring the Blessed Sacrament, the rosary, sacramentals."

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen writes in his autobiography of the fraternity of the priesthood. A recent month in the Southern Tier let me experience this fraternity. Father Robert MacNamara invited me to supply for nine days at his parish, St. Vincent's, Corning. It was good to be with Father John Murphy and young Father Pat O'Connor. Father Murphy was suffering from a tough sickness, which did not abate until early March. Father O'Connor is edifyingly full of zeal and devotion. I met with Father Thomas Brennan of St. Mary's; my funeral homilist who belies his 83 years by his calm zest and astute observations. We went to see Father Harold Rogers at his apartment in Painted Post. He has been very sick, and is improved, but far from well.

One afternoon, I slipped down to Hor-

nell, 40 miles south of Corning, to tape three radio programs for "Magnify the Lord" at station WLEA. This 15-minute Sunday program was started 21 years ago through the manager, Kevin P. Doran, and the Legion of Mary at St. Ann's. En route, I stopped half way at Bath to greet the volatile Father Robert Hammond. After the taping, I invited myself to the Dorans' for supper, and spent the night at St. Ann's where there is always a cordial welcome from Fathers Elmer Schmidt and James Yaeger.

On my return to Corning, Father Joe Hogan, that rock of fidelity to that Rock in Rome, came from Elmira for dinner.

After my Corning stint, I had a few days at Mt. Saviour Benedictine Monastery outside Elmira. There were 13 monks, plus a few retreatants. The atmosphere is stimulating. In the bookstore, I bought "Merton: By Those Who Knew Him," a collection of interviews with some 18 persons, including Abbot John Eudes Bamberger of Piffard, Joan Baez, who gave a weird interview, and our own Dr. Richard Loomis of Nazareth College.

From Mt. Saviour, I phoned Father Paul McCabe at Lourdes, Elmira: "I'd like to

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



join you and Father Golden for dinner." "Wonderful! Come tonight!" A bonus was another guest, an ebullient young Dominican, Father Augustine DiNoia, who is on a year's sabbatical from the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, to write a theological book, and is pro tempore chaplain for the Dominican sisters. The next day I went to the Elmira Public Library, where Father McCabe gave a masterful book review of J.F. Powers' *Wheat that Springs Green*. I had read the book, and didn't like it. But the review was superb. Father McCabe nicely shadowed the alcoholic compulsion of Father Joe, the main character.

After Mt. Saviour, onward to Elmira Heights where Father Joseph Gaynor, assisted by his Deacon William Dougherty, had given me an invitation to give a mid-Lenten tridium. While there, Father Ed Golden's mother died, and it was a privilege to be at the funeral with over 30 brother priests to honor a mother of profound faith, who gave to the church such a

good family and so fine a priest son.

As is my custom I set up a religious articles stand in the vestibules of both Elmira and Corning. Today there are over 800 copies of the little *Treasury of Prayers* floating around the Southern Tier, and sent off to folks in the military service, colleges, hospitals and sundry places away from home. While at St. Charles, Father Gaynor and I went to visit Father Joseph Egan, who is convalescing from a serious illness, and is working to publish a very learned book on Genesis.

Before leaving St. Charles, word came that Father Dan Wheeland had died. He had suffered from bad health for a long time, and the people remember him with affection as they recall his cheerful sermons and his big smile.

Besides the fellow priests, all the staffs of the rectories: the cooks, housekeepers, maintenance men, and choir people were solicitous and helpful. Without such people the priests would be sunk.

An innocent man is betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver

THE BIBLE CORNER

By Cindy Bassett
Catholic Courier columnist

"Caiaphas, there is someone here to see you," the servant called from the doorway of the private chambers of the high priest.

"Elias, I told you no more appointments today," Caiaphas replied, frowning. Then seeing his servant's obvious embarrassment, he added, "The Passover draws near."

"The man was so insistent, I felt certain that you would want to see him," Elias said. "He said he has information concerning the whereabouts of Jesus of Nazareth."

"Bring him in immediately," Caiaphas answered, his tone and expression suddenly changed.

The man stayed only a few minutes. But no sooner had he left than Caiaphas summoned a couple of his closest advisors. It was impossible for Elias not to overhear the animated conversation that took place between them.

"Whoever thought it would be so easy? We shall have Jesus in custody soon. All it cost was 30 pieces of silver from the temple treasury to accomplish it. Yes, I'm sure, it was one of his own followers..."

When Judas arrived to join the other apostles at the Passover meal, Jesus knew immediately that a treachery had occurred.

"One of you who eats here tonight will betray me," he said suddenly during dinner.

His remark cut through them like a knife and they were stunned to silence. Some of the apostles were still troubling over Jesus' words hours later in a garden where they had gone with the Master.

"Peter," John called to his companion, "Jesus is very distressed tonight."

"All of this talk of betrayal," James said, shaking his head. "It's ridiculous to think that anyone of us could ever do such a thing."

"Do you remember the great crowd that welcomed Jesus when he entered Jerusalem this week?" John asked. "His followers grow in strength and numbers."

Despite their anxiety about Jesus, all three of them kept drifting in and out of sleep that night as Jesus prayed nearby. Even when Jesus came and chastised them gently, it was not enough to keep them awake.

But before the night was over, something happened that would burn in their memories forever.

"Friends, wake up!" Jesus called to them. "My betrayer has come."

It was difficult, at first, to see who had broken the trust. Roman soldiers and temple police arrived carrying torches and clubs, as if in pursuit of some violent criminal.

Everyone watched as Judas came forward. "Peace be with you, Teacher,"

Judas said. He greeted Jesus with the customary kiss, and in so doing, won his 30 pieces of silver.

Jesus was first brought before the Jewish Council for questioning. Caiaphas presided over the interrogation that lasted the rest of that night. In the end, they bound the prisoner and took him to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. The council members had made their own charges against Jesus. Roman authority would administer the punishment.

It was dawn when Caiaphas finally prepared to retire. He was perhaps more tired than he had ever been in his whole life, and more satisfied. As he stood there pondering all that had happened that evening, Elias came to intrude upon his thoughts.

"Caiaphas, that man is here again," the servant said.

"What man?" Caiaphas asked, making no pretense of his annoyance.

Elias hadn't a moment to answer the high priest before Judas bolted through the door to confront them both. Even Caiaphas was unnerved.

"What is the meaning of this?" he asked. "You were paid the agreed-upon amount, were you not?"

"Is it true that Jesus has been condemned to die?" Judas cried.

"As you say," Caiaphas replied coolly.

"I never thought it would come to this! I have betrayed an innocent man!" Judas

shouted.

"What you have done, is done," Caiaphas said. "And it is of no concern to me anymore. Now go, or I will call the temple police to remove you."

Before Caiaphas went downstairs the next day, he sent Elias ahead to make sure that Judas was gone. All that was left as a reminder of Judas' outburst were the 30 pieces of silver that he had flung on the temple floor just before he went out and hung himself.

Scripture reference: Matthew 26:14-27:10. Meditation: When those who know Jesus choose to sin, it is like the betrayal of Judas.

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



EDWIN SULEWSKI
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

What is grief?

Grief is a process of feelings and behaviors which follow the loss of someone or something that we love. The entire process of grieving helps us to come to terms with the changes that have taken place in our lives and begin adjustment to them. This is not always easy and often lasts for a year or more. Some of the feelings that accompany grief are anger, guilt, anxiety, shock, jealousy and depression. It is not uncommon to be confused, restless, to have difficulty sleeping or to have a change in appetite. It takes time to accept the reality that someone we love is deceased. It takes longer to recreate a life that can make us happy.

We purchase all forms of insurance to protect your family & assets, not because we expect the worst to happen but to be prepared. Doesn't it make sense then to prepare for what will happen? Let our trained counselors assist you with the many options available in planning for a worry free future.

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