

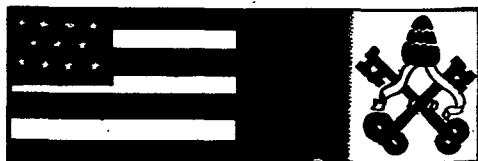
# Differences in religion are obstacle to marriage bond

By Father Paul Cuddy  
Courier columnist

In some respects I follow the example of my patron, St. Paul. (When people bring babies to be baptized, why not give them the name of a saint to be proud of and emulate?) St. Paul was nomadic, and so am I. St. Paul was passionate about Christ and the church, and so am I. St. Paul was a great letter writer, and so am I.

For a few years, and so am I. I have published a church bulletin during 10 years in the military service; 3 years at Sampson College; 10 years as pastor of Clyde. The purpose of the church bulletin was always to inform, to inspire, and sometimes to entertain.

Shortly before leaving Casablanca, Morocco, after two years service there, I published in our April 15, 1956, church bulletin a list of suggestions to be pondered over as I was departing. It strikes me that



## ON THE RIGHT SIDE

the same suggestions retain their validity 33 years later, indicating that human nature is pretty constant. The bulletin began: "If you have any business you wish to conclude with Fr. Cuddy, better do it soon. He leaves for El Paso, Texas, in three weeks. Ponder over these farewell suggestions:"

- 1) If you have books out of our parish library, please return them.
- 2) If you have not made your Easter duty, please get on the stick.
- 3) If you have children, remember it is your responsibility to instruct them, and this begins by your own good example.

4) If you owe people money, please pay them.

5) If you are living beyond your means, try a budget.

6) If you are going with a girl, find out a) if she is free to marry or whether she has a valid marriage standing in the way; and b) what reasonable prospects there are of a successful marriage. Disparity in age, nationality and religion can militate against a successful marriage.

7) Drunkenness and impurity are almost infallible guarantees a marriage will break. To marry a person with the expectation of reforming him or her is doomed to failure. The marriage contract is clear: "With this ring I thee wed and I pledge unto you my fidelity ... I take you for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health until death do us part." And the priest concludes: "What God has joined together, let no man rend asun-

der."

Today I should add stress on the consideration of the heartache and headache of mixed marriages, that is a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic. Before Vatican II when a Catholic and non-Catholic came to arrange a marriage, everyone understood and expected that the marriage would be by the priest and the children would be brought up as Catholics. It is wrong to waffle about the Catholic faith. It is a gift of God and should be the inheritance of our children. Some of the saddest words I ever heard were from a happily married wife, who had a large family, all of them brought up in the faith, with the cooperation of a non-Catholic husband. With a deep sigh she said: "Harry has been such a wonderful husband and father. If only he would become a Catholic." This sigh came after over 40 years of marriage.

# Jesus commissions the 72 to testify in the world

By Father Albert Shammon  
Courier columnist

Sunday's readings: (R3) Luke 10:1-12; (R1) Isaiah 66:10-14; (R2) Galatians 6:14-18.

The incident in Sunday's Gospel, the sending out of the 72, is recorded by Luke alone. For that reason some think Luke must have been one of the 72.

Our Lord sent them out in pairs for mutual support and so that one might confirm the testimony of the other. Thus Moses had Aaron, and Joshua had Caleb.

Jesus said to them, "The harvest is rich but the workers are few; therefore ask the harvest-master to send workers to his harvest." People are starving for the meat of the Gospel. But the workers are few. They were in Jesus's day; they are in our own. We hear much talk of a priest shortage.

If we wish to attract youth to the priesthood, the priesthood must shine forth once more for what it is — the action of one who is "another Christ," who acts "in the person of Christ." The clerical garb must be worn when functioning as a cleric (Canon

284). Our Holy Father feels that a distinctive sign is valuable "not only because it contributes to the propriety of the priest ... in the exercise of his ministry, but above all because it gives evidence ... of the public witness that each priest is held to give of his own identity and special belonging to God." The modern secular city where "the sense of the sacred is so frighteningly weakened" needs the sign value that religious dress constitutes.

The real answer, however, to the priest shortage can be found on our knees — in prayer. "Ask the harvest-master to send workers." "Ask," Jesus said. I remember back in 1928, we had a priest-shortage in our diocese. Bishop O'Hern asked for a novena of prayers throughout the diocese. I also remember how full St. Aloysius Church was for the novena. And how we all prayed! The result: 22 priests in all from St. Aloysius and 38 sisters.

Next, Jesus outlined the purpose of the

mission of the 72 and the manner in which they were to conduct themselves. First, their purpose was to prepare the way for Him. Many towns would not receive Him, for Jesus was set for the rise and fall of many. Jesus told the 72 — although they were not to tell the townspeople — that the fate of those who rejected them would be worse than the fate of Sodom.

He told them this to spur their missionary zeal, just as Our Lady at Fatima showed hell to the three little children in order to move them to offer prayers and sacrifices for sinners. Our Lady at Medjugorje wept because she said unbelievers do not know what is in store for them.

Secondly, they were to conduct themselves as lambs in the midst of wolves: simple, precious, seemingly helpless among the worldly. They were to travel light; not even to waste time on empty ceremonies. For God's message of peace to a rebellious people was urgent. Those



## A WORD FOR SUNDAY

who accepted them and fed them, they were to reward by curing their sick. And these miracles, like the ringing of a bell, would call attention to the truth of their teaching.

The 72 returned a few days later in jubilation. "When you see this, your heart shall rejoice." They saw the demons, man's fiercest enemies, become subject to them. "The Lord's power shall be known to his servants" (R1).

Greater than power over serpents and all the combinations of the devil, however, is the fact that they were saved. Salvation is the greatest grace God grants us. It is the grace we must most ardently desire and pray for!

## Sessions set for caregivers of developmentally disabled

Free training sessions for Special Sitters — people interested in caring for people with developmental disabilities — will take place August 7, 9 and 11 at the Al Sig Center, 1000 Elmwood Ave., Rochester.

The program is run by the Association for Retarded Citizens. Special Sitters learn how to provide in-home respite services to families with members who are developmentally disabled. After completing the three-day training program, sitters can arrange their own work hours and pay.

Participants will receive instruction in first aid, home safety, sign language and the use of adaptive equipment. Primary concentration will be on empathy and understanding the problems faced by people with such disabilities as mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy and epilepsy.

Attendance at all three training sessions is required. Call ARC at 716/371-0660 for an application.

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## THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



**EDWIN SULEWSKI  
FUNERAL DIRECTOR**

### How can I face people since my loved one committed suicide?

You may feel sad, grief stricken, guilty and embarrassed. It is certainly discomforting to have to face friends and neighbors who may not understand or who may themselves be embarrassed and upset. The best way to handle embarrassment is to face the fact that the suicide occurred, express your feelings about it and then begin living again. By acknowledging honestly to others that the death was a suicide you make it possible for friends to talk to you about their feelings and give you support. This gives you a chance to discuss the death in a healthy manner. When a loved one commits suicide surviving friends and relatives may find it especially helpful to seek some professional counseling to release their intense feelings. Should you feel the need to discuss your feelings with a trained counselor, please call on us for referrals.

We purchase all forms of insurance to protect our 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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