

Of photographs and scandals that beset the church

By Father Paul Cuddy
Courier columnist
From a reader:

"Each week I am annoyed at the absence of your picture, which was always a part of your weekly column. I so identified the column with the picture that it was a month after it was dropped before I realized your column was still published. I suppose I concluded that when there was no picture, there was no article. I love your weekly column, but why no picture?"

Reply:

Thank you for your interest. It is an unsolved puzzle that the picture, along with the other columnists' was abruptly dropped. Many, many people have complained to me about it. I have told them, "Tell the editor." I told her: "People complain that the picture is omitted." She just shrugged her shoulder and said: "No one has complained to us at the Courier."

To those who are concerned, let me suggest they send a note to: Editor: Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, NY 14624 requesting a return of the pictures. "The axle that squeaks gets the grease ... sometimes!"

From a father of many:

"Enclosed a self-addressed envelope for a copy of Monsignor Ellis' talk you mentioned in your June 29 column. Your short summary is thought-provoking, and I wish to contemplate the material further.

And I wish to thank you for your weekly column. It is uplifting and I pray for you and those you mention. I wish you long years and fruitful ministry. Don't get discouraged."

Reply:

I am pleased at the number of requests for the full text of Father Ellis' talk "The Priesthood: A View from History." One request came from a Syracuse priest, which indicates the Courier gets around.

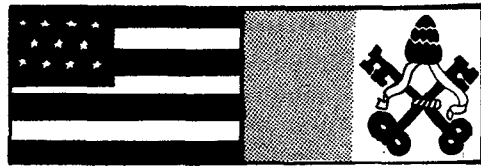
The summary gave only half of the 10 suggestions for a stable spiritual life; space prevented giving his prelude, which was a narration of a few of the terrible scandals

Shrine pilgrimage slated

A pilgrimage is being planned to the chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians Chapel, 4125 Union Road, Cheektowaga, Aug. 14-15.

On Aug. 14, the Blessed Sacrament will be enthroned in the old chapel during the 8 p.m. evening prayer, and will remain exposed throughout the night. The following morning, Masses will be celebrated in the new church at 7, 8:30, and 10 a.m. and at noon. Outdoor Masses will be celebrated at 11 a.m. and 12:15, 5, and 7 p.m. Additional services will include morning prayer at 9:30 a.m., blessing of flowers at 1 p.m., anointing of the sick at 2:15 p.m., followed by veneration of relics and solemn Benediction and procession of the Blessed Sacrament at 3 p.m. The day will culminate with a candlelight procession and evening prayer at 9 p.m.

For further information, call Father Michael H. Burzynski at 716/875-7626.



ON THE RIGHT SIDE

that history records within the Church. He did not give these to titillate people who enjoy being shocked, but rather to explain that the shocks and scandals which we have in the Church today are normal, considering "the human condition," which condition is the result of original sin: pride, covetousness, lust, anger, envy, gluttony and sloth.

Jonathan and David establish a covenant amid Saul's wrath

By Cindy Bassett
Courier columnist

Jonathan stood by the doorway of the courtroom as the young man played the harp. The sweet strains of the music washed over his entire being like a soothing balm. This was the same medicine that had calmed his father, King Saul, when his mind and spirit had been so troubled. Musician and instrument seemed to blend into one another, and it was some time before the young man noticed his audience.

"I have disturbed you," David asked, his face flushing with embarrassment.

"Disturbed me? I heard your exquisite music floating up to my chamber, and I came at once to see the author of such beauty," Jonathan replied. "I think the birds in the trees would begin weeping if you were to stop playing."

"Who are you?" David asked.

"I am Prince Jonathan," he replied, smiling.

"Your Majesty, I did not know," David said, scrambling to his feet and bowing slightly. "I am just a shepherd's son. All of this is still so new to me."

"Israel's greatest hero must become accustomed to these small rewards," Jonathan said. "I was there the day you defeated Goliath. You are a fine musician to be sure. But your destiny is to become a great officer in my father's army."

"I am at the king's service," David said, "and I will serve in whatever duty he commands."

"Since that includes your living here at the palace, come, let me show you your new home," Jonathan suggested.

A great bond of friendship developed immediately between the shepherd boy and the prince. Jonathan gave David his own robe and armor, saying, "I am certain that

In his inspiring book, *Damien, the Leper*, John Farrow quotes from the famous letter of Robert Louis Stevenson to Dr. Hyde, who had written a sickening letter against Father Damien. R.L.S. wrote: "I take it that you are one of those who have an eye for the faults and failures; that you take pleasure to find and publish them, and that, having found them, you make haste to forget the overwhelming virtues and real success that alone introduced them to your knowledge. It is a dangerous frame of mind." (*Damien, the Leper*: p.216).

Thank you for your good wishes. I have already had a long and happy life, but am frequently exasperated and chagrined about bad happenings within the Church, including daily attacks on Pope John Paul II whom I so revere. These only raise my

adrenalin, impelling me to greater enthusiasm for God, Our Lady and the Catholic Church. I am grateful that you share these with me.

EDITOR'S NOTE: There's no puzzle to it; the columnists' pictures were replaced by the current column logos, which — like many other graphic changes made this spring — were intended to give the paper a fresh, new look. And, as Father Cuddy relates, we haven't received a single complaint at this office.

But if, as Father contends, a large number of readers want the photos back — and if we can get current photos of all of our columnists — we'll consider reinstating them. Meanwhile, we'll be waiting for those letters to come in.



THE BIBLE CORNER

"Father, how can you say such things? It was David who came to fight Goliath when not one of your own soldiers would face the giant. David has risked his life in many missions to defend Israel. Is this how you repay him?"

King Saul wept at Jonathan's words. He made a new vow in the presence of his son. "Please tell David that I am sorry. I don't know what came over me. Today, in God's name, I promise not to seek David's life."

Later on, Jonathan found David and brought him back to the palace. "David, my father's anger has been extinguished, if only for the moment. Come back and serve him again. No matter what happens, I want you to always remember something. We will be friends forever. I will protect you even unto death."

Jonathan and David made a solemn covenant between them, promising before God never to break it.

Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel, Chapter 18-19:7.

Meditation: "My commandment is this: Love one another, just as I love you. The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them" (John 15:12-13).



Cliff Hollenbaugh
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