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### Filling in for vacationers allows pleasant encounters

#### **By Father Paul Cuddy Courier** columnist

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During the summer, retired priests are sought after to fill in for active priests on vacation. I have assisted at many places, so I am acquainted with many parishes. It delights my soul that our people are well served, not only by their pastors and deacons, but also by a multitude of lay parishioners and religious.

On Monday, Aug. 21, I was at Waterloo preparing to celebrate noonday Mass. Two brothers, around 10 and 12, were there to serve. I entered into dialogue with them.

Father Cuddy: "What's your name?"

Mike: "I'm Mike. He's Matt - Hilkert. Our grandfather is John Mull, the undertaker."

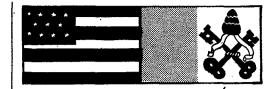
Father Cuddy: "Oh. I'm a good friend of your Uncle Bill.'

Mike: "He's my godfather. Father Tom is our uncle in Rochester."

Father Cuddy: "He's a big liturgist, and the pastor of the cathedral."

Mike: (Unimpressed) "Is this going to be a normal Mass?"

Father Cuddy: "What do you mean, a



## **ON THE RIGHT SIDE**

### normal Mass?"

Matt: "We've only been serving Sundays. Is anything different?"

I was so intrigued by the brothers that I decided to go meet with the family. The boys have a brother, Ken, who is in the eighth grade at St. Mary's School. Their mother is a nurse as was her mother before her. Their father is a retired state trooper, and he coaches Little League baseball and basketball.

I asked their mother: "Do your boys ever read books or do they stick to the TV?" She said: "They are constant readers." I inquired: "Did you read to them before they went to school?" She replied: "Indeed yes. I've read to them since their infancy, and it pays off in their school work." This is something all parents and grandparents might emulate. One of the most vivid memories of the summer is of a grandfather in Trumansburg reading to his little grandson, who looked the picture of contentment and interest sitting on the grandfather's lap.

A week later I was in Corning filling in for Father MacNamara at St. Vincent's. where Father John Murphy, pastor emeritus of Rochester's St. Lawrence, now resides in retirement. He said: "There is a luncheon meeting at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, tomorrow. I think it's to encourage donations. They have a staggering debt.'

So on Tuesday, with Father Thomas Brennan as chauffeur, Fathers Ed Foy, John Murphy and I shot over to Elmira just 15 miles away. The meeting was not a financial appeal, but a quiet, organized exposition by Sister Marie Castagnaro, SSJ, administrator of St. Joseph's. She succeeded Sister Martha Gersback, SSJ.

In substance she said, "Nearly all the doctors in Elmira are on the staffs of both Elmira hospitals, but some quietly sidestep St. Joseph's. This affects our patient patronage. Please do inform your people that they are free to choose either hospital. Usually most doctors will be quite agreeable."

It does seem that St. Joseph's Hospital, with its awesome 81-year history of generous service by the Sisters of St. Joseph, and so many dedicated doctors and nurses - many trained at St. Joseph' Nursing School - should expect the loyalty and support of many people. The hospital has just invested \$40 million in upgrading its facilities, which could be the envy of a metropolis.

A special reason I wanted to come to the Southern Tier was to meet a fine young priest who had just arrived from Kenya. He is Father Ernest Bulinda, who has been ordained one year.

Father Bulinda was sent by his, bishop, Raphael Ndigni, to earn a degree at Elmira College. This was arranged by Father James Boyle, pastor of St. Mary's, Elmira. He is a friend of Bishop Raphael, who is a graduate of St. John Fisher College.

Father Boyle has also arranged for Father Ernie to reside at the rectory with the associate, Father Tim Brown, and he will do some parochial assisting.

### Greed for currency of the kingdom is a virtue

#### **By Father Albert Shamon** Courier columnist

Sunday's readings: (R3) Luke 16:1-13: (R1) Amos 8:4-7; (R2) 1 Timothy 2:1-8.

Jesus spoke in last Sunday's Gospel of the lost: lost sheep, lost coin, lost son. Now He speaks to those who don't know they are lost: those blinded by avarice and wealth.

He tells a parable about a crooked steward. A steward was a trusted slave in charge of running his master's entire estate. This one happened to be a rascal. He was making money on the side by charging usurious commissions on business transactions. When he realized he was going to lose his job, he had the debtors write new

The master praised the shrewdness of the

half as much committed to the work of the church as they are to making money, the world would be converted. One example springs to mind: our Catholic schools. If we had only half the marketing ability and the recruitment outreach that businessmen have, we would never need to close a single school!

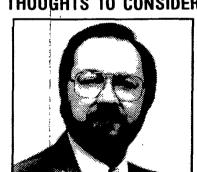
To this parable, St. Luke has appended various sayings of Our Lord, joined together, as was then customary, by certain catchwords.

So besides pointing out that we ought to be smart like the crooked steward, the parable also teaches us to be honest, unlike the steward. All that we have and possess is really God's. We, too, are stewards. We

The other day, I asked a mother if her

said no. I asked her why. She said she could not afford the tuition. If we want to change our money into the currency of the Kingdom to come, we should subscribe to the adopt-a-student program! Businesses and parishes could do the same - and should — by funding Catholic secondary and elementary schools. Catholic schools deserve to survive! Their academic credentials have been demonstrated again and again. They have produced generations of leaders for the church and, best of all, they're remarkably cost-effective. What a magnificent way to use the wealth entrusted to us!

Dolly Levi of Hello Dolly said that money is like manure: It's no good unless



**EDWIN SULEWSKI** FUNERAL DIRECTOR time of a funeral?



it is spread around, causing young things to grow.

Lastly, don't try to serve two masters: God and money. Some put all their trust in their own possessions. Jesus called such people "fools" (Luke 12:20). All our trust should be put in the Rock of Ages. Never was it known that anyone who has trusted in the Lord has ever been confounded.



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