

Breaking the law can bring stiff fines in the courtroom

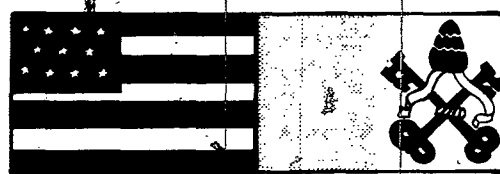
By Father Paul J. Cuddy
Courier columnist

Recently I was driving alone from Weedsport to Auburn, which is a distance of eight miles. Outside Weedsport I picked up a young hitchhiker, who was in his early twenties. Our conversation was interesting.

Fr. C.: "Hop in. Going to Auburn?"
HH: "No, about half way. I work at a nursing home on the way."
Fr. C.: "I'm Father Cuddy. I live at St. Alphonsus rectory in Auburn."
HH: "Are you related to Judge Cuddy?"
Fr. C.: "The city court judge? Yes, he's my nephew."
There followed a significant silence, so I asked him if he had to appear before my nephew.
HH: "Yes for speeding. He fined me

\$50."
Fr. C.: "That seems kind of steep to me."
HH: "I thought so." He said that he was also drinking coffee while he was speeding, and he added yet another infraction.
"Why, he should have fined you more!" I said.
For speeding violations not more than 10 mph, the minimum fine is \$30 and the maximum fine is \$100 plus a mandatory surcharge. For driving 11 to 30 mph over the speed limit, the minimum fine is \$60 and the maximum is \$200. This violation can mean a maximum prison term of 15 days plus a mandatory surcharge.
For speeding violations of 31 mph or more over the speed limit, the minimum fine is \$120 and the maximum is \$200. Also, the violation can mean imprisonment for no more than 30 days plus a \$17 manda-

tory surcharge.
For uninspected vehicles, the minimum fine for a first conviction is \$50 and the maximum fine is \$100. For subsequent convictions, the minimum fine is \$50 and the maximum fine is \$200. Violators can be imprisoned for a maximum of 15 days.
For license violations, the minimum fine is \$50 and the maximum fine is \$200 and/or imprisonment of not more than 15 days. Except if the violations consist of operating a license expired not more than 60 days, the maximum fine and term of imprisonment remain the same, but the minimum fine is \$25.
For driving through, around or under a railroad crossing gate or barrier, or passing a stopped school bus, the fine for a first conviction is no less than \$150 but not more than \$250. Imprisonment for a first conviction would not be more than 30



ON THE RIGHT SIDE

days.
For a third conviction within 18 months, the minimum fine is \$750 and the maximum fine is \$850 and a 180-day prison term.
St. Thomas Aquinas once said, "Law is an ordinance of reason, promulgated by lawful authority of the common good."
And after reading these stipulations, at least one of us is going to drive more carefully and lawfully than ever in the past!

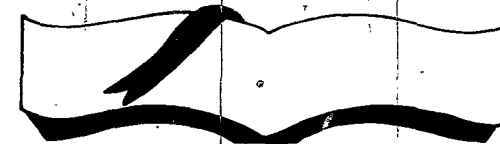
The beginning of the world for the second time

By Cindy Bassett
Courier Columnist

"Listen! There's that strange noise again," the raven said to the old owl perched just below him. "What do you suppose it is?"
"The sound that you hear is Noah and his three sons cutting down trees," came a gentle voice from the dove sitting higher up in the same tree.
"What's Noah going to do with all of that wood?" the raven asked.
"Doesn't look like rain to me," the raven said. "There's not a cloud in the sky."
"It's all very upsetting," the dove answered. "I heard Noah tell his sons that

when it starts raining, it's not going to stop until everybody and everything in the world is destroyed. The sad fact is that God is sorry he ever created the earth. Everyone has forgotten him. Everywhere God looks, he sees violence."
"What's to become of us?" asked the owl, who was now fully awake.
"Noah is going to choose some of us to go with him and his family in the ark," the dove said. "Someday the world will begin again."
The old owl decided that a meeting for all birds and animals should take place immediately. When they heard the shocking news, they tried to decide which of them would be chosen by Noah.

As all of them continued to boast, the dove remained silent! Finally someone in the group thought to ask him, "What do you have to offer Noah?"
The dove didn't say anything for a long time. In his heart, he knew he had nothing as grand as the others to offer.
"I will be Noah's faithful friend," he said timidly.
No sooner had the dove said that when the dog spoke up. "In case you have forgotten, I am man's best friend."
In the end, before the great door of the ark slammed and the rains began, everyone — including the dove — had been chosen by Noah.
The torrential downpour didn't stop until even the highest mountains of the world



THE BIBLE CORNER

had been submerged under water. Everyone and everything perished except those in the ark.
Forty days after the downpour had begun, the rain stopped. Slowly the waters started to go down.
One day, Noah said to the raven, "Go out and see what you can and report back to me."
The raven eagerly departed. He had grown tired of the others. The raven never returned.
A few days later, the dove said to Noah, "Please, let me go out and have a look."
A short time later, the dove came back to the ark since there was no dry place to land. In a little while, Noah said to the dove, "Try again."
This time the dove saw a spectacular sight below. Everything in the world was changing from murky brown to stunning green.
So the dove plucked a tiny sprig from the olive tree and hurried back to tell the others.
When Noah saw him coming, he was very pleased. "You are the herald of new life on earth," he told the dove in front of the others. "From this day on, the dove shall be called the bird of peace."
Scripture reference: Genesis, Chapters 6-8.

The redeeming value of ordinary time

By Father Albert Shamon
Courier Columnist

Sunday's readings: (R3) John 1:29-34; (R1) Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; (R2) 1 Corinthians 1:1-3.
Apart from the two seasons (Christmas and Easter), there remain 33 or 34 weeks in the yearly cycle that do not celebrate a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ. This period in the liturgical year is labeled "Ordinary Time."
Ordinary or counted time, is simply a device to put "order" into our liturgical books, to help us find our way in the Lectionary and Sacramentary. Thus, to know that a Sunday is the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time helps us locate it in the missal or lectionary.
The celebration of Sunday in Ordinary Time is the identifying mark of the Christian community. Sunday should be the climax of our week past and our preparation for the week to come.
The First Sunday in Ordinary Time is the Baptism of the Lord (this year it is pushed out by Epiphany and celebrated on Mon-

day, January 8).
Next Sunday is the Second in Ordinary Time. In the first reading, Isaiah speaks of One God has chosen to be "my servant," "to raise up Israel" and be a "light to the nations" so that "my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."
In the gospel, John the Baptizer tells us this Chosen One is Jesus — "This is God's chosen one." John also tells us that Jesus pre-existed himself: "He was before me;" and He is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."
"Lamb," because it is innocent, meek and victim for sacrifice.
"Lamb of God," because appointed by God, sent by God, God's only Son. Hence, He can take away the sin of the world.
An Indian once asked a missionary, "How can one atone for so many?"
"A dollar bill is worth 100 pennies," the missionary explained, "but a \$1,000 bill is worth 10 times a 100 pennies. Man can do



A WORD FOR SUNDAY

so much, but the God-man can do infinitely more. The difference in the worth."
"What is the sin of the world?"
The plural "sins" indicates sinful acts; the singular "sin" refers to a state or condition. "Sin" sums up the effects of personal sins on society. Sin contaminates, infects and pollutes the very air we breathe. It creates a "sin-saturated environment" that surrounds us like the cold and also affects our freedom.
We all fail when — out of laziness, fear, silence, indifference, or in the supposed impossibility of changing the world — we sidestep the effort and sacrifice required to eliminate or at least limit certain social evils (John Paul, Social Concerns, 12/30/87, # 35-38).

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