

# Dejectedness disappears after calls from two friends

By Father Paul Cuddy  
Courier Columnist

It is not often I go into a down mood, but just before Christmas a kind of dejection took over my soul. I pondered over the many years God has given me, and all kinds of failures and stupidities and wrongs and neglected opportunities to spread the Kingdom and to help others.

Vivid enough were some of the hurts I had done. The words of the confiteor were like a neon light: "In what I have done and in what I have failed to do!" Darkness pervaded my soul.

Then the phone rang in my study at St. Alphonsus rectory in Auburn about 3 p.m. The dialogue was a surprise.

Voice: "Father Cuddy. You probably won't remember me. I'm Alan Dean."

Fr. C.: "What's the name? Spell it."

Voice: "A-L-A-N D-E-A-N. You probably won't remember me. I was a student at Sampson College in 1948 when you were chaplain there."

Fr. C.: "Good heavens! Of course I remember you. You came to my office in the chapel and asked for instructions to become a Catholic. You told me that your unit was black, so you never had a Catholic chaplain. (This was before Army desegregation was completed.) One day you met a Catholic chaplain, and he gave you the address of a correspondence course in the Catholic religion. And you signed up."

Dean: "Right. You have a great memory."

Fr. C.: "Then you brought in your tests from the correspondence course — I think there were six with a hundred questions in each test — and after examining you I said, 'You know more about the faith than most Catholics.'" I baptized you soon after-

## Retreat for women planned for motherhouse in January

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester are offering a retreat on Jan. 26-27 to Christian women of all ages and backgrounds. The retreat will take place at the sisters' motherhouse, 4095 East Ave., Rochester.

Entitled "A Mystery Story: Discerning God's Ways in Your Life," the retreat will run from 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26, through 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27.

Facilitators of the retreat will be Sister Mary Lou Heffernan, SSJ, a spirituality minister with the SSJ Spirituality Ministry, and Sister Kay Heverin, SSJ, pastoral assistant at Sacred Heart Church, Rochester.

Retreats include group discussion with the opportunity to arrange individual meetings with directors.

A \$20 fee covers room and meals. For reservations or information, call Sisters Marilyn Pray, SSJ, or Barbara Lum, SSJ, 716/586-1000, ext. 28.

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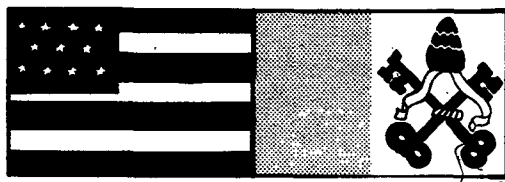
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## ON THE RIGHT SIDE

ward. Your record should be in Holy Cross Church, Ovid, near Sampson."

Then cautiously proceeding I inquired, "How have you been doing with your religion?"

"Fine," he said. "After being graduated from Iona College, after Sampson, I got a commission in the Navy, and later went

## Beatitudes turn values of the world upside down

By Father Albert Shamon  
Courier Columnist

Sunday's readings: (R3) Matthew 5:1-12; (R1) Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13; (R2) 1 Corinthians 1:26-31.

From next Sunday to Lent, the gospels will be culled from the Sermon on the Mount — the first of Matthew's five booklets. The gospel selections line up like this:

- Jan. 28: Blest are the poor in spirit (Mt. 5:1-12).
- Feb. 4: You are the light of the world (Mt. 5:13-16).
- Feb. 11: You've heard it said...but I say (Mt. 5:17-37).
- Feb. 18: Love your enemies (Mt. 5:38-48).
- Feb. 25: Be not anxious about tomorrow (Mt. 6:24-34).

Sundays do not have themes. The epistles and gospels for the Ordinary Sundays are semi-continuous, while the Old Testament readings are chosen for their relationship to the gospel. Still, because the gospels, like all literature, have a unity, Sunday homilies could be prepared in blocks, thematically. A worthy subject from now to Lent could be the social teachings of the church — her "best kept secret."

A good study club subject during these Sundays, or during Lent, could be John Paul II's encyclical *On Human Work* (9/14/81). It's not easy reading, but it is worthwhile. He speaks of just wage, sex discrimination, fringe benefits such as

into the Peace Corps and spent several years working in five different countries in Africa. I met many fine missionaries, and one white father, a huge Irish priest who is a saint, made a deep impression on me."

"What ever gave you the bright idea to phone? I've been trying to find you for years, but never any success," I said. "The last time, I got your address from Iona College Alumni Association, and wrote you, but never got an answer."

"I'm a kind of a pack rat never throwing things out," he said. "I was going over some old letters. And I found one from you, which strangely I had not opened. I opened it and the date was 1974! It had a Webster address and telephone number. So

health care, right to rest (on Sundays, holidays, and vacations), pensions, and so on.

Next Sunday's gospel gives us the Beatitudes. Jesus presents these, like Moses, on a mountain. On Mt. Sinai, Moses gave the 10 words (the commandments); on the Mount of Beatitudes, the new Moses, Jesus, gives 10 sentences (the Beatitudes).

The Beatitudes give a whole new social gospel. The Beatitudes are the attitudes the followers of Christ must have — attitudes foreshadowed by Zephaniah (R1). Each Beatitude has two parts: the human reality and God's response.

These Beatitudes turn the conventional values of the world upside down. In *Camelot*, Modred sings a song titled "The Seven Deadly Virtues." Part of it goes like this: "I find humility means to be hurt; It's not the earth the meek inherit, it's the dirt./ Honesty is fatal and should be taboo," and so on. On the contrary, Jesus says, "Blest are the poor in spirit, the reign of God is theirs."

Jesus blueprints what His followers must be: poor in spirit — that is, know your limitation, be humble, rely on God and not on self; be loving enough to be kind to mourn over man's injustice to man and to seek justice; merciful, for we shall be forgiven in proportions as we forgive; single-hearted, do not let the sirens of the world lure you away from the Kingdom; peacemakers, heal quarrels, reconcile people to God and to others.

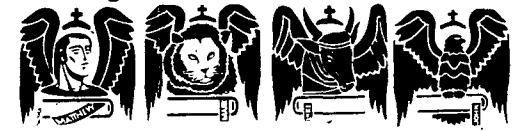
This, of course, will prompt persecution:

I phoned there and a very nice lady answered and gave me your Auburn number."

My mood of dejection dissipated as I gave thanks to God. By a curious coincidence, Joseph Mayer — a zealous Catholic and active member of the Webster Knights of Columbus — called me about a correspondence course.

"If our Catholic High Schools went through this course our students would be well grounded in the faith," he said. He sent the address and a set of the course.

Anyone who might want to take the course should write: Catholic Information Service, Knights of Columbus, P.O. Box 1971, New Haven, Conn., 06521.



## A WORD FOR SUNDAY

The servant is not above the crucified Master; "in fact, all who want to live religiously in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (2 Timothy 3/12) — insulted, slandered and mocked. Goodness pricks the conscience of the evildoer.

The great paradox: "Be glad and rejoice, for your reward in heaven is great" — and even here on earth!

Do the Beatitudes want us to be passive in life or so soft that people will trample all over us? Are such attitudes, as Modred sang, "An invitation to the state of rigor mort?"

By no means! We have swords in our hands; we are called to enkindle fire, to fight. But the call is to turn the sword inward against ourselves and not outward against our neighbors. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." (Mark 8:34).

## THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



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FUNERAL DIRECTOR

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to help a child who  
has lost a parent?

First it is important to make sure the child is honestly included in all information and planning. This means being honest about the death and answering the child's questions. It also means allowing but not forcing children to go to the funeral or visitation as they wish. Secondly, a child needs love and security. Let a child know they will be cared for, take an interest in schoolwork and include them in play. Some children resent being pressured to accept burdens beyond their reach. "Taking over for Dad or Mom" may be too much responsibility. Naturally, changes will occur but a child needs time and help in adjusting to them.

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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