

Mixed-up mail, marriage, and more pulpit-pounding

By Father Paul Cuddy
Courier columnist

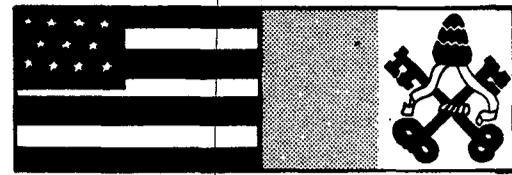
From a reader in Horseheads: "I write because I may need your help. Six weeks ago I sent a check for \$30 for nine Archbishop Sheen cassettes, plus postage and handling. The check cleared the bank a month ago, but no cassettes. Could you trace the order for me?"

Father Bart O'Brien was my pastor for many years at Horseheads. I told him many times he had my vote for pope."

Comment: Wouldn't it be ironic if I spent time in purgatory for not delivering nine Sheen tapes, especially since I have delivered more than 50,000 Sheen tapes, and am still delivering orders for them?

As a one-man operation — and many demands for tapes and books and booklets — things can get mixed up. The tapes were sent on immediately after the letter came.

While the vote for Father O'Brien is complimentary, I think he might better be left to do what he is doing: preaching, teaching, praying, publishing, *omnia ad majorem gloriam Dei*.



ON THE RIGHT SIDE

Recently when I was substituting for a priest in Lyons, I stopped at Clyde — located seven miles away — and there he was substituting for Father Thomas Nellis.

"Come and have lunch with me in Lyons," I said.

"How I should like to, but I am giving a mission in Binghamton next week, and I must get on with the preparation," Father O'Brien replied.

Such are priorities.

From a bruised collegian: "Mom was right when after Louise gave me the heave-ho she said, 'Don't worry. There are lots of nice Catholic girls out there.' It wasn't much consolation at the time, but looking back I realize that she is right and I should

look for someone I can share the entirety of my life with. Sometimes I feel the worst kind of fool, insisting that everything be taught me in the most difficult and painful way."

Comment: With so many difficulties in any normal marriage, unity in religion is important even with 51 percent of marriages ending in a divorce. Many of us were surprised at the prenuptial agreement made between Donald and Ivana Trump, an arrangement made almost anticipating a divorce. How well that young man expressed an important notion: "I should look for someone I can share the entirety of my life with."

From an irate person: "I remember some older priests pounding on our pulpit and telling it like it is, leaving no stone unturned. I am writing to see what you feel. It's about the AIDS issue. I'm getting tired every time a person says 'maybe it's a punishment from God' or 'they don't quite have all the sympathy that some people think they should have,' and so on.

The person continued, "They get



A WORD FOR SUNDAY

Rite of Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (Easter Eve).

Stage four is Mystagogia or the Period of Post-baptismal Catechesis, (from Easter to Pentecost), to deepen and strengthen the new faith of the neophytes by their joyful insertion into the faith community.

During this time the neophytes should be mentioned in the homilies and General Intercessions. This period should climax with a jubilant party, and every year after, the anniversary of this great event should be celebrated.

In regard to the RCIA, two things are to be noted: First, if a parish has no catechumens, then the parish community should reexamine its internal life and its outreach in witnessing and evangelization; and secondly, if a parish has the RCIA program, then the parish community should become a true support community to the catechumens.

(fifth Sunday).

By now, I am sure everyone has heard of the RCIA (the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.) Basically, the RCIA is the journey those take who wish to enter the Catholic Church or to return to it. The journey has four stages linked together by three rites.

Stage one is the Pre-Catechumenate or Period of Inquiry, linked to stage two by the Rite of Becoming a Catechumen.

Stage two is the Catechumenate or Period of Instruction, linked to stage three by the Rite of Election or Enrollment (on the First Sunday of Lent).

Stage three is the Period of Enlightenment, the immediate preparation for baptism, which takes place all during Lent. This preparation consists of three Scrutinies and two Presentations. The Scrutinies take place on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent, during which time there is the Presentation of the Creed and then of the Lord's Prayer.

This stage is linked to the final one by the

Spiritual springtime calls upon people to support catechumens

By Father Albert Shamon
Courier columnist

Sunday's readings: (R3) Matthew 4:1-11; (R1) Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; (R2) Romans 5:12-19.

The word "Lent" means springtime. This word comes from the same root as "lengthen," since daytime lengthens during Lent, and winter turns into spring.

Lent is a time for spiritual spring-cleaning. It is a time to get our spiritual lives into shape by prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Lent is 40 days because God's people journeyed for 40 years in the desert before entering the Promised Land, and because Moses, Elijah, and Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days before starting out on their life's work.

Forty, therefore, is the symbol of a journey. Lent celebrates two journeys: first, the journey of the catechumens (the "elect") toward the promised land of the church through the waters of baptism; and secondly, the journey of the faithful, God's pilgrim people, from earth to heaven by a renewal of their baptismal commitments to renounce the works of Satan (hate, dissension, disputes, division) and to be a light to others, especially to the catechumens, by the witness of their lives.

The Sunday Lenten readings in Cycle A (1990) are addressed to the catechumens; in Cycle B (1991), to the faithful; and in Cycle C (1992), to the penitents.

Thus, this Lent the catechumens are called to reject the temptation to give up (first Sunday); to enkindle the desire to be transfigured by baptism (second Sunday); to thirst for the living water (third Sunday); to seek the light of faith (fourth Sunday); and to rise from death to life in baptism

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THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



EDWIN SULEWSKI
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Grief...
Is help available?

Grief is the name of a complex combination of physical, emotional, and spiritual experiences. It occurs when we loose someone or something very important to us.

It is a natural reaction to the realization that we are not all powerful, that we ourselves are mortal.

Everyone deals with grief in a different way.

GRIEF RESOURCE INFORMATION FORUM and the **PASTORAL CARE CENTER** at Rochester General Hospital jointly sponsor a monthly bereavement group called **WORKING THROUGH LOSS**.

The group provides information, education and peer support for adults recovering from the death of a significant person in their lives.

The group meets the second Tuesday of each month from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the E-5 conference room at Rochester General Hospital.

Easy-to-follow signs are posted upon entering the hospital from the parking ramp.

Open to all adults. There are no dues or fees. You may attend as long as you choose.

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