

Get-well greetings help church in Africa to prosper

By Father Paul Cuddy
Courier columnist

To Bishop Raphael Ndingi in Nakuru, Kenya (East Africa): Recently I had surgery in Rochester to excise a Zenker's diverticulum from my esophagus.

Since many well wishers wanted to send me a get well message, I said to some: "It bothers me that people would spend \$1 for a greeting card. I wish that they would just write a note on a plain sheet of paper, and enclose a dollar bill. The dollar I could send to the African Missions."

This struck the risibilities of many, but somehow the intention went awry. How so? Many people sent me the dollar — some people sent more — and a card. This circumvented my intention. But I suppose Hallmark and card vendors were happy.

Anyway, I'm sending you \$393 donated in greetings and I'm adding \$100 of my own in thanksgiving to God for the successful surgery, and as thanks to so many who sent their prayers and their love.

Included in the enclosed check of \$593 is another \$100, which is the stipend for 20 Masses for the intentions enclosed. Priest friends sometimes send me surplus intentions, and I remember that you once wrote that these stipends are a good help in the support of your priests.

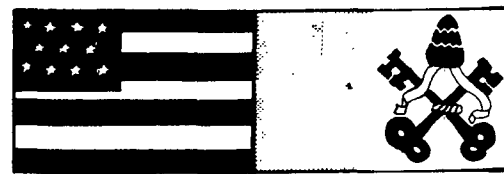
When I was a young priest, my first pastor was Father Joseph Curtin. He was wise as well as holy, and he used to say, "The future of the church is in Africa."

He supported the African church as much as possible. This was 50 years ago, and from what we read and hear his prophecy is coming to pass. Our wonderful Pope John Paul II seems to think the same.

There is a rumble of hostility in certain parts of the States to the Holy See. We have a virus called "The American Church," which implies a slippage from fidelity to the Holy See.

On Ash Wednesday, our most prestigious American newspaper, *The New York Times*, ran an advertisement signed by more than 4,000 dissidents who demanded "reforms" that the Holy Father has many times rejected.

But if the divisions within the American church cause sadness, the loyalty and zeal of the African bishops, priests, brothers, sisters and laity are cause for rejoicing. It is also a good reason for us to help the church in Africa prosper for its effectiveness in spreading Our Lord's Kingdom.



ON THE RIGHT SIDE

tiveness in spreading Our Lord's Kingdom.

We have good reports from Fathers Ted Metzger and Bill Aman in Africa. I meet occasionally with your men from Kenya: Father Steve Mbugua Ngari in Macedon; Brother Martin Okongo; and the Masai priest, Father Simon Nataiya, who is residing with St. John Fisher faculty in Rochester.

Although I have met young Father Ernest Livisai in Elmira only once, reports of all are favorable. They will surely enrich and strengthen the church in Kenya upon their return after their education and experience make them more effective.

The four Tanzanian sisters, who are studying at Nazareth College under the aegis of our Sisters of Mercy and Sisters of St. Joseph communities, are also getting along very well. They have retained their religious habit, singling them out like religious jewels and visible witnesses to the church amidst the swirl of our very secular world.

My greetings to your Kenyan Franciscan community of sisters. Fathers Raymond Heisel, Paul Wohlrab and I visited them at their motherhouse near Nakuru in 1982. As I look back at my own life, I think that dedicated religious can be more effective than priests.

A Mercy Sister Genevieve who taught me in the eighth grade had more impact on my life than any priest. I will always be grateful to her and to so many good sisters.

I wish you and your people prosperity, and cheers for Pope John Paul II. He is so great a gift from God for the church in these troubled times.

Easter celebrates past, present and future events

By Father Albert Shamon
Courier columnist

Sunday's readings: (R3) John 20:1-9; (R2) Acts 10:34, 37-43; (R1) Colossians 3:1-4.

Easter is a threefold event, encompassing past, present and future.

Easter is, first of all, an historical event. We all want life beyond the grave. American Indians buried arrows and earthen vessels with their dead so they would have weapons with which to hunt and utensils with which to cook in the happy hunting grounds.

The Greeks put a silver coin in the mouths of the dead so they could pay Charon, the ferryman, to boat them across the River Styx. The Egyptians placed books in the coffins of their dead with prayers and maps to guide them through the unseen world.

Almost every civilization hoped for life after death. But only in Jesus has hope become a reality.

Good Friday shocked the disciples. They had left everything to follow Jesus. Now He was gone, buried like a common thief in a borrowed tomb. The empty tomb dismayed Mary Magdalene. Peter and John ran to the tomb to see for themselves. Slowly the truth of the resurrection dawned on them.

Paul wrote the first account on the fact of the resurrection. He testifies that Christ appeared first to Peter, then to the apostles, then to more than 500 people — some of whom were still alive — then to James, and last of all to himself (1 Corinthians 15).

The dramatic change in the lives of the



A WORD FOR SUNDAY

first dispirited followers attests to the fact of the resurrection. The Lord's day was changed from Saturday to Sunday to commemorate it. In Jerusalem there are two empty tombs: one belonging to Jesus, because He had risen from the dead; and Mary's because she had been assumed into heaven.

In Hanover, Germany, there is a grave containing huge slabs of granite and marble cemented together and fastened with heavy steel clasps. It belongs to a woman who did not believe in the resurrection. On her marker were inscribed the words: "This burial place must never be opened."

In time, however, a seed — covered by the gravestones — began to grow. Slowly it grew into a tree, and its trunk snapped the clasps of steel. A tiny seed gave mute witness that life is stronger than death.

The resurrection is also a present reality. Every Mass celebrates the coming of the risen Christ to our altars. He comes to enable us to give highest honor to the Father, to change us into loving persons, and, through our word and example, to change the world in which we live into communities of loving people. In essence, "to create a civilization of love."

Easter is also an eternal anticipation.

A GOOD SHOE IS HARD TO FIND.

Until you discover...
EXTRA DEPTH
THERMOLDS
P.W. MINOR & SON, INC.



Over 120 years of superior Craftsmanship, Quality, Comfort, and Support with the latest orthopedic technology, Perfect for **Arthritics and Diabetics!**

And, available in a full range of sizes, widths, styles and colors for men and women.

LOTEPIO SHOE STORE
Rochester's Finest Orthopedic Shoe Store
Makers of Custom Casted Shoes & Arches
790 Ridge Rd., Webster 671-8289
Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs. & Fri 9-6; Sat. 9-5

BARTOLOMEO FUNERAL HOME, INC.

Peter W. Giullari, Jr. Philip P. Perotto Michael P. Perotto
Personalized service in the community since 1922.

1425 Lexington Avenue Rochester, NY 14606
conveniently located near 390
(715) 254-5400

Di Maria Travel 1521 MONROE AVE.

Convenient Weekend Departure

HAWAII
2 WEEK, 4 ISLAND ESCORTED TOUR
Rochester's Finest Deluxe
OCT. 6-20, 1990
Personally escorted from Rochester and featuring our exclusive guide-Mr. Ed Kahale
ALWAYS A SELLOUT Reserve Now!

FOR RESERVATIONS & INFORMATION Call 271-0100

Because of the resurrection, St. Paul urges us to set our hearts on spiritual rather than material things. "Be intent on the things above rather than on the things of earth."

Once there was a man named George who drove his wife, Rosie, to services every Sunday. They had been married for 40 years and loved each other very deeply. They did everything together and were inseparable except in one area: When George drove Rosie to church he would stay in the car and read the paper.

After Rosie died, George stayed away from church until one Easter. He came in and heard the minister preach on the resurrection. As was the custom, the minister asked the congregation to respond. George stood up with deep emotion and said, "Rosie lives!"

Then he began to sing "My Wild Irish Rose ... the sweetest flower that grows ..." Soon the whole congregation joined in. It was the most beautiful Easter hymn ever sung in that church.

Rosie lives because Jesus lives. The resurrection is an historical event — a present event — a promise of life beyond this life. Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again, to give eternal life to all who now seek the things that are above.

CRANDALL HEARING INSTRUMENTS

"28 Years of Service"

Professional Hearing Aid Services
"We service all your hearing aid needs"

Over 30 Makes and 300 Models to Choose From

- Canal Aids (As seen on T.V.)
- "Presidential Aid"—As worn by former President Reagan
- Noise Reduction Aids-Reduces background noise up to 75%
- Fully Automatic Aids-No tubes, no wires, no cord, no batteries, no volume control



- If you HEAR but don't always UNDERSTAND what people are saying ...
- If people seem to mumble ...
- If you must ask others to repeat ...
- If you are embarrassed by MISUNDERSTANDING IN NOISY SURROUNDINGS ...

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ELECTRONIC HEARING AID TEST
(716) 865-4311

FREE HEARING SCREENINGS

April 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th
10:00a.m. - 5:00p.m. BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
FREE In-Home Testing Available upon Request

CRANDALL HEARING INSTRUMENTS

1577 Ridge Rd. West in Greece (next to Red Lobster)

Hearing Tests are conducted for the express purpose of making the selection and adaptation of hearing instrumentation and not for the medical diagnosis of hearing loss.