

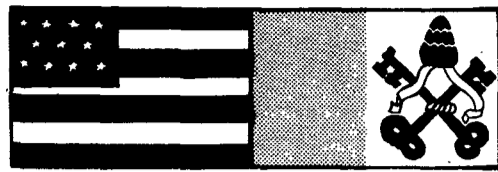
# Book details Vatican operations under three popes

By Father Paul J. Cuddy  
Courier columnist

Young Monsignor John Duffy, nephew of the late old Monsignor John Duffy stopped at St. Alphonsus rectory, Auburn, the home of eight priests and me. He had been visiting two elderly aunts in Syracuse and was en route to Victor, where he has been assisting Father T. Paul Murley. He popped into my study with a book, "Keepers of the Keys" by Wilton Wynn, a Random House printing.

He explained: "It is about the last three popes, John XXIII, Paul VI and John Paul II. John Paul I was in too short a time to be included. The book was written by Wynn, a reporter for Time magazine from 1962 to recent days, and knew the Vatican and the popes well. Read it and let me know what you think."

I did read it and was well impressed by Wynn's analysis of the personalities and characters and talents and methods of ruling the Church. I have the impression he is a bit hard on conservative curial men, but he works to be objective.



## ON THE RIGHT SIDE

Franciscan Father Ray Siebert is assisting Father Robert Meng at Holy Rosary, Rochester. He is a linguist, and he is familiar with the Vatican. In fact, he has recently returned to America from six years as a confessor in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Since he is familiar with Rome, I sent him the book through Father Joseph Gaynor asking his opinion. He returned the book in two weeks with a note: "This is one of the few finest books. Wynn is fair and objective. However, certain people will take phrases out of context, i.e. 'the treasures of the Vatican...' then say: 'See, The Church has been wrong, etc.' That I cannot abide. There have been some Popes

who have had some errors in Modus Agendi, but never in faith and morals: The author is objective in telling the truth, and he is favorable to the Church. I have spoken with the author, Wynn — both alone and in company with Mother Angelica, who at the time was setting up a TV station in Rome."

Wynn, as a long-time reporter, has traveled on Pope John Paul's journeys 16 times, logging over 150,000 miles. And during these trips the pope would come and talk with the reporters, answering questions with candor.

The book treats the elections of these three popes — John XXIII went to Rome expecting to be elected, and had his acceptance speech prepared; "All the Pope's Men," i.e. his advisors; international diplomacy, etc., and gives an awareness of the benign influence of the papacy not only in religion, but in human relations. For example:

"During the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962 Kennedy told Krushchev bluntly: 'The missiles must be removed — or else.' While the world tottered on the brink of

destruction, old Pope John XXIII moved into the breach. On October 25, John broadcast a moving appeal over the Vatican Radio, urging leaders of both sides to settle the crisis through negotiations instead of war, 'to promote, to favor, and to accept negotiations at every level and at all times, a prudent and wise-principle that attracts the blessings of heaven and of earth.' On the following day, October 26, the leading newspaper of the atheistic Soviet Union, Pravda, published John's appeal on its front page. Within hours Krushchev announced he was withdrawing the missiles. The crisis had ended. The Papal appeal alone had not resolved that crisis, but it made a great contribution." (p.176)

A human interest story is recorded. "The American First Lady, Jacqueline Kennedy scheduled a trip to Rome and requested a private audience with the Pope. The request was granted with enthusiasm.

"A Vatican protocol officer reported that as the moment of the audience approached, John sat in his private library going over in his mind the protocol of this momentous occasion. How should he address the Lady? As an American she might be called simply Mrs. Kennedy, but the Pope would be speaking to her in French and wondered if he should address her as Madame. While he was waiting for the visitor to enter the library, John was mumbling to himself 'Mrs. Kennedy, Madame, Madame, Mrs. Kennedy.' When the door opened and the lady walked in, he simply broke into a broad smile, extended both hands, and exclaimed warmly, 'Jacqueline!'" (p. 187).

# Liturgies of Word and Eucharist feed our faith

By Father Albert Shamon  
Courier columnist

Sunday's readings: (R3) Luke 23:13-35; (R1) Acts 2:14, 22-28; (R2) 1 Peter 1:17-21.

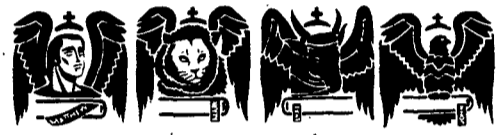
Perhaps one of the most popular stories in the Gospels is that of the two disciples on the way to Emmaus. The story's popularity has to do with more than the fine dialogue, characterizations and plot. There is much about us in the story — about us who walk through life often afraid, often alone, often unable to recognize the "stranger" who walks beside us; about us who cry "stay with us" to anyone who makes us feel safe or answers our questions.

Like two stray sheep, the disciples had wandered from the flock of the church. Jesus, like the Good Shepherd, sought them and restored their faith.

He did this first by explaining the Scriptures to them. Faith comes from hearing the word of God. And what they heard was that the cross had to come before the crown, through bitter paths to the stars. The disciple is not above the master, so they also had to have Good Fridays in their lives as well as Easters.

Then He nourished their faith by the breaking of bread — the Eucharist. "With that their eyes were opened." Not their bodily eyes, for with these they saw the man Christ. But their inner eyes — the eyes of the mind and of faith.

What happened on the road to Emmaus happens every day wherever Mass is celebrated. Like the liturgy itself, the Emmaus event was divided into a "Liturgy



## A WORD FOR SUNDAY

of the Word," in which "He interpreted for them every passage of Scripture which referred to Him," and a "Liturgy of the Eucharist," in which "He took bread, pronounced the blessing, then broke the bread and began to distribute it to them."

Every Sunday the church feeds us from the same two tables: God's word; God's bread. Without these, our faith would die. That is why the church is so serious about Sunday Mass. Unwarranted absences from Sunday Mass lead to a weakening of the faith and, if continued, to a loss of faith.

The Liturgy of the Word builds up our faith. When we listen attentively and prayerfully to it, then faith is strengthened. In the second reading, for example, Peter reminds us that we are exiles in a strange land. We must not forget that message, and must act accordingly. We must act not as though we have here a lasting city, realizing that God will judge us on the basis of our actions and that this faith of ours did not come cheaply, but through the great sacrifice of Christ for us. If we listen prayerfully to His word, then it, like rain

that falls on the earth, will make our lives fertile in good deeds. But this exposure must be at least once a week. Hence the seriousness of Sunday Mass attendance.

Knowledge is never enough, however. God's word shows us what we must do, but to do what we should requires power. The laborer needs food to labor; we need bread from from heaven to live our faith. This bread is the risen Christ who conquered death, the worst effect of sin. In Holy Communion with Him, we, too, can conquer sin and eternal death.

The Liturgy of the Word tells us what we ought to do; the Liturgy of the Eucharist empowers us to do what we must. One builds our faith; the other keeps us faithful.

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Fr. Albert Shamon, Author, Lecturer, Columnist, invites you to listen to the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ on the following stations every Sunday. WAUB-1590 Auburn, 12:30 p.m.; WSSW-99FM Seneca Falls, 6:15 p.m.; and WGVA-1240 Geneva, 7:45 a.m.

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