

Victor sojourn turns up lectors' guide

By Father Paul Cuddy
Courier columnist

In mid-April, Monsignor John Duffy stopped by our rectory in Auburn after visiting two aunts in Syracuse. They are the sisters of the late Monsignor Duffy, who was once the superintendent of Catholic Schools before he became pastor of St. Augustine's Parish, Rochester.

Monsignor Duffy stopped by for three reasons. The first was to visit Father Ray Wahl who is somewhat impaired from a stroke he suffered two years ago, but who has improved enough that he celebrates daily Mass in our rectory chapel.

The second reason was to give me a book, *Keepers of the Keys*, which was written by Walter Wynn. The book is an astute analysis of three popes: John XXIII, Paul VI and John Paul II. Wynn, a staff writer for a weekly news magazine, covered the Vatican closely for many years.

The popes are being given such invidious publicity by mean-spirited Catholics, including priest-authors, that it is good to read professional reporting from someone — viewing the Vatican from the inside — who found the popes worthy of honor and praise.

The third reason for Monsignor's Duffy visit was to seek my services for Masses at St. Patrick's Church, Victor, during June. Monsignor Duffy has been an associate of Father Paul Murley, pastor, who is retiring at the end of this month because of a severe case of emphysema.

Since Monsignor Duffy is free throughout the month of June — and since he is about to retire at the age of 70 — he needed someone to celebrate the weekend Masses in June. After retiring he will move to Baldwinville, where he will assist Father George Sheehan. Father Murley will stay in Victor until September 1.

Believe in whatever the Son of God has spoken

By Father Albert Shamon
Courier columnist

Sunday's readings: (R3) John 6:51-58; (R1) Deuteronomy 8:2-3; (R2) 1 Corinthians 10:16-17.

Sunday is Corpus Christi, the body and blood of Christ.

In the first reading, Moses asks the people of God to do two things: remember what God has done for you; and remember the God who did it all. The sin of the angels is pride, and the sin of mankind is forgetfulness.

Therefore, Moses asks the Hebrews twice to remember — remember the gifts, especially the manna given in the desert for 40 years, and the Giver.

In the second reading, St. Paul asks two questions that get to the heart of our faith, namely, the Eucharist. Is not the cup we are sharing the blood of Christ? Is not the bread we are sharing the body of Christ?

The gospel gives the answer as a resounding "yes." Jesus says, "I am the living bread ... my flesh is real food and my blood real drink."

Jesus insisted we feed on His flesh and drink His blood. He said it is a matter of life or death. One dies if one doesn't eat. If one doesn't eat the flesh of the Son of Man, one dies forever. Those who ate the manna in the desert died, but all those who eat this bread from heaven will live forever.

St. Paul said baptism is the down payment on eternal life. Holy Communions worthily received are the monthly payments.



A WORD FOR SUNDAY

St. Paul also says in Sunday's reading that the Eucharist is both the sign and the cause of unity. Unity is one of the great marks of the true Church of Christ. That is why public dissent is such a scandal to the world.

The bond of unity is love, and love is the sacramental grace of every Mass. After the consecration, the priest prays, "May all of us who are gathered in the body and the blood of Christ be brought together in unity by the Holy Spirit" (Eucharistic Prayer II).

In other words, the priest prays that everyone who receives Holy Communion, the sacrament of love, will be made one, a community of loving persons, a family, by the Holy Spirit, the God of love. Thus the church makes the Eucharist at the consecration, and the Eucharist makes that church at Holy Communion and by an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon these at Mass. As many grains of wheat make the one bread, and many grapes make the one wine, so we being many become one by partaking of the one loaf and the one cup.

The famous defender of Irish liberty, Daniel O'Connell, was a pious and fervent

Catholic. He was born near Cahirciveen in the ring of Kerry. In 1829 he obtained the passage of the Catholic Emancipation Act. A Catholic church has been built in his honor at Cahirciveen. One day some Protestants ridiculed O'Connell's belief in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The fearless O'Connell answered, "You should know the gospel and go with Jesus Christ. He said so and that's enough for me."

His words resonate the motto of Rochester's Aquinas High School based on St. Thomas Aquinas: "I believe whatever the Son of God has spoken."

An unbeliever asked a Catholic, "You believe that Jesus Christ, true God and true man, is in all the consecrated hosts in the world, don't you?"

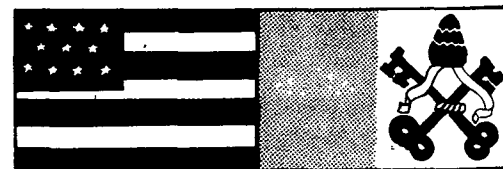
"Certainly," the Catholic replied. "How can this be true when in the Lord's Prayer you say God is in Heaven?" the unbeliever asked.

The Catholic then asked the unbeliever, "Do you know the Apostles Creed?"

"I do."

"How does it start?" the Catholic asked. "I believe in God, the Father almighty."

"Stop there," the Catholic said. "If God is almighty, He can do whatever He wishes: be in Heaven as well as in all consecrated Hosts."



ON THE RIGHT SIDE

I arrived in Victor at about 4:15 p.m. on June 2. I was scheduled to celebrate the 5:15 p.m. Mass on Saturday and the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday. I preached at all the Masses on Sunday, including the celebrations at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

I always find something special when I assist my fellow priests. In Victor, it was a book, *Messengers of God's Word: A Handbook for Lectors*, written by Father Joseph Champlin of Syracuse. The book has a chapter, entitled "Ten Do's and Don'ts for Lectors," which might interest many who both listen to and observe lectors during Mass.

These are some do's he writes about: be trained in advance — many dioceses and some parishes sponsor lector-training workshops; study the text; wear appropriate clothes — apparel shouldn't distract the congregation; begin firmly and pronounce proper words distinctly; use effective pauses frequently — the pause generally is a most powerful tool for a speaker.

These are some don'ts that Father Champlin suggests: don't fidget — standing still in a relaxed yet commanding way with both hands resting lightly on the lectern helps to convey a sense of assurance; don't apologize for mistakes — to go back and correct yourself only points to the error; don't read too rapidly or drop off at the end; don't read everything the same way; don't be afraid to be afraid — it is a perfectly natural phenomenon, and very likely a healthy, very necessary one.

I would add to Father Champlin's list: don't try to dramatize. Be your modest, simple self and project the Word — not the ego.



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THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

EDWIN SULEWSKI
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Loneliness.
A major problem for the widowed!
Many widowed people complain that they no longer feel comfortable with old friends and in old social situations. In addition, they feel that their empty house and evening hours increase the loneliness. Learning how and where to meet people is difficult. The best solution for finding friends is to be active socially and at work. Support can be gained through church groups and special groups for the widowed. Joining in political campaigns, community organizations, golf or tennis clubs are ways some bereaved make friends. New friends will not totally eliminate our loneliness but they can help. Naturally no one should feel pressured to meet new friends until they are ready. Please call us for referrals to local support groups.

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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