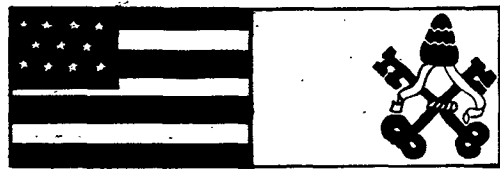


Recent book corroborates ex-chaplain's comments

By Father Paul J. Cuddy
Courier columnist

The late Father Eddie Joe Waters, a native of Owego, was ordained in 1936. While serving at St. Mary's, Elmira, he was in 1940 the first priest of the diocese to join the Army. His service was with the most violent of World War II: the invasion of Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge. At the time of Germany's capitulation, he was a command chaplain in Czechoslovakia, with the prestigious rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and the even greater rank of Catholic chaplain.

On his return to civilian life, he was assigned by Bishop Kearney to Father Edward Meagher at Good Council, Roch-



ON THE RIGHT SIDE

ester, where he served with another ex-chaplain, Father Leo Matuszewski, in an hilarious rectory. After Father Meagher's death, the two continued with the saintly Father Leo Smith. Then Father Waters was assigned to St. Aloysius, Auburn, and later to St. Patrick's, Elmira. There his health broke and he died within a few months to

be succeeded by Father John Hayes.

Father Waters was large in body and heart. He was loud and emphatic in his views. In 1947 several priests were gathered together, and Father Waters began to expatiate about the sweep of the Russian Army into Czechoslovakia, where he was stationed. I have always remembered his description of the invasion into Czechoslovakia by the conquering Russian Army as it swept eastward, capturing village after village. With a crescendo of feeling he roared: "The G.D. Russians came into these villages and raped every woman that they could find, even old women in their eighties!"

At the time I thought this probably hy-

perbole, and so made allowances for exaggeration. But I have just finished the book *Nina's Journey: A Memoir of Stalin's Russia and the Second World War*, published by Regnery Gateway, Washington, D.C., 1989. The memoirs are easy reading because each chapter is a vignette, short and clear.

The memoirs begin in the small city of Duvlov, 55 miles east of Moscow. It threads through the control by Stalin communists, which was really a slavery: controlling jobs, food and lodging; disorganized health and education; and movement. The regime allowed no freedom for the people.

The book develops with the pact of friendship between Stalin and Hitler, and the subsequent attack on Russia by Germany. Then the awful days of see-sawing armies, and the transport of many Russians to Germany as semi-slaves. The book tells of the kindness of some Germans, especially Bavarians, and of some Russians, and the savagery of others.

With the capitulation of Germany by the treaty at Yalta, Churchill and Roosevelt ceded Eastern Europe to Stalin, and agreed to the forced "re-patriation" of Russians to Stalin's cage.

Of such a prospect Nina writes: "That night, dark scenes of approaching doom hounded me mercilessly. I thought of being crucified on a barn door, as the Soviets did to so many Silesian women after gang-raping them." As I read these words the thought came to me: "Father Eddie Joe was not exaggerating."

The memoirs end up happily, with Nina taking a new home in the United States, and American citizenship and an American husband.

The services and sacrifices of our American military men, who saved much of the world from Nazi enslavement will be a bright spot in our history. The treaty of Yalta and "Uncle Joe" Stalin will always be a dark stain.

Advent reminds faithful to be ready for the Lord

By Father Albert Shamon
Courier columnist

Sunday's readings: (R3) Mark 13:33-37; (R1) Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7; (R2) 1 Corinthians 1:3-9.

The church's new year begins with the first Sunday of Advent. This year (1990/91) is Cycle B. That means the Sunday Gospels will be taken predominantly from the Gospel according to St. Mark.

Advent has a twofold character: it is a preparation for Christmas — a remembrance of his first coming. This memory is meant to direct our hearts and minds to prepare for his second coming at the end of time.

The past is not a hitching post, but a guidepost. Thus this season is one of joyful expectation. After the Our Father at every Mass, we pray: "In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

Thus the Advent liturgy prepares us for the two comings of the Lord. From Dec. 17 to Christmas Eve, the texts focus on his coming at Bethlehem. The first Sunday of Advent to Dec. 17 prepare us for the second coming.

Yet the two are connected: the joyful celebration of the first coming prepares us for the joyful hope of the second coming.

St. Bernard mentions a third coming of the Lord, namely, to our altars at every Mass. He comes there to fill us with joy,



A WORD FOR SUNDAY

and joy is the countenance that gives witness to the fact that Christ has come and will come again.

The Gospel tells us that Christ will come as certainly as a master will return home after traveling abroad. But when he will come is an unknown. Therefore, said Christ, "Be watchful! Be alert!" Watching denotes action, alertness and readiness. Jesus tells us to live each day in such a way that at any moment we shall be ready to meet the master when he comes.

Life is going somewhere — to eternity. We neglect this fact, or disregard it, to our own peril. The most foolish thing on earth is to forget God and become wholly immersed in this world. There is a poem entitled "What Would He Say?"

If He should come today
And find my hands so full
Of future plans, however fair,
In which our Savior has no share.
What would He say?

If He should come today
and find my love so cold,
My faith so very weak and dim
I had not even looked for Him

What would he say?

If He should come today
And find that I had not told
One soul about our Heavenly
Friend
Whose blessings all my way
attend.

What would He say?

If He should come today
Would I be glad, quite glad?
Remembering that He died for all
And none through me had heard
His call.

What would He say?

Every year the church at Advent repeats the same old messages: don't be listening to what others are doing to you, try to hear what Jesus is doing for you; he loves you, he cares for you, he forgives you; he is calling you to love, to care, to forgive. Hear him!

During this season, let us pray: "Lord, Redeemer, rend the heavens and come down so that you might meet us doing right. O Shepherd of Israel, hearken, rouse your power and come to save us."

Sisters of Mercy schedule holiday concert

ROCHESTER — The Founders Club of the Sisters of Mercy will sponsor two performances of "A Canadian Brass Christmas" at the Eastman Theatre on Sunday, Dec. 9. The performances are scheduled for 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The Canadian Brass consists of five classically trained musicians who perform everything from Bach to Mozart to Gershwin and Dixieland. The musicians combine music with commentary and humor.

Tickets are on sale now at the Founders Club box office, 1437 Blossom Road, by

calling 716/288-4817 or through Ticketron. Tickets are \$25, \$21, and \$15. Special patron tickets are available for \$100, entitling the patron to two tickets and a reception with The Canadian Brass following the evening performance.

Proceeds will benefit the education fund of the Sisters of Mercy, which enables the sisters to continue their education.

For information contact Sister Nancy Whitley at 716/288-4817.

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