

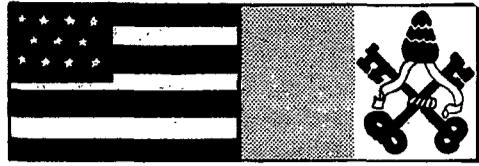
# Letter reveals stories of achievement and concern

By Father Paul Cuddy  
Courier columnist

**From a Canadian:** "Thank you for your Christmas message. We didn't hear from you last year so I concluded you were sick or had passed to your eternal reward. Nonetheless, we did send you a Christmas card again this year addressed to your previous address at Webster. I don't recall if I wrote a message or not. If I did it was probably a brief one because of the uncertainty of your state."

**Comment:** Frank, my Canadian friend, served in the Canadian public school system, including a 35-year tenure as principal. Few retirees I know live in idleness. How wonderfully fruitful his life continues to be.

Frank graduated from Assumption College in Windsor, Canada, about 1951, when I was taking courses under the GI



## ON THE RIGHT SIDE

Bill of Rights. We have not met since, but have been "letter-friends" for nearly 50 years. His letters about his family, teaching work, activities — both within the church and civic organizations — leave me with a fervent "Thanks be to God for such a good man."

And thanks be to God for the strong presence of many other men and women such as him. They compensate for the less good.

Back to his letter: "I have been retired

from teaching since June of '86, but it hasn't been a time of idleness. I am Catholic Church Activity Director for our local K. of C. Council. Recently I organized a K. of C. Mass followed by a brunch and an address given by Bishop LaRocque of the Diocese of Cornwall. The bishop and I belonged to the same parish in Windsor when we were boys. Other activities include work for the mentally retarded and driving a van to transport seniors to medical appointments at Kingston hospitals. Most days we say the family rosary. Our salvation and that of others is really the one important thing."

**Comment:** While there is much grouching about people not being involved in the church and civic groups, it seems to me that many senior citizens have become very active in society.

His letter continued, "Our son, Paul,

who is a specialist in Soviet and East European studies and who works for the Canadian Wheat Board, was home for vacation at Christmas time. He lives in Winnipeg, is 31-years-old and still single. He hasn't met the right Catholic girl. His Cathedral parish has mainly Filipino and Korean families, so he often goes to a Ukrainian parish and is a friend of Father Michael Kwiatkowski, an active younger priest. Paul helped him organize a conference for young Catholics, ages 18 to 35, which was held on Canadian Thanksgiving, (Oct., '90). There were over 25 seminars over the weekend and about 400 people attended."

**Comment:** Over the years, Frank has told of son Paul's involvement in important projects. Paul has several academic degrees. He has lived in Russia and speaks fluent Russian — and I think Ukrainian as well. He is heartily involved in many aspects of Catholicism. Why he doesn't enter the priesthood is a mystery to me.

A letter such as this from Canada gives a boost to me when you can find a virile, intelligent, devout man who heeds so strikingly Our Lord's words: "Love one another as I have loved you."

**From Father Raymond G. Heisel, priest-in-residence at Our Mother of Sorrows Church in Rochester:**

"When I learned that postage was increasing 4 cents, I hurried to the post office to buy some 4 cent stamps to add to my oversupply of 25 centers — and was surprised to see whose picture is on the stamp. See you Tuesday with Father Wohlrab."

**Comment:** Glued to the edge of his card was the stamp, with the picture of Father Flanigan of Boys Town! The old movie, "Father Flanigan of Boys Town," has been an inspiration to many.

## Jesus combined prayer and work in his ministry

By Father Albert Shamon  
Courier columnist

**Sunday's readings:** (R3) Mark 1:29-39; (R1) Job 7:1-4, 6-7; (R2) 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23.

In the first reading, Job laments that man's life on earth was drudgery. How tiring our Lord's daily work must have been! In the Gospel Mark gives us a quick rundown of 24 hours in our Lord's public ministry.

Jesus goes to the synagogue to teach, and, while he is there, he cures a man possessed by a demon. After the synagogue service, he goes to Peter's house for dinner and he cures Peter's mother-in-law. After sunset, the whole town gathers outside the door and Jesus cures the afflicted and the possessed. Early the next morning, he gets up to pray. He tours all the synagogues afterward, preaching the good news and expelling demons throughout the whole of Galilee. Whew!

Just a few thoughts on the Gospel. Peter had mother-in-law trouble: she was sick. The first thing the apostles did was to tell Jesus about it. How important it is that we talk to God about our friends in need.

Jesus responded by grasping her hand and curing her instantly. Even the touch of Jesus has power. In gratitude, Peter's mother-in-law began to wait on them immediately. One way to give thanks for God's blessing is to perform good works for others.

Jesus also helped a family. After sunset, he was asked to help the entire town and he does. He heals the sick. His actions here have inspired saints down through the ages to care for the ailing. St. Camillus founded the first "red cross." Vincent de Paul begins the Order of the Sisters of Charity. Rose Hawthorne has to this day wonderful hospitals for those afflicted with incurable cancer. Damien goes to Molaki to care for lepers. The list is endless. How wonderful the church has been in her works of mercy!

But even apostolic work can be a danger. Only by combining work and prayer will work not hurt us and become a true joy and



## A WORD FOR SUNDAY

blessing. So, "early the next morning, Jesus went off to a lonely place in the desert; there He was absorbed in prayer." If you want to work well, pray well. If you want to pray well, get up early. Silence abounds early in the morning, and you are refreshed from the night's sleep.

No one has ever been so busy as was Jesus, but he made time for prayer. The Gospels allude to our Lord's prayers over 18 times.

After a day of cures and miracles in Capernaum, what did Jesus pray for on this particular occasion. I think he was mightily tempted — tempted to reduce the Gospel to social welfare, to taking care of bodily il-

nesses. He was so compassionate that he was mightily tempted to stay in Capernaum and cure everybody.

That was not his mission, however. "Let us move on to the neighboring villages so that I may proclaim the good news there also. That is what I have come to do." Jesus was man as well as God. He needed strength to be able to turn his back on just curing people. So he prayed early in the morning and got that strength.

Simon had said, "Everybody is looking for you!" Actually, it was Jesus who was looking for everybody. What Jesus did; he commissioned us all to do: to save souls.

The clock of life is wound but once,  
And no man has the power  
To tell just when the hands will stop,  
At late or early hour.  
To lose one's wealth is sad indeed.  
To lose one's health is more.  
To lose one's soul is such a loss.  
That no-man can restore.

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