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**Letters Policy**

The *Catholic Courier* wishes to provide space for readers throughout the diocese to express opinions on all sides of the issues. We welcome all signed, original letters about current issues affecting church life.

Although we cannot publish every letter we receive, we seek, insofar as possible, to provide a balanced representation of expressed opinions and a variety of reflections on life in the church. We will choose letters for publication based on likely reader interest, timeliness and a sense of fair play. Our discerning readers may determine whether to agree or disagree with the opinions of the letter writers.

We reserve the right to edit all letters. Mail them to: *Catholic Courier*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York 14624. Please include your full name as well as telephone number and complete address for verification purposes.



The late Father Paul J. Cuddy listens to composer Officer Candidate Paul Shields Walker play his new Mass setting dedicated to the priest. Father Cuddy served as an Air Force chaplain at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas in 1953.

**Veteran remembers late columnist**

To the editors:

A farewell to Rev. Paul J. Cuddy: I first met Father Paul in October 1942, when he was an Army Air Corps 1st Lt. (chaplain) at Napier Field, Dothan, Alabama, and I was an Army Air Corps Flying Cadet. My bride-to-be, Edythe, was receiving religious instructions in Rochester prior to her conversion to the Catholic faith and our marriage, scheduled for November 1942. Father Paul was coordinator for all the plans, schedules, etc., between the North and South and this required that I, the lowly Cadet, be summoned to the 1st Lt.'s inner sanctum on many occasions. This, of course — for those of you who knew the good father — resulted in my being the recipient of a multitude of his pranks and teasings. I have spent a lifetime trying to get even.

On November 10, 1942 — graduation day for Flying Cadet Class 42-J — brand new 2nd Lt. Robert Kennedy and Edythe Holycross were joined in holy matrimony by Father Paul Cuddy with a formal military wedding in the Lady of Napier Field Chapel. The following reception and wedding dinner at the Napier Field Officers' Club was paid for by Father Paul — which, I thought, was rather nice of him.

Through the many years that followed, our military and civilian careers kept crisscrossing with some wonderful happenings shared by the two of us

— with higher military rank and more and more gray hairs.

His 75th birthday party at Sweet's in Webster was a great evening with Father Paul running around to ensure that Edythe and I were seated at a table with other Napier Field alumni and retired military chaplains.

His "On the Right Side" column of Sept. 20, 1983, when he referred to us as "Bob Kennedy and his wife, Edythe Holycross — what a handsome couple they were, and still are." Which was all very true, but nice of him to say so.

Edythe's and my surprise 45th wedding anniversary party at which Father Paul was to be the guest speaker. His recovery from a recent surgery prevented him from being there but he sent a letter to be read to those assembled. He recalled the trials, tribulations and fun of the past and vowed to be at our 50th anniversary even if he had to be transported in a wheelchair. He almost made it!

And last, that cold, gray Monday morning of Jan. 6, 1992, when Edythe and I traveled to St. Alphonsus Church for one last visit and his Mass of the Resurrection. What a moving experience! The church so beautifully decorated for the Christmas season; Father Paul lying in state in his white cassock and black biretta with a triangular folded American flag at his left shoulder; over a hundred of his fellow priests in white cassocks, singing and respond-

ing in Latin; the beautiful notes of *Salve, Regina* and other hymns; the eulogies by Father Brennan and Bishops Clark and Hickey extolling Father Paul's virtues and achievements.

Father Paul was so much to so many people from different walks of life, it's very difficult to think of him as a single person. With that in mind, I'll close by saying:

To Paul: So long, buddy. I'll miss the times when we would reminisce about the good times we had — and the not-so-good times, too. Save a place for me.

To Major Paul J. Cuddy, USAF (Ret.): Well done, faithful soldier. Your compassion and comfort to soldiers and airmen during their darkest hours helped pull them through the grim times.

To Father Paul J. Cuddy: You will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered as a pious man who directly and indirectly must be responsible for thousands of converts to the faith with your distribution of the Bishop Sheen tapes, total support of the missions, work with the sick and your weekly column in the *Catholic Courier*. At long last, you have achieved your reward. For surely you are now sitting "On The Right Side" of our Lord!

**Bob Kennedy**  
Whittier Road  
Spencerport

**CYO coaches, staff deserve three cheers**

To the editors:

Being retired and a grandfather provides the time and inclination to see one's grandchildren perform in extracurricular activities; namely, a granddaughter who is a cheerleader for St. Lawrence School in Greece, and a granddaughter and a grandson who play basketball for St. Michael School in Newark. Both schools play in their respective CYO leagues.

Besides being a proud and biased



File photo St. Lawrence Parish's CYO cheerleaders showed their stuff in 1987.

grandparent, I'm impressed with the caliber of leadership that evokes the performances of those whose activities they coach. The discipline of the children and their efforts to succeed have to be a direct result of the respect they hold for their coaches.

Three cheers for the coaches, the principals and the CYO.

**Karl V. Denninger**  
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