

Sunday, January 26, 1992



No. 281

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
DENVER, COLORADO



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Fr. John writes

"ALL LIFE is suffering." This is the first of the Four Noble Truths of Buddha. M. Scott Peck begins his very influential best seller "The Road Less Travelled" with a paraphrase of this truth: "Life is difficult".

Whether we are optimistic or pessimistic in our attitudes towards life, all of us know days when life is painful indeed, when, perhaps, we feel at the end of our tether. We may have found out that we have cancer, or that we are about to lose our job, or that a member of the family has just died or is soon to die, or we may just feel depressed and lonely and wonder what life has in store for us.

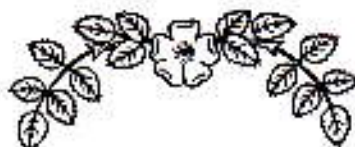
Life is difficult at times and brings its own share of suffering to all of us. It is often at times like these that we find ourselves, often spontaneously, crying out to God to hear our prayer and come to our help. It happens that people's troubles are lightened just because they have poured them out to the Lord.

Their illness is not cured, their loved one not brought back to life, but something has happened to

ease their burden. If you ask them to describe their experience, they may just say: I told God all that I felt. I felt that He understood what I was going through, and somehow I felt better."

The reader may already be objecting that it makes no sense to tell God our troubles since he already knows them. But if God is a person and prayer is a personal relationship, the issue is not one of information but of sharing.

Between friends and lovers information is not important but communication and sharing are. Pouring out our troubles to God, far from being useless, or of burdening God, is exactly the kind of prayer and openness that allows God the room to listen and love us.



*Take heart;
it is I;
have no
fear?*

MATTHEW 14:27



Rest In Peace

TOM SHEEHAN, 12 Liam Lynch Park, died recently at home after a spell of failing health. An outstanding churchman, he faithfully attended to his tasks week in, week out. He and his family kept a hospitable and welcoming home where friendship was given a chance to grow. His neighbours speak highly of him for his sincerity, friendliness, and willingness to help out when the need arose.

Our sincere sympathy to his wife Maureen, and the entire family, and all his many relatives and friends who miss him.

MARY O'REGAN, Sharman Crawford Street, and Woodlawn, died recently after a brief illness. She worked for many years in St. Maries of the Isle Convent as Matron to the hostel. She was considered, as one sister said, "a member of the community". A woman of deep faith, she spent a lot of her time with her niece and grandnephew and nieces in Woodlawn.

MISS KATHLEEN McKENNA, Coolowen Villas, Magazine Road, died suddenly during the week. "Kathleen was a person who spent her time caring for people", was the way her nephews spoke of her. She had cared for her mother, aunt and sister at home for many years. She is mourned by her sisters Rosaleen and Hilda, and brothers Ben and Terry. We offer our sympathy in a special way to Rosaleen whom she lived with and who will miss her companionship and friendship at home.

MRS. KAY O'LEARY, Bishopstown Avenue West, slipped away ever so quietly at the home of her daughter, Noreen Ryan, on Sunday, 19th January. Her husband, Dr. Con O'Leary, had predeceased her by just about three months. We extend sincere sympathy to her family - John (Dublin), Brendan (Canada) and Noreen (Ovens), and all her grandchildren who were especially dear to her. May she rest in peace.



QUESTION: When is the Irish Church going to allow General Absolution?

ANSWER: The third rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (General Absolution) is open, possibly, to a certain amount of abuse. It might well be looked upon as a kind of 'quickie confession', an easy option on having 'the slate wiped clean'.

God's mercy is always open to us. As well as God's reconciling function, we as penitents need His grace to turn our lives around.

In order to do this better, it is helpful to have a Confessor who can discern how best this can be done. He can also help us to discern our own part in the process.

For as long as the Irish Church is having difficulty with Rite One of the Sacrament (Individual Confession), then perhaps it is too soon to progress to Rite Three.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

THE WEEK of Prayer for Christian Unity 1992 has just ended. There was little media interest. Perhaps this reflects the lack of enthusiasm within the various churches for unity.

Rev. John Faris of the Presbyterian Church, preaching at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Ballinlough, wondered about our commitment to Christian Unity - or the lack of it.

Archdeacon Michael Mayes of the Church of Ireland, preaching at the Honan Chapel in U.C.C., spoke of the vision of Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Michael Ramsey for Unity all of twenty-six years ago. He wondered about our present-day commitment - or lack of it!

THE THEME for the week was "I am with you... Go, therefore." (Matthew 28:19-20). God must be very patient with us all in all our diversities!

WEREN'T the pictures of AIDS victims in Uganda in the media recently frightening? Weren't the statistics even more so? Decimation of populations on a scale hard to imagine.

Do we tend, here at home anyway, to be judgemental? Homosexuals. Drug Addicts. They brought it on themselves! We tend to be more compassionate where haemophiliacs are concerned.

I read recently of the efforts

of the Franciscan Community at Merchants Quay in Dublin to address the problem. They called the sufferers 'the lepers of our day'. Marginalised and despised, they are often condemned to lives of poverty, homelessness, crime, imprisonment, eventually sickness and death.

Overcoming their own fears and prejudices, they have tried to welcome the sufferers into their community. Francis of Assisi learnt to embrace the leper. So did Fr. Damien on Molokai. There are still good people about. We can only salute them. Maybe we can be challenged by them.

GIVING AWAY LOVE

Love is not like a loaf of bread. If I give a chunk of the loaf to you I have less to offer to others. Love is more like the Eucharist. When I receive it I receive the whole Christ. But you do not get less of Christ as a result; you receive the whole Christ too; and so does the next person, and the next. You can love your mother with your whole heart, and your wife, and each of your children. The wonder is that giving the whole of it to one person does not force you to give less to another. On the contrary, each one of them gets more. For if you only love your friend and no one else it is a feeble heart, indeed, that you offer him. He would stand to gain if you also gave it to others. And God would be the loser if he insisted that you give your heart to him alone.

(Anthony de Mello, S.J.)

NOTICE BOARD

Parish Pastoral Council

Reminder of meeting on Monday,
27th, at 8.00 p.m. in the C.P.
Centre.

Liturgy Group

There will be a meeting on Monday,
27th, at 8.10 p.m. in the Sacristy.

Weekday Readers

Please collect rotas at Altar
Rails.

St. Vincent de Paul

The monthly collection will take
place next weekend, 1/2 February.

Don't Throw them Out!

Missionary, who will be going to
Zambia in March '92, would be
glad to receive old sewing
machines (even if they are out
of order) and garden implements
needing repair or otherwise, for
distribution on the mission
field. Carriage arranged. Goods
will be collected if necessary.
Please phone 541346.

Deaf Enterprises

Re-upholstery and furniture
Restoration to the highest
standards at new premises, 2A
Sundrive Park, Ballinlough Road.
Free estimates. Phone 294111/
294100. Manufacturing new 3-
piece suites, fireside chairs,
etc. choice of materials.

TAKE NOTE

Drugs and Drug Related Problems

Det. Sergt. Paul Mangan, Cork Drug
Squad, will give a talk for
parents on this important issue
at Colaiste an Spioraid Naomh,
on Tuesday, 4th February at 8 p.m.
All parents are invited to attend.



**Volunteers
Needed**

Are you a regular 12.15 Mass
goer? Collectors are needed
for the 12.15 Mass. If you
would like to help, leave
your name with the Sacristan
or at the C.P. Centre.

**A Prayer For Those
Who Live Alone.**

*I LIVE alone, dear Lord,
Stay by my side.
In all my daily needs
Be Thou my guide,
Grant me good health,
For that indeed, I pray,
To carry on my work
From day to day.
Keep pure my mind,
My thoughts, my every deed,
Let me be kind, unselfish
In my neighbour's need,
Spare me from fire, from flood
Malicious tongues,
From thieves, from fear,
And evil ones.
If sickness or an accident befall,
Then humbly, Lord, I pray,
Hear, Thou my call,
And when I'm feeling lost,
Or in despair,
Lift up my heart
And help me in my prayer.
I live alone, dear Lord,
Yet have no fear,
Because I feel Your Presence
Ever near.*



**PRIESTS' EMERGENCY
NUMBER: 274888**