



# Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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*Rev. Charles A. Curran (Courtesy of Catholic Times)*

## **Borrowed Glory on This Church Rev. Charles A. Curran (1913-1978)**

by Donald M. Schlegel

Mention Father Charles Curran today and most who recognize the name at all will think of Father Charles E. Curran of Catholic University, a well-known dissenter from some Church teachings. But in Columbus and Chicago the mention is more likely to refer to Father Charles Arthur Curran, who

worked in the same era but was a conscientious priest and psychologist.

Charles A. Curran was born on October 9, 1913 in Philadelphia, the youngest of three boys. His parents were Michael and Mary (Daugherty) Curran. Michael had been born in County Longford,

Ireland, and moved to Glasgow, Scotland. There Mary had been born, of Irish parents, and there the couple's first two sons were born. They came to America in 1910. By 1920 they were living in Lima, Ohio, where Michael was a machinist at the Lima Locomotive Works, builders of steam locomotives. Little Charles attended the elementary school at St. John Parish in Lima from 1919 to 1923. The family then moved to the north side of Columbus where Michael found employment as a machinist at the Pennsylvania Railroad's huge 20th Street Shops. Charles finished his elementary education at St. Peter Parish School on New York Avenue. In 1926 St. Augustine Parish was established just six blocks south of the family home (a story and a half frame house on Genessee at Bremen) and Charles considered St. Augustine his home parish from that time forward.

In 1927 Charles enrolled at St. Charles Preparatory School in Columbus. In 1931 he went on to St. Charles College Seminary and there received the B.A. degree in 1935. He studied Theology at Mt. St. Mary's of the West Seminary, Cincinnati, and was ordained by Bishop Hartley at St. Joseph Cathedral on March 4, 1939.

Father Curran's mother, who had been a member of the Third Order of St. Francis, died in 1935. She had lived to see him enrolled at Mt. St. Mary's. His father died in 1951 and Father Curran offered his funeral Mass at Holy Cross Church.<sup>1</sup> The remains of both await the angels' call at St. Joseph Cemetery.

### **Sacerdotal Duties**

Following ordination, Father Curran's first post was the assistant chaplaincy at St. Anthony Hospital. He served as administrator at several parishes: St. Francis in Toronto, St. Mary in St. Clairsville, Holy Cross in Columbus, St. John the Baptist in Columbus (1948-1949), and St. Patrick in London. He was Assistant Pastor at Holy Family in Columbus from 1939 to 1941 and continued to work there on weekends until 1945. From 1949 until 1952 he served Corpus Christi Parish in Columbus on weekends. He was administrator of Our Lady of

Mt. Carmel Parish in Buckeye Lake from 1952 to 1954 and of St. Sylvester in Zaleski Parish for a short time in 1955

His pastoral work was limited because Father Curran's primary position was a professorship at St. Charles Seminary, his alma mater. He taught psychology, history, and English there from 1941 until August, 1953. He considered this association to be "an honor and a privilege," in which work with the students and association with the other professors meant much to him personally.<sup>2</sup>

Meanwhile, he was assistant editor of the *Columbus Register* from 1940 to 1941 and lectured in psychology and ethics at Mt. Carmel School of Nursing from 1941 to 1949. Late in the second World War and just afterwards, Father Curran was a member of the USO training staff and a visiting lecturer on counseling for the U.S. Army Chaplain School. He was one of five members of the Civic Committee for the Street Car Strike in Columbus in 1946. He was a member of the Diocesan School Board from 1945 to 1954 and member of the Board of Trustees of St. Charles Seminary from 1947 to 1954. He was moderator of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Nurses.

There were a half-dozen well-known diocesan priests who could accurately be called Curran's disciples: Fathers Francis Maloney, Paul O'Dea, August Winkler, Lawrence J. Corcoran, Thomas F. Duffy, and C. Bennett Applegate. Each was highly talented and all were attracted to the extraordinary leadership qualities that they saw in Curran.<sup>3</sup>

### **Slipping Away from Home**

Msgr. Bennett Applegate remembered a youthful scene: "Father Curran's first 'client' was the neighborhood cat. After a two-hour session, my final note indicated that the cat was going strong and the weary 'therapist' was asleep. ...Father Curran was a true scholar from his seminary days and seemed destined to be heard beyond his diocese." Curran's main thesis was that we must never relent in the study of the total integration of the human personality.<sup>4</sup>

Shortly after Curran's ordination, he strongly

sensed a need, as a priest, to become familiar with techniques in counseling. As later related by Father Francis Maloney, Curran needed to be especially careful when he sought permission from Bishop Hartley to “take one or two courses” at Ohio State University because in that era bishops generally frowned upon priests studying at secular universities.<sup>5</sup> Father Curran obtained the permission and earned a Master of Arts degree in psychology at The Ohio State University in 1941 and his Doctorate in Philosophy from the same university in 1944.

With these degrees, while still a professor at St. Charles, Father Curran developed his career and professional status in psychology and counseling. Father Curran’s first book, *Personality Factors in Counseling*, was published in 1945 and became widely used in the profession. In the summer of 1945 he conducted psycho-philosophical research at the Medieval Institute, University of Toronto. In the summer of 1947 he presented a counseling institute at Loyola University in Chicago.

According to the *Columbus Register* of the time, his research advanced the non-directive counseling technique (later called client-centered therapy and finally the person-centered approach). He was credited for recognizing how Catholic and democratic the basic non-directive technique was and for extending its usefulness. The technique “centers on the client” and makes him responsible for his own achievement. It had wide educational implications and was applicable in group work. It took a direct stand in opposition to the prevalent technique based on behaviorism.<sup>6</sup> The theory was based on the premise that each person is basically good and could be trusted to grow toward full realization of his or her potential. It did not recognize or take into account man’s fallen nature.<sup>7</sup>

Father Curran had learned about this technique from Carl R. Rogers, who had originated it and was teaching at OSU when Father Curran was studying there. Curran’s doctoral dissertation at Ohio State is said to have been the first to explore the new technique.<sup>8</sup> Rogers became by far the best known of the humanist psychotherapists and his works were

used in virtually all graduate training programs in counseling psychology. Rogers himself in time would describe the technique as having been “thoroughly insidious in religion.” It also was destructive of education. Beyond his earliest work at Loyola, Father Curran seems not to have followed Rogers too closely, but he could not completely avoid his influence and the general flow of psychological techniques and counseling methods of the times.

In 1947 Curran was contacted by his “disciple” Rev. Francis Maloney, who had become a priest of the new Diocese of Steubenville. Father Maloney asked him to encourage several young women, all of whom Curran had instructed and recently brought into the Catholic Church, to volunteer to become the first members of a new diocesan institute or religious community in that diocese.<sup>9</sup> The following summer, 1948, Fathers Maloney and Curran and six prospective sisters for the new diocesan institute went to Manitowoc, Wis., to expose the Franciscans to some of the new concepts in counseling. (The plan was for the sisters to have a novice-mistress from among the Franciscans.) Over three hundred sisters took the course and thought it wonderful.<sup>10</sup>

Behind the scenes, however, a serious problem arose. The original plan was for Father Maloney and Mary Deem of the College of Steubenville to teach the course, which consisted of three classes: Counseling Practicum, The Theology of Guidance, and Principles of Guidance. Curran (according to Maloney, years later) barged in and insisted that he would teach the Counseling Practicum course. The resulting squabble between the two priests divided them, divided the little group of sisters for the new institute, and ultimately divided Curran from his other priest-disciples in Columbus until, one-by-one, they reconciled many years later. Curran, according to Maloney, insisted that the sisters side either with him or with Maloney.<sup>11</sup>

One of the Franciscan Sisters who worked closely with Father Curran at that time remarked that “Personality is a mystery, and surely Father Curran was a great mystery...” She said that he was non-directive in a structured interview, but outside of that professional situation he was quite different.

Father Maloney, after the problems between them surfaced, called Curran a “megalomaniac.”<sup>12</sup>

By 1953 Father Curran had written two books on counseling and twelve articles for professional journals on counseling, psychology, and sociology. From March, 1953 to 1954 he was President of the American Catholic Psychological Association. He had earned such a reputation that by September, 1953 he was invited by the Psychology Department of the University of Louvain in Belgium to give a series of lectures from October, 1954 to February, 1955. He also was invited to give a series of lectures on his book on counseling to the students of the Gregorianum in Rome in the spring of 1955. Bishop Ready considered these invitations to be “a fine compliment to you personally and they reflect some borrowed glory on this Church.” The Bishop agreed to give him a year’s leave for these lectures.<sup>13</sup>

Ever since the summer of 1947 when Father Curran had taught at Loyola University in Chicago, the university had sought to have him join their faculty, either in the Education or the Psychology department or in their graduate school. After a discussion with Bishop Ready at the priests’ retreat in the summer of 1953, Father Curran weighed this matter and prayed over it carefully and sincerely. While carefully submitting himself to any decision of the Bishop, and despite his rootedness in St. Charles and the Diocese of Columbus and his great fondness and gratitude to the priests here, in April, 1954, looking ahead, he requested that Bishop Ready permit him to accept this invitation when he would return from Europe the following spring. The Bishop, in light of other pressing concerns and Curran’s upcoming year in Europe, told him to bring up the subject again after returning from Europe.<sup>14</sup>

From June, 1954 until June, 1955 Curran fulfilled his commitments, lecturing at the University of Louvain, Belgium, and the Institute Catholique in Paris. He spoke both French and Italian but had to work hard to polish these skills for the lecture tour.

(To be concluded)

#### NOTES

1) *Catholic Columbian*, Nov. 29, 1935. *The*

*Catholic Times*, Oct. 12, 1951.

- 2) Curran to Ready, Aug. 23, 1953, diocesan archives
- 3) Brown, [Rev.] Francis F., *A History of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio, Volume I, The Mussio Years (1945-1977)*; Lewiston: The Edwin Mellon Press, 1994. (pp 65-72, discuss the failed attempt to form a new diocesan institute of religious sisters) 66-67
- 4) Msgr. Bennett Applegate, *The Catholic Times*, Aug. 4, 1978.
- 5) Brown, 66
- 6) *Columbus Register*, Feb. 20, 1948
- 7) Brown, 67
- 8) Brown, 66
- 9) Brown, 65
- 10) Brown, 67-68
- 11) Brown, 68
- 12) Brown, p. 73, where the Sister is inadequately identified only as “Sister Myers”
- 13) Curran to Ready, Sept. 21, 1953. Ready to Curran, Sept. 23, 1953.
- 14) Curran to Ready, April 27, 1954. Ready to Curran, May 8, 1954.

### **Abstracts from the *Catholic Telegraph***

(Continued, from Vol. XXXVII, No. 12)

(Continuation of the August 20, 1859 issue’s account of the episcopal visitation at Lancaster)

At three P.M., the Archbishop presided at Vespers. After Vespers, the Bishop of Erie, assisted by the clergymen already named, and Rev. Messrs. Lieb, Hemsteger and Duffy, blessed the Corner-stone of the new church, after which the Archbishop preached. At intervals during the ceremony, a band of music played some enlivening airs, and at its close, a military company discharged a volley of musketry, which took the assemblage pretty much by surprise. The worthy captain of the company, we understand, exhorts, occasionally, in the Methodist church.

The new church will be, from out to out, 152 by

70 ft. Height of walls, 39 ft. 6 in., of ceiling of principal aisle, 54 ft. The handsome sum of \$12,000 has been already subscribed by sixty-three names. It is not quite a score of years since the present church, a very respectable edifice, was erected. Lancaster deserves well of Religion and society by its generosity to the Orphans, the Seminary and the Church. Two natives of the city are now enrolled among the Alumni of the Diocesan preparatory Seminary.

Receipts of the Treasurer for the Propagation of the Faith

John Lee, Ironton, O. \$9.60

September 3, 1859

Episcopal Visitation Schedule: St. Mary's Delaware, Sept. 18th.

[This issue contains a column on Western Virginia missions.]

September 10, 1859

Ordinations mentioned include Joseph Fitzgerald, minor orders.

September 24, 1859

#### **St. Mary's, Delaware.**

There were thirty-seven persons confirmed in this Church, last Sunday and Monday. There are one hundred children in regular attendance at the Church School. Before the appointment of Rev. C. Wiese to the care of the congregation, those children attended none, or only schools in which they were in imminent danger of perversion. When publicly examined by the Archbishop, they did themselves, their teachers and pastor much credit and gave much satisfaction to their parents. The High Mass was sung by Very Rev. Father Ferneding, who also preached at Vespers, in German. The singing by the Choir was excellent. A small organ has been purchased. The congregation has increased so as to require a large Church. There were two hundred at Holy Communion, many of whom had not approached the Sacraments for years. A highly

respectable physician, Dr. Henry Knott, residing near Delaware, was baptised by the Archbishop. His wife and child were only prevented by the mother's illness from being baptised at the same time. His conversion, under God, was the work of a zealous convert friend in Cincinnati and the reading of the "Catholic Christian Instructed" which that friend gave him. Two acres of ground were consecrated by the Archbishop, for a graveyard, on Sunday evening, after Vespers. It seemed as if all the inhabitants of Delaware went to witness the ceremonies and hear the sermon. The Cemetery is just outside the corporation limits.

October 8, 1859

#### **Death of an Aged and most Worthy Catholic.**

In a letter of the 30th September, Rev. J. M. Jacquet of St. Mary's, Belmont co., in this State, writes:—"You will learn with sorrow that Mr. James Gallagher, sen., of Leatherwood, died this day a week, and was buried here, last Sunday. He died from the effects of a cut made by accident on his left leg. He was a very worthy man, and a true Christian. He frequently spent two, or three, hours a day in prayer, attended Mass regularly at Washington, five miles distant, on Sundays, and received Holy Communion every month. His house was the home of the priest, and was like a church, where the Catholics of the neighborhood attended to their Christian duties. It was also open to the orphan, the poor, and the afflicted free from all charges. Many will miss him, I the most. Although he settled here early, when there was no church, he raised an exemplary family, in the profession and practice of the true Catholic faith. He received the last Sacraments and answered the prayers with great devotion, two days before his death."

We have had occasion for many years, and especially last December, to see with our own eyes the truth of what the Rev. Pastor relates of the piety and charity of our deceased friend. To his bereaved family we offer our heartfelt condolence, and commend his soul to faithful prayer.

(To be continued)

## St. Joseph Parish near Somerset Baptisms, 1834-1850

(Continued, from Vol. XXXVII, No. 11)

**1839, continued**

- May 13 at Chillicothe, O., John, son of John Scantlin and Ann O'Keran; spon. John Phelan and Ann Goodman. C. P. Montgomery, O.P.
- May 19, William Patrick, son of James McDonnel and Mary Ann Styne; spon. James Eckenrode and Margaret Eckenrode. CPM
- May 23, Edward Aug., son of Sylvester Walker and Margaret Hammon, spouses; spon. Emily Walker. FJHC
- May 23, Andrew, son of Maurice Fitzgerald and Rosanna Roberson; spon. George Redmond and Mary McGonigle. CPM
- July 4, Mary Ann, daughter of John Brown and Mary Clark; spon. John Clark and Patience Lynch. CPM
- July 12, William, son of Benj. Fickle and Maragret Burgoon; spon. M. and Mrs. Burgoon. F. J. H. Clarkson, O.P.
- page 78
- July 30, Adam, son of Samuel Seals and Sarah Gordon, spouses; spon. Daniel Clark and Ellen Clark (or Gordon). FJHC
- same time, Mary Jane, daughter of Samuel Seals and Sarah Gordon, spouses; spon. Basil Gordon and Mary Dougherty. FJHC
- Aug. 5, John James, son of Miles Clark and Appolonia Litzinger, spouses; spon. Charles Eckenrode and Barbara Forquhar. FJHC
- Aug. 5, Rosann, daughter of William Biddison and Margaret Forquhar; spon. William Forquhar and Rose Forquhar. FJHC
- Aug. 18, Thomas, son of William Sistten and Elizabeth Hoskinson; spon. William Sterner and Lydia Stine. CPM
- Aug. 30, Catherine Quinn (or Stag), adult; spon. Catherine Dolen (or Quinn).
- Same time, Mary Alice, daughter of Daniel Quinn and Catherine Stag, spouses; spon. Thomas Dolen and Catherine Dolen. FJHC
- page 79
- Aug. 31, Elizabeth, daughter of Peter Fagan and Mary Sheridan, spouses; spon. John Conlon and Mary Sheridan. FJHC
- Aug. 31, James, son of Edward Sheridan and Ann Monahan, spouses; spon. Peter Fagan and Bridget Monahan (or Sweeny). FJHC
- Sept. 1, Catherine, daughter of Thomas Duffy and Mary Duffy, spouses; spon. Martin Briengartner and Mary Briengartner. FJHC
- Sept. 1, Rebecca, daughter of Thomas Flowers and Mary Dougherty, spouses; spon. William Sterner and Sarah Sterner. FJHC
- Sept. 16, David Constantius, son of Levi Burgoon and Ann Lilly; spon. Francis Clark and Rebecca Flowers. CPM
- Nov. 2, Ceremonies supplied for John, son of Nicholas Tumolt and Margaret Perong; spon. David Perong and Mary Ochet. FJHC
- Nov. 10, Richard, son of Patrick McChristian and Mary Church; spon. Richard Slevin and Ann Redmond. CPM
- Nov. 14 at Rehoboth, Sarah, daughter of James Dean and Elizabeth Strandford; spon. Catherine Higgins. CPM
- Nov. 16, Lucretia, daughter of Jonathan Toutweiler and Ann Green, spouses; spon. Mary Clark. FJHC
- page 80
- Nov. 29, Catherine, daughter of Brian McNulty and Sarah Mackin, spouses; spon. Edward McShane and Catherine McShane (or Mackin). FJHC
- Dec. 13, Mary, daughter of Martin Breangartner and Lucy Green, spouses; spon. Francis Breangartner and Margaret Ijams. FJHC
- Dec. 25, Elizabeth, daughter of William Ryan and Mary Miller, spouses; spon. Joseph Metzger and Ann Beaver. FJHC
- Dec. 26, Mary, daughter of Francis Clark and Rebecca Flowers, spouses; spon. Joseph Flowers and Elizabeth Flowers (or Armbr\*

FJHC \*The writing runs to the edge of the page.

**1840**

Jan. 26, Sarah, daughter of John Welch and Catherine McAnnally; spon. Oliver and Sarah Rosinbury. CPM

Feb. 2, Margaret, daughter of Frederick Kintz and Margaret Elder, spouses; spon. Jacob Fink and Ann Kintz. FJHC

Feb. 8, Elias, son of James Gordon and Sarah Rhinehart, spouses; spon. Ignatius Hoy and Sarah McGahan. FJHC

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Feb. 16, Michael, son of Michael McFadden and Margaret Kelly, spouses; spon. John Sullivan and Margaret McGongal. F. Thos. Martin

Feb. 17, Mary Ann, daughter of John Mouter and Mary Stalter, spouses; spon. Mynerod Hynes and Catherine Stork. FJHC

Feb. 18, John, son of James McChristian and [blank], spouses; spon. Patrick Largey and wife. FTM

Feb. 18, Elizabeth, daughter of Patrick Walpole and Rose Cunningham, spouses; spon. Mathias Walpole and Elizabeth Walpole. FJHC

Feb. 18, Bridget Catherine, daughter of Barnabas Masterson and Mary Masterson, spouses; spon. Brian Murtagh and Alice Murtagh. FJHC

Feb. 3, Nicholas Dominic, son of George Sleiger and Eleanor Ivory, spouses; spon. Mary Vicors.

Feb. 3, Benjamin Franklin, son of [blank] Vicors and Mary Huit, spouses; spon. Eleanor Sleiger. FTM

Mar. 1, Robert, son of Robert McDonnell and Rosann Bennet, spouses; spon. Thomas Moran and Mary Moran.

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Mar. 1, Cecilia, daughter of William Bennett and Mary Fitzsimons, spouses; spon. George Saunders and Eleanor Sanders. F. T. Martin

Mar. 1, Thomas, son of John Moore and Alice Laverty, spouses; spon. Thomas Powers and

Rosann McCann. F. T. Martin

Mar. 4, Elizabeth Cath., daughter of John Higgins and Margaret Sclem, spouses; spon. James Berry and Mary Berry. FJHC

Mar. 5, Bridget, daughter of John Hennessy and Alice Comerford, spouses; spon. John Cody and Bridget Cody. FJHC

Mar. 7, Peter, son of James McKeever and Mary Lynch, spouses; spon. John Braddock and Susan Lynch. FJHC

Mar. 15, Thomas, son of James Flowers and Mary Brunstetter, spouses; spon. John Slevin and Barbara Slevin (or Flowers).

Mar. 15, Catherine, daughter of Timothy Lavin and Mary Dolin, spouses; spon. Hugh Dolin and Mary Gilligan. FJHC

Mar. 28, Catherine, daughter of William Gordon and Catherine Keenan, spouses; spon. John Showalter and Susan Cassely. FJHC

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Mar. 26, Conrad Henry, son of Peter Kungler and Sophie Keim; spon. Conrad Litzic and Mary Stehli. FJHC

same day, Ann Elizabeth, daughter of James Wathem and Amanda Fitch, spouses; spon. Philip Cassily and Frances Horahan. FJHC

Apr. 9, Sarah, born Feb. 2, 1840, daughter of Gallus Kungler and Mary Stark, spouses; spon. Gallus Kungler and Mary Ann Laymand. FJHC

Apr. 17 (or 18, overwritten), Sarah, born Jan. 4, 1840, daughter of Martin Tumelt and Mary Coble, spouses; spon. Sebastian Tumelt and Patience Lynch (or Trucks). FJHC

Apr. 18, conditionally, Elizabeth Christina Schlem, age 18; spon. James McBarren and Mary McBarren. FJHC

Apr. 19, ceremonies supplied for Mary, born Apr. 8, daughter of Timothy McGravy and Catherine Foley; spon. Charles Daly and Mary Campbell. FJHC

Apr. 29, David, born Mar. 13, son of George Thompson and Catherine Scinnian, spouses; spon. John Walpool and Susan Haney. FJHC

(To be continued)



Society member Jean Schmelzer sent in this picture of what appears to be a First Communion Class. It was taken at St. Aloysius Academy about 1904. The priest is Rev. Louis Mandery, who was chaplain at the Academy for two years, and the girl on the left of the front row is Mary, daughter of John and Ellen Schmelzer of Bremen. Can anybody identify the other girls?

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