

editor's choice

Editorial

Easter - the season of hope and promise

by FR. KENNETH POTTIE,
St. Martin of Tours Church

When some people think of Easter, they think of spring, candies, eggs, flowers, and bunnies. When Christians think of Easter they might think of some of the above things, but what is more important for them is that Easter is the celebration of the glorious Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who rose bodily from the grave and showed His victory over death on the first Easter Sunday.

This celebration, for Christians, is the greatest feast day in the Church. Why? Because Jesus Christ, the Son of God, completed His work of suffering and dying for all people. He died and rose from the dead to prove that there is life after death, and that there is hope and promise for us too, if we believe and live in Him now. In 2 Timothy 2:11, St. Paul tells us "if we have died with Him", that is, if we die to sin and selfishness each day, if we promise to give up sin and follow Jesus, then "we shall also live with Him", that

is, we shall share with Him the victory and glory of His new life both now and in Heaven. This is the sure hope and great promise of our Risen Lord to us.

St. Paul reminds us that we share this new life and Spirit of Jesus through our Baptism, and by living out our baptismal promises. If we have been given new life and brought to life in the Risen Jesus, then we are called by the Lord to share that Good News - that Hope and Promise - to others. We are asked by Jesus to bring the light of His life to those at home, in our families, at work, at play, in our neighbourhoods, and in our churches. We are called by the Risen Jesus to live His new life through our daily prayer, our Sunday worship, our good reading, and our loving and kind words and actions for one another.

Only Jesus, through His Body, the Church, can give us His new life, the sure hope and bright promise that comes with living this new life of the Risen Jesus each day. Let us, this Easter, respond to the Lord! Alleluia! Happy Easter! Joyeuses Pâques!

Terrace Bay Schreiber News

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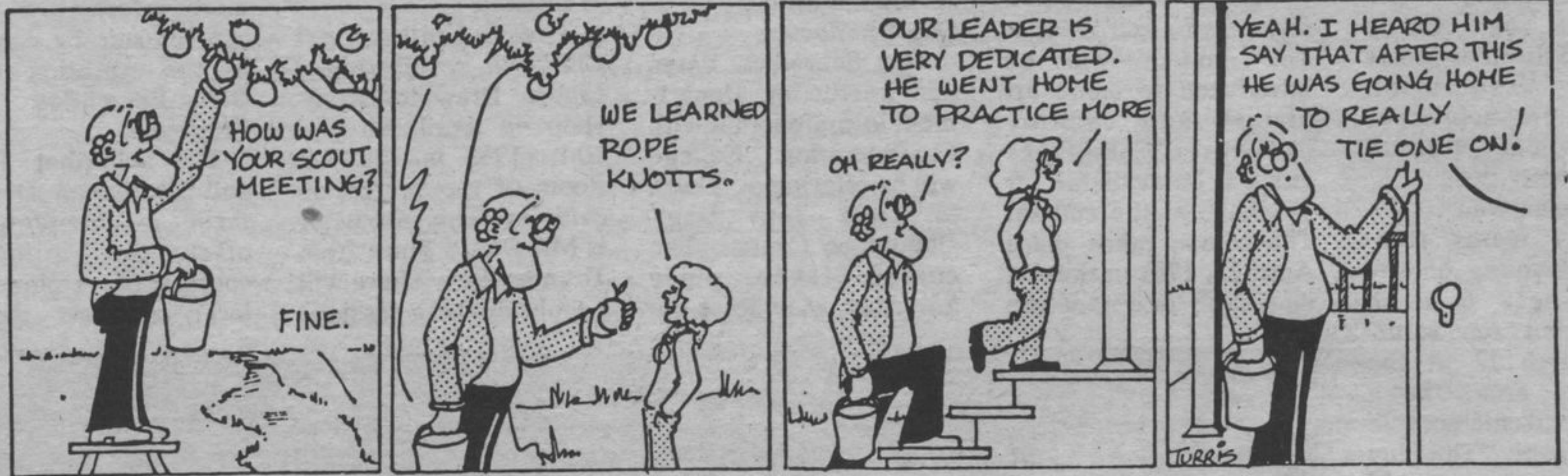
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GRANDPA AND ME



BY MARK TURRIS

Northern Affairs

Mail Order buying

by JANE E. GREER
Mail order can be convenient for purchasing anything from seeds and books to department store merchandise . . . but unless you exercise caution it may also be a great way to bid your money adieu.

As with most types of business, it's the small minority which gives the rest an unsavory reputation, so deal with reputable, established firms, especially those recommended by friends and neighbours.

Here are a few suggestions to help you avoid problems when ordering goods by mail:

Extravagant Claims - Remember that if the deal sounds a little too good to be true, it probably is. Take a close look at what the ads are really offering. What you actually receive may

not live up to your expectations. Comparison shop. Could you get a better deal from another mail order business? Often merchandise offered by a mail order house may be available at similar or lower prices in a local store.

Favourite Gimmicks - Several types of mail order offers are best avoided. For example, some ads offer exciting employment opportunities in a foreign country or in the Canadian north. To receive a list of these opportunities you just send money. Often the information you receive turns out to be merely company names and addresses, out-of-date want ads, and tourist information.

Get - rich - quick schemes are also popular mail order items. For a sum of

money you receive material which is supposed to show you how to make a fortune. The only person who gets rich with this deal is the one who receives the money.

Sending Off Your Money - It's a wise policy to pay C.O.D. (cash on delivery) when dealing with mail order companies. That way if the merchandise is not delivered or if it is unsatisfactory you are in a better position to have your complaint handled. Most reputable firms will deal C.O.D. although in some cases it may cost a little more. The added fee is worth the extra protection you enjoy.

The Mail Order Checklist - Before you deal with a mail order business ask yourself the following questions:

1. What does the advertising really promise?
2. Do I really need this article?
3. Could I purchase this article for a lower price locally?
4. Do I have the option of paying cash on delivery?
5. Does the advertising provide sufficient information for you to make a wise decision?
6. Does the company offer a 'money back' guarantee if the merchandise is unsatisfactory?
7. What do I know about this company's reputation?

For further information contact the Northern Affairs Office, located on the Lower Floor, Peninsula Building, 2 Gilbert St., Marathon or telephone 229-1153 or Zenith 33160.

Arthur Black

The Cuban Brigade

If you happened to be lurking around the Thunder Bay Airport a couple of weekends back, you'd have noticed something unusual. Forty-eight unusual somethings, actually. Humans - but decidedly exotic ones for this time of year and this neck of the woods. All tanned and healthy-looking, with the odd straw hat and sandalshod foot poking out here and there.

That was us - The Cuban Brigade. Back from two weeks of "fun in the sun" on Varadero Beach in Cuba.

But you shouldn't be fooled by those deep mahogany exteriors. There were more than a few scars and welts under those tanned hides.

A vacation in Cuba, as we all discovered, is not like a trip to Disneyland. It is not even like a long weekend in Bertha's Bide-A-Wee Cottages on Lake Winnepatonka. When it comes to tourist comfort, Cuba is still a trifle . . . rough and ready. The accommodations are austere, the electric appliances are fitful, and the food - well, let's just say that if a mysterious poultry disease was to sweep through the chicken coops

of Cuba, no Cuban would ever see lunch or dinner again. I can't prove it, but I have every reason to believe the Cuban National Bird is a bantam rooster. Fried.

As for shopping in Cuba - better to forget it and spend the day at the beach. Cuba turns out sublime rum; the best cigars in the world . . . and that's it. Anything else they might have for sale, they ran out of yesterday. You should try to buy something in Cuba, though. Just for the unforgettability of the experience.

Somehow, Fidel has managed to combine Soviet business acumen (lineups and shortages) with Caribbean pace (dead slow). The result: well, it can take up to twenty minutes to buy a package of cigarettes.

And that's only if no other customers are in front of you.

Cuba, you see, is perhaps the only country in the Western World suffering from chronic overemployment. Everybody has a job. You will find five salesgirls in a 20 by 20-foot boutique. You will find uniformed elevator

operators sitting on stools - inside self-service elevators.

Does all this personpower mean you get extra attention and fast service? You're being naive, amigo.

Here is what happens when you attempt to purchase say, a bottle of suntan oil, a package of cigarettes and some matches at a tourist boutique in Cuba. You put your goodies on the counter, behind which three women are chattering and ignoring you. You stand and wait.

Being an ignorant Gringo, you think nothing is happening, but you're wrong. One of the women, without missing a beat in the conversation, is languidly reaching for the order pad. She will insert a piece of well-used carbon paper between the first and second pages of the pad, so that whatever gets written down, will be in duplicate. Next, she looks for paper clips to hold the carbon paper and the pages together. Then she begins to look for a pen to write down what you're buying.

Anticipating an early sunset, you offer her your ballpoint. She begins to write. Every . . . detail . . .

of . . . every . . . thing . . . you're buying. Type of cigarettes; filtro or sin filtro; price . . . number of boxes of matches; price . . . Brand of sun tan oil; price . . .

And this is only the beginning! We still haven't talked about currency! Are you paying in Canadian or American? (They don't take Cuban pesos in tourist stores.) We still face conversion of the Cuban price into whatever you're paying with. Conversion is worked out first on a pocket calculator, then on the electronic cash register. The two never tally. The whole process starts again.

I know how the Cubans could insure there will never be another Bay of Pigs Invasion. Forget armies and tanks and naval blockades. All they have to do is set up Cuban checkout counters all around the coast. Nobody would ever get in.

All of this makes it sound like our vacation in Cuba was a flop. It wasn't. Not once everybody got used to the reality that we were not in a tropical version of Howard Johnson's. In fact, the best thing I know about Cuba is that it's not at all like Florida. No



traffic jams, no wall-to-wall mass of flesh on the beaches. And the beaches and the ocean were glorious. The best I've ever seen.

Restricted? I think I saw six soldiers in two weeks. You can rent a car and go anywhere you want - outside of military bases. But have you ever tried to take a Sunday afternoon drive through Camp Borden?

Every member of the Cuban Brigade, Northwestern Ontario Division has a lifetime of stories to tell - dancing on the beach at the Dupont Mansion; the time three tourist ferries lashed themselves together in the middle of the bay and a conga line of slightly tipsy *turistas* wove from one boat to another, to another and back . . .

I've got some stories I can't print in a family newspaper. Want to hear them? Simple. Just invite me for dinner.

But I warn you. If you're serving fried chicken I'll throw up on your doormat.