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Reel Big. Bk.
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Reverend Candy

- a 'sweet' parson

By ALEXIS SHIELDS

Take a man who bakes bread for a hobby, has jumped with a battalion in World War II and has built up one marriage course into a selection of eleven courses and you have Rev. Doug Candy, of St. Luke's Church on Dixie Rd., Mississauga.

Finding outlets for helping people has been no problem for Candy.

On the Board of Governors of Distress Line in Mississauga, and a member of the Community Council for the Prevention of Suicide, he feels saddened by the high rate of suicides in the 20 age group.

"In Metro Toronto, one-third of the suicides are people under 30 years of age," he said. "This says something about the number of people who find no meaning in life."

Candy pointed out that he thought the rate was so high because of the existence of our large urban centres and our mobile society, leaving so many without roots.

"The church just hasn't kept pace with the needs of people," he stated. "The church is not meeting people where they are."

"There are not enough distress centres," he said. "We need a greater sense of responsibility to one another. We lead such insular lives."

Candy's interest in helping people also extends to the Mississauga Hospital where he is co-ordinating chaplain at the hospital and has 24 clergymen to help him in this program. He himself spends one day per week at the hospital. He hopes to have a full-time chaplain at the hospital soon and have the wards covered 24 hours a day.

MARRIAGE COURSES

Another vital interest he has is in marriage preparation courses for couples. Eleven years ago he began a small course dealing with some of the problems that arise in marriage. It has now expanded into 11 courses dealing with many aspects of marriage, including sexuality, legal problems and finances.

Last year 297 couples enrolled in these courses presented under the umbrella organization of the Mississauga Marriage Courses. In the last two courses at St. Dominic's Church 55 couples were enrolled for the course, which cost \$20 and ran on consecutive weekends.

Candy pointed out that the greatest resistance to taking the course comes from the prospective grooms who, he says, feel they already know it all.

"We hope these courses are a contributing factor to more stable marriages," he said. "Research in Los Angeles shows a significant difference in the divorce rate among couples who took the courses."

Registration for such courses is through Grace Hector at 278-4392.

Upon graduation from Trinity College, University of Toronto, in 1940, Candy took care of the parish of St. Andrew's-by-the-Lake on Centre Island, Toronto, for the summer. A full curate at Grace Church on-the-hill followed with Rev. G.N. Luxton. It was in this church that Candy married his wife, Catherine, in 1942.

JUMPED RIGHT IN

After joining the Canadian Army in 1943, he became chaplain for the 1st Canadian Battalion and served with the men in England and Europe until September, 1945.

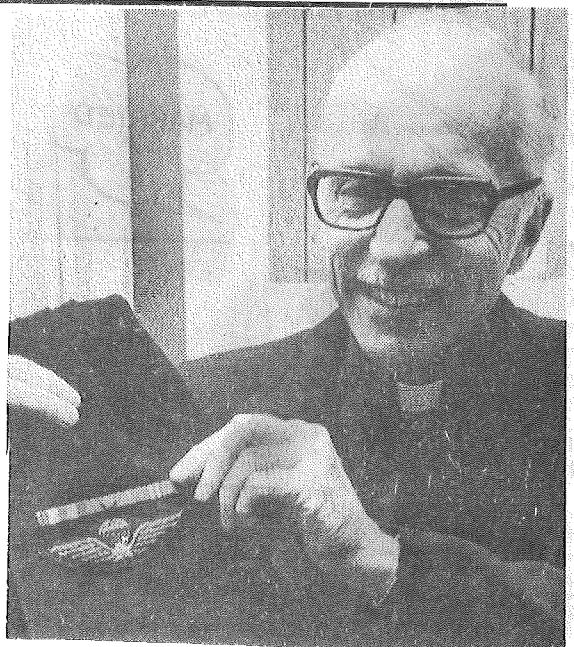
Not one to be content to stay behind the action, he jumped with the battalion behind the Rhine River on March 24, 1945. He celebrated V-E Day at Wisman on the Baltic Sea after marching with the men all the way from the Rhine. The group was home soon after.

During his time in Europe, he moved back and forth taking care of the burials and personal effects of the dead men.

"A big part of my job was caring for the dying and looking after the dead," he said, "and writing to their next of kin."

"If one had never faced death, one certainly faced it then," he said. "It was not easy, but it was part of

Rev. Doug Candy, of St. Luke's Anglican Church, displays some of his wartime mementos from his service in the Canadian Army in Europe in World War II. His congregation is honoring him for 20 years at St. Luke's and 39 years in the ministry this weekend.
(Staff photo by Fred Loek)



life. Often the men had a denial attitude that it wouldn't happen to them. They certainly needed that hope."

"People facing death today need that kind of denial too," he added.

SHARING

Candy has taken the running of the parish to the hands of the people in his parish in a kind of shared-development concept of involvement with one's church. Five committees have been formed consisting of personal education and worship; Outreach; Ecumenism; administration, property and finance and planning.

"I am delighted at some of the things that have happened here," he said. "We have to work together in the church and as separate churches. The real making of the church is the degree to which it reaches out to the community as well as the willingness to become involved with other people."

His concern for people to become involved with other people, also extends to the international world. As the first speaker at the World Peace Conference in Helsinki, around 1954, he was openly critical of some approaches of the communists to peace. His criticism was followed by countering criticism for being involved with communists, he said.

"The church has got to become more political," he said. "That's where the issues are — issues of racial strife and poverty especially. So much of our time is spent so quietly."

Members of his parish will be honoring their Reverend this weekend with special activities. On Friday there will be a Eucharist celebrated by the Bishop of Toronto, Lewis J. Garnsworthy at 7:30 p.m. preceded by supper with some of Candy's friends. There will also be a reception after the service on Sunday. This weekend is Candy's 35th anniversary as a rector and the 20th anniversary of St. Luke's Church and his ministry here.
