

the Seminarian



PRESIDENT ROBERT MOSS AT ECUMENICAL COUNCIL VATICAN II

The editor of The Seminarian, Chet Lytle, accepted my offer to give some first impressions of Ecumenical Council Vatican II in a brief article for The Seminarian. It seemed to me that you might be interested in a typical day's session. Perhaps on my return I can write more generally about the accomplishments of the Council.

The sessions open promptly at 9:00 a.m. five days a week--every day except Thursday and Saturday. The one exception to this will be the final week when the council will be convened each morning, Monday through Saturday. The signal for the opening of the session is a brief prelude played on the new organ which has just been installed in St. Peter's. Usually the Mass of the Holy Spirit is celebrated by an archbishop, though occasionally a rite other than the Latin rite is used. Yesterday morning, for example, Mass was celebrated according to the Ethiopic rite. There had to be an interpreter who told the fathers of the Council what was happening. He used Latin, of course.

Immediately following Mass, the altar is cleared and an illuminated copy of the Gospels which is very old is carried in procession to the altar and there enthroned. Incidentally, the altar is a special one placed in the nave. The Papal altar under the dome was used only in the opening service and will be used again at the closing service on December 8, when the Pope will be present. During the procession of the book a hymn is usually sung. Sometimes it's the Nicene Creed, and several times it has been a lovely hymn with the following refrains:

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CHANCEL PLAYERS TO ORGANIZE

It has been noted in recent years that once again the arts are speaking out boldly about the Christ Event, often more poignantly than the Church herself. However we may judge such a statement, we must open our eyes to the fact that there is an abundance of testimony to the life of Christ in all of the arts, from Rembrandt to Rouault and from Thornton Wilder to Tennessee Williams.

Although Chancel Players no longer has as its goal the production of one or two full-length plays each year, this organization still can have a vital purpose in our seminary training. More and more, the Church is coming to realize the value of drama in its program of education. Drama has also come to be seen as valuable in the worship experience as well. Those who were fortunate enough to have attended the Conference of Christian Education at Purdue this past summer experienced an amazing display of the value of drama in Christian Education.

ECUMENICAL COUNCIL - continued

Christus resurrexit!
Christus vivat!
Christus regnat!

The hymn finished, the first voice we hear is that of Archbishop Felice of Rome, who is General Secretary of the Council. He says: "Exeunt omnes." After those who are not officially in attendance at the Council have left, the General Secretary makes the announcements for the day: what will be discussed; the order of speakers; the schedule for the following week; items to be voted upon; a message from the Holy Father; and the name of the cardinal who will be presiding for the session.

The presidium is made of ten cardinals who sit just at the east end of the nave before the high altar. The observers sit to their left in the rotunda and the College of Cardinals sit to their right. As you probably have seen in news pictures, the archbishops and bishops along with heads of orders are arranged in tribunals on either side of the nave facing each other--about 2200 in all.

The business session begins with a prayer specially composed for the Council in which all join. The presiding officer then calls upon the speakers one by one. All of the proceedings and speeches are in Latin, of course. Each speaker may speak no more than ten minutes. The speeches have been prepared in advance and usually last eight or nine minutes. On an average day we hear about fifteen speakers. The council fathers have no translators and in most cases need none. Fortunately, the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity has provided translators for the observers. Three or four of us gather around a translator and depend on him throughout the morning. Msgr. Davis of Birmingham, England, is translator for my group. Father Gustave Wrigel is translator for the other English speaking group.

About 12:10 p.m. the last speaker for the day concludes. There are further announcements from Archbishop Felice, or he may ask for a vote on whether or not to move ahead to the next item on the

agenda. This morning, for example, after 4½ days of discussing the schema entitled Ut Omnes Unum Sint: de Unitate Ecclesiae, the fathers voted to move ahead to the next schema which is entitled de Oecumenismo. All stand while the book of the Gospels is removed from the altar, again in solemn procession. The presiding cardinal leads in the Ave Maria, and the session is adjourned.

RE: THE BOOKSTORE COOPERATIVE

Not so very long ago, a few students here at the Seminary started a service to supply books to the students at the lowest possible price. This operation has grown until we now have a business, working on a full-time basis, which will gross well over \$40,000 this year. More important is the fact that we are still growing; with this growth we are trying to make the Bookstore as efficient as possible.

Nine students and one faculty member are elected to make the policy decisions of the Bookstore. To be realistic, we must realize that this responsibility is secondary, and must be so, for all the members of this board. However, even with this handicap, I feel that the Executive Committee has done and is doing a fine job in guiding the Bookstore on a true course.

In keeping with the past practices of the Bookstore, the Executive Committee sees its prime responsibility in providing students and the faculty with the best service we can. Our stress on price comes only second to this. Lately, we have gone beyond the students and the faculty to provide a mail order service to members from Connecticut to North Carolina.

We also provide service to the local community. But, even with all of this, our prime responsibility is to serve students and faculty. This is all by way of assurance to students and faculty here that their rights and their suggestions are given foremost consideration.

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CHANCEL PLAYERS - continued

With this in mind, it is hoped that Chancel Players can once again become an active and vital group. The tentative plan for the year includes a workshop on Drama in the Church which will be open to the area churches as well as the Seminary community. This program will serve to point up the value as well as the many opportunities available for the use of drama in the local church.

It is hoped that other opportunities for service to the Seminary community will be available which Chancel Players can serve. Interest is the only prerequisite for membership. Watch for the meeting announcements!

M. N. Getz

YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW

The following are actual questions asked by a Senior High-Post High class assembled by a teacher over a period of time. How would you answer them?

1. Why can't there be evil without sin? Evil is just there, always haunting us. It never goes away no matter how much we try to escape from it. What happens to the people who are involved in evil without committing sin themselves?

2. Since I can't believe in everything I've been taught, I just can't pray, anyway it doesn't seem as if He really hears me. Even though I try to pray--to believe--it just doesn't do any good. Why? When I was confirmed I thought I believed everything but now nothing seems real to me. What happened to my faith?

3. Can God understand how confused I am about not only religion but also about life in general? If He does, why doesn't He help me?

4. Why does God allow the racial discrimination that is present today? Didn't He make everyone equal? Then, why does He allow these things to exist? If He knew this was going to happen, why did He put different races on the earth in the first place?

BOOKSTORE - continued

Since the Executive Committee is in existence to serve the local population primarily, we see a major part of our work in listening to constructive criticism from both students and faculty. Anyone on the Committee will be most willing to listen to anyone who has something to say concerning the Bookstore. One comment: please think about your comments; we cannot waste time with half-thought out ideas.

Dividends will be coming out early in the winter term. They will cover a period from September, 1961 to December, 1962. This year, for the first time, dividends will be calculated automatically by our new cash register. This will result in a considerable saving of money.

To let you know what the Executive Committee will be doing in the next year, I want to outline three areas of concern. First, we want to write a new workable constitution. Second, we want to find ways of correcting the type of inventory which we carry. Third, since our manager will be graduating from F & M in June, we will need to find a replacement for him.

The Executive Committee is elected by all of us. This places the responsibility of the Bookstore ultimately on all of our shoulders. Please exercise your responsibility.

Ralph Cook
for the Bookstore

THE ALMS BOX

In the chapel on the left rear wall, as you enter, there is a small box with a small opening on its top. Maybe you've seen it; you may even know its purpose, but in case you do not I'll explain. This is the Seminary Poor Box, which is a part of our benevolence work. This box is our ever-present opportunity to give. Remember the poor box in your giving.

JBL

YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW - continued

5. Why does God allow religious prejudice? How can we be so sure that our religion is the right one? Is everyone going to the same heaven, if there is one?

6. Why does God let all of the good people suffer along with the bad and then forgive the evil people at death? Is this mercy? If God is merciful, why does He let us suffer?

7. Death terrifies me. I don't understand how God can be so cruel. What happens to those who die instantly or unexpectedly? Doesn't God realize how much we suffer when someone close to us dies? Is suicide really a sin? I don't believe that it is the "coward's way out." It would really take courage to take my own life but sometimes I really understand why so many people resort to it. I must agree with Joseph Conrad, who said, "There is no light and peace in the world; but there is death -- death for many."

8. Today I went for a walk. It was almost dusk and I was alone but for a change I didn't mind it. It was very still and I felt that God was really there, but then I couldn't find Him. The more I searched, the more lost I became. If He was there, why didn't He help me when I really want to believe?

9. For ages and ages people have been going to church and praying for the same things: peace, happiness, etc. Yet, for ages and ages their prayers haven't been answered because things haven't changed and they are still praying for the same things. Does prayer have any effect? How can God hear these prayers and not do anything? I don't think there shall ever be a complete happiness or peace. How can there be?

10. If God doesn't want us to hate, why did he create a world which contained hate? It is easy to let hate build up until it reaches an anti-climax. I usually find that this anti-climax is a breaking point because I often become

afraid. But hate is far from scared and if God doesn't want it, why did He let it originate "way back when"? Instead of being just a matter of one incident, isn't hate an accumulation of things?

11. Does God think I'm a hypocrite because I go to church and Sunday school when I cannot believe what is preached there?

RDH

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Some of the students of this Seminary feel the need to make their views known on a subject which is most important to all of us. We feel that there is a basic weakness in the outlook of many of the students on this campus concerning what we might term self-discipline.

This Seminary supplies great freedom to all of its students to cultivate a personal self-discipline which is essential to Seminary life and to life in the world in general. It is our opinion that this freedom has been violated.

We who write this letter have tried to search our own motives and have found that we, too, can not declare ourselves pristine in this respect. However, we try to cultivate to our best ability a sense of self-discipline in all of our endeavors, including class-work.

We are all occupied here, in the job of preparing ourselves for the Ministry. Are we to stain the ideals of Christ's Church by carrying a dishonest idea of how we might approach the world? God forbid! We must exhort ourselves, all of us, to be faithful to the task to which we are called. May we pray that we are able to do so.

Humbly yours,

Ralph Cook

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - continued

Fred Wenner, who is serving an intern year at Salem UCC in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, writes of his concern for the intern program. He has suggested students read The Clinician, the paper of the interns. From this they may get some helpful information. He further suggests that faculty views, views of former interns now back on campus, and possibly the opinion of a pastor in the field who served an internship while at seminary be published. The editor will be happy to publish any such views that may be submitted for the next issue of The Seminarian.

SPORTS

Touch football--the season consisted of two hard-fought battles on the college field. Rain and inclement weather caused the cancellation of the other scheduled games.

Ping-pong--the Seminary team continues on the second last rung of the ladder in the County League.

Basketball--after a record of one win in three practice games with the Crispus Attucks Community Center, the Seminary team opened its campaign by dropping a 40-38 decision in overtime in the College Intra-mural League.

Bowling--it is hoped that six teams will be starting a six-week season on Saturday, January 5, at 9 a.m. on the Lancaster Lanes.

WE WISH A BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.

--THE STAFF