



THE SEMINARIAN

VOLUME XXIV

April 5, 1973

Number 18

BIBLE STUDY

The Way of Christ:

Mark 9:30ff

"...The last one of all and the servant of all." And our response to this idea usually is disbelief. You've got to be kidding! You can't be serious! That's no way to get ahead in this day and age. We strive for degrees and attain knowledge and skills to gain positions and titles of respect!

Surely the Gospel writer misunderstood Jesus at this point. He wouldn't have said such a thing to his followers. And even if he had said it, he certainly wouldn't have expected us to live like servants!

Wouldn't He? Let's take a quick look at his own life and see the example he left for us to follow.

He came and lived like a servant--he healed the sick at no cost; he changed water into wine for men's enjoyment at a wedding feast; he gave the blind their sight; he raised the dead; he did almost anything we asked him to, to make our life more enjoyable. And toward the end of his life, during that last meal that He and His disciples would eat together, he donned a towel around his waist, got down on his knees and washed their feet. And as if that weren't enough, the next day He died for them. "Greater love has no man than this...."

And how about us--we who claim to follow the Master? Are we His servants?

For some people, it is done in a small way, mainly unnoticed by those of us who pass by. There are still those in our midst who feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, support the weak, raise up those who have fallen.

For others, it is done in the changing of a whole life style. Take, for example, Cardinal Leger", archbishop and Cardinal of Montreal. The position and title of Cardinal is a very high and much respected post.

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ACHTEMEIER'S LEAVING FACULTY

Dr. James Glasse, President of the Seminary, announced the resignation of Dr. and Mrs. Achtemeier at yesterday's faculty meeting. Dr. Paul J. Achtemeier, at LTS since 1957, has accepted a position at Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia; Union is connected with the United Presbyterian Church in the United States. Dr. Achtemeier will be one of three New Testament professors. The Biblical department also includes three Old Testament professors and one man to teach Hebrew and Greek, both of which are required. Dr. Elizabeth Achtemeier, on the faculty since 1959, may be teaching in the homiletics department; her book, Old Testament and Proclamation of the Gospel, is scheduled for release in the fall.

In a special interview, Dr. Achtemeier told THE SEMINARIAN that he was attracted to Union by the larger department and the Th.D. program which will allow him to deal more with his own particular area of scholarship. Dr. Achtemeier said: "I am sorry to go. It was a hard decision to make. In 16 years I have invested a lot of myself; and the Seminary has given much to me. These have been 16 good and exciting years here, and I shall miss my many friends among students and faculty."

When asked about Lancaster's future, Dr. Achtemeier replied: "Lancaster has genuine prospects for the future. There are many good projects under way, especially the D.Min. pilot program."

The faculty has directed an immediate search to begin. However, should no replacement be found for the fall, a full complement of NT courses will be offered. The search committee will include students, appointed by the SCC president. Dr. Glasse was unavailable for comment when THE SEMINARIAN went to press.

CHURCH & MINISTRY REFLECTIONS 2:
A LIVING COMMUNITY

Last week I suggested that the unasked question at too many of our denominational functions is what is our concept of the church?. Today I would like to briefly consider some suggestions and issues of definition.

The first area of definition tells us that the church is a living body(I Cor. 12). The Rev. Dr. Henry Harbaugh, one of the Mercersburg fathers, suggests that "the church is always represented as such--a living progressive organism."(1851) Martin Thornton (THE ROCK AND THE RIVER) picks up this theme when he says that "the Church is a divine organism. . .but (we) have harboured such a fear of giving the Church's 'organisation' too much authority that it has denuded the 'organism' of much of its power." The point is that we have come to much to think of the church too much as an institution and have thus relegated it to the stratum of society that wields little influence on our lives. But it is clearly the witness of Christian Tradition and our own denominational tradition that the Church is a living force, even the body of Christ.

Rather than thinking of the Church as an institution, we should think of it as a person, though of course a person in a unique sense. The Church is One Man. This brings us to the whole realm of Christology which is also essential to our understanding of the Church. I call your attention to this matter for it is too large to deal with here. But the basic role of this theological matter makes it clearer that the Seminary's business must be to give the proper depth foundations for coming to grips with this question. In essence, then, considering the church as the Body of Christ takes us out of the realm of phraesology into the spectrum of reality.

Furthermore, the passage in Ephesians 5 indicates that Christ creates, protects and preserves his church. The church is not an organism, therefore, that is left to a process of unguided evolution. This is clearly seen in the fact that the church was loved by Christ, "who is himself her Savior." Christ's Church: Evangelical, Catholic, and Reformed, by Dr. Bela Vassady along with the Heidelberg Catechism can contribute much to our concept of the church; yet, it is the current trend to relegate such theological statements to the background. It is essential that they be taken up again as they are the hallmarks of our tradition.

This living organism is also viewed necessarily as a community (I Peter 2:9, 10). This echoes Bonhoeffer's approach to the church as "Christ in community." This points out clearly that the church is more than institution--it is people, progressing and living together under the lordship of the Christ. Peter witnesses that once this odd group of people "were no people at all but now we are God's people."

It is this element of the church as a living community that is being neglected by the leaders of our denomination. These are the areas we must consider if we are to begin to answer the unasked question. They are also essential to the considerations of social action. We just cannot get away from ecclesiology and Christology, the seminary's business and the church's witness.

Peter's letter also suggests the work of the church: "...that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you..." However, there is a danger in becoming too existential. John Godsey suggests that the church is only the church by its complete involvement in the world. This is true, but taken to its extremes (as it is in Mr. Wilke's quote noted last week) the "I" becomes the only norm; in other words, all is subjective including the church and the Gospel. We must keep the norms of Scripture and Theology and, therefore, the church can only be a living community which witnesses to the Word. These norms must be kept in their proper place and must even subject us to the Lord.

This, I believe, to be the basic answer to the unasked question. Add your own study and prayer to these seeds of thought -- it is your duty, your privilege. And pray that our national leaders might do the same so that they, too, will have a better idea of who and what they are serving.

Next week I would like to suggest more ideas on what this "work" and witness of the church entails.

---Brad S. Lutz

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NEXT'S WEEK issue is the last prior to Easter.

A special issue is planned for Convocation and will be printed Tuesday, April 24!

BIBLE STUDY CONT'D

Yet, on Nov. 9, 1967, Cardinal Leger made an announcement that he had resigned, with the consent of the Pope, as Archbishop and Cardinal of Montreal and said further that he would go to Africa as a mere parish priest and serve a small, forgotten colony of lepers.

Part of his resignation speech follows: "It was the religious crisis which has led me to give up the position of command in order to become a simple missionary priest. It became clear to me that our Lord was asking me for deeds as well as words. I must now allow myself to be led by the hand of the Lord. Since my decision, I have experienced a great peace. I know now that I will speak with due sincerity of the problems which cause so much anguish to the human conscience.

The time has come to go from words to actions. I wish to dedicate the few years allotted me to giving spiritual and material assistance to the lepers. And so, I am leaving for Africa.

Faith is before everything else, the witness of a life. Those who may not understand my words may be touched by my decision.

So I ask you all to set out on the narrow high road of faith, and to answer the call of GOD by a devotion to poverty, which, from a purely human point of view, may often seem useless. The glass of water freely given is still today the most convincing proof for the existence of GOD, Who is present even in the fevered face of a poor man."

This statement of Cardinal Leger's illustrates the words of Jesus, "If anyone wishes to rank first, he must remain the last of all and the servant of all."

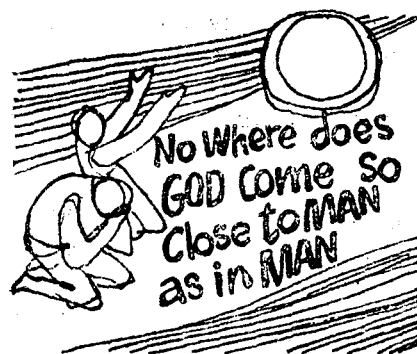
GOD left His Heaven and took on the form of a man.

Fishermen left their nets to follow this Man, whom they believed to be the Messiah.

A Cardinal left His throne to become a simple missionary priest to a colony of lepers.

And us? What are we willing to leave behind, in order to follow the Christ?

--Carol Houghton



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SEXY BILL MAKES IT BIG!

Last Wednesday and Thursday evenings was the debut of the current sensation of the modeling world. Park City held their second annual style show which was highlighted by LTS's own Bill Mayes who received a thundering ovation when he stepped out onto the runway. Wearing white bell-bottoms, a blue with red and white horizontally striped pull over shirt, a yellow wind breaker, navy blue canvas ducks, and sporty blue tinted shades, Bill knocked everyone's eyes out. This was evidenced by the fact that not only was he the only model to receive applause individually, but he was also the only one whom the autograph hounds mobbed.

There have been rumors that Bill is considering changing professions, but he denies this flatly. However, he does ask that all inquiries go through his manager-Earl D. Ball I.

--D.A.Moritz
Fashion Editor

Special Editor's Note: In a special interview with the SEMINARIAN, Mr. Mayes tells us that his talents are not the kind one displays in the Arts Festival.

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NOTICE: Please remember to return the Arts Festival Blurb blank by April 18. Also, don't forget the SCC evaluation.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE IN NEXT WEDNESDAY SCC ELECTIONS--THAT'S WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, IN THE HUB. DON'T FORGET IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO VOICE YOUR CHOICE!!

VIETNAM TODAY

About twenty persons gathered in the Hafer Center Tuesday evening to meet with Alex Knopp, a Philadelphia staff member of Medical Aid for Indochina. Mr. Knopp recently returned from a week's stay in North Vietnam and brought with him a number of slides depicting the devastation of health care facilities caused by U.S. bombing in Southeast Asia. The Bach Mai Hospital, as most of us know, was almost completely razed during the B-52 raids on Dec. 19 and 22 of last year. In addition, a total of 92 health establishments have been destroyed, including village medical centers, medical colleges, and drug manufacturing companies. The systematic nature of this destruction, Mr. Knopp believes, is a clearly observable. These acts are in direct violation of the 1945 Geneva Convention, which prohibited the bombing of hospitals serving civilians.

The slide show contrasted the health care delivery system in the North with that provided by the Thieu government. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam spends about 15% of its total annual budget on health care, whereas in the South, only about 2% of the budget is spent in this area. It should be noted that the World Health Organization suggests that any country devote a minimum of 10% of its budget to health care. President Thieu is in the U.S. at this moment, undoubtedly seeking financial assistance from our government. We as Christians and as Americans may feel the need to help the people of South Vietnam. We should seriously doubt, however, whether direct aid to the Thieu government will benefit the people at all, considering that government's priorities: more prisons and a larger police force take precedence over health care for the victims of the war.

Today we are hearing that all is well when it is not, and many Americans are beginning to believe it. The need for educational programs such as the one Tuesday evening is more urgent than ever. Mr. Knopp summarized our present situation in his opening remarks: "I think what we're witnessing now is the start of a long and intensive effort by the people who carried out this war to reinforce their political positions in this country--to try and use one day of prisoner of war news conferences to wipe out ten years of war, to somehow convince Americans that the war was decent, that it succeeded because the P.O.W.'s came home, and to convince many that the anti-war

movement prolonged the war." For those who have been opposed to the war, Mr. Knopp cited two important strategies: not to forget what the war has been about, and to keep learning more, especially about the people of Vietnam.

The program was sponsored by Lancaster Clergy and Laity Concerned.

--David Hartranft

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SEMINARY SLUGGERS DID IT

Saturday was a pre-season thriller at Summit Station. The Seminary Sluggers pounding it out to win 11-10 in 9 innings. The opening innings caught the Sluggers slightly out of form, some sloppy plays and a couple dropped flys, the Sluggers were down and out trailing 3-10 by the fifth. Ted Nace finally got things going with a spectacular catch right on the fence. That showstopper thawed out the gloves and the Sluggers shaped up into an unbeatable defense and hit the bats for a 5 run rally in the sixth. From then on it was a great day for softball. Prediction: With a little more practice the Seminary Sluggers should shape up into something worth looking at, so take note O mighty following of the fans.

--Coward Hosel

Editor's Note: ????. Who???

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PRAYER VIGIL

A 24 hour prayer vigil will be held in Santee Chapel in connection with the special Holy Week observances. The vigil will begin 10:30am Tuesday, April 17 and run until 9:30am, Wednesday. The hopes are that someone will be in the chapel in prayer and meditation for that 24 hour period; devotional books will be available. A sign-up sheet is placed on the chapel bulletin board; most periods are $\frac{1}{2}$ hour except for the early morning hours. Those who sign up are asked to remain until their replacement comes.

It is our hope that these services and this vigil will celebrate the Passion and Victory of our Lord and work toward a realization of community through the fellowship of prayer.