

The Seminarian

Volume 29 number 24 Attend the Arts Festival! April, 25, 1978

Dear friends:

The SCC is sponsoring a farewell party for Father Walsh on May 3, 1978 from 7-9PM. It will be held in the refectory. There will be food and drink, and an evening of programmed events that will honor our departing friend. Tickets will cost two dollars a person and must be purchased by Friday the 26th. Tickets are being sold by Richard Luh, Jim Korpik, Al Mann, and Craig Snow. We hope you will be on hand to share in the festivities.

Craig Snow

BUY THE TICKETS NOW!

BUY YOUR TICKET NOW!

BUY ALL THE TICKETS!!

The SCC will install the new officers next Tuesday, May 2 at 9:30 AM in the Refectory at the town meeting. Their duties will begin then. Congratulations to them all and we wish them the best.

The arts festival is in process and will climax Friday at the supper!!

Softball schedule reminder: All games at 4:30 on 4/24, 5/1, 5/4, and 5/9.

Open Letter to author of "Frock" Article -Response to 4/20 Seminarian

I am moved by sadness and irritation to write a prompt response to the article, "Like a Flock With No Frock - LTS!!" The whole tone is so DOWN! The flock lacking a frock could symbolize many things. I have failed to grasp its particular meaning in this context. But I will make three guesses and comment on each. If I am mistaken it is because your intent was not made clear.

1. Do you perhaps mean that to wear clerical garb makes a church? And because we lack a "frock" we are lacking as a church? A cover-all frock would merely hide the richness each one of us has to offer with our own lives as part of this community. If the richness means the pessimism of one and the optimism of another; the conservatism of one and the liberalism of another; the anger of one and the joy of another; the struggles of one and the ease of another; the depression and apathy of one and the enthusiasm and activity of another - so be it. That is community. That is the community we will experience in the parish ministry. No one of us can fulfil all the expectations of others, or ourselves. We can't all think and act and be alike.

2. Could your frock be a tongue-in-cheek reference to your apparent attitude that everything-is-dull-and-uninteresting-as-a-church, so all we need to top off this place, "some dare call a church", is a "frock" -but even that's missing?

Your last paragraph would seem to speak for all of us in the seminary community. I for one do not appreciate that. I do not agree with your implications. I don't think of my classes as Sunday School. I don't feel I'm sitting next to strangers. Chapel is important to my life. I'm working hard. I'm behind. I have my worries, struggles, and disappointments. We all do. Yet I find, through all the pressures a potential and possibilities for growth and nourishment within this community. And I rejoice in that! I see in the lives of so many of us a witness to the working and renewal of the Spirit - dying and finding new life, new direction. And I rejoice in that!

3. Do you perhaps mean we are without a shepherd, a leader, a pastor?

If so, I do not agree. He's right here with all of us as we learn to care enough to minister to each other in His name.

From the tone of your article, I perceive in you much sadness and disillusionment. I fear your eyes have been focused so low that you are missing the light in the midst of this community. I am saddened by your sadness.

Dale Greene, April 21, 1978

To Dale and the Community:

Yes, I wrote that article and in my haste I forgot to type my name to go with it. I apologize for the anonymous nature of the letter.

Now as far as the article is concerned, I assure you that my intentions were none of the above. In fact I find myself in whole-hearted agreement with most of your comments! I can see how the spirit appears to be "so DOWN", but I assure you that is not meant to be the case. It is a struggle as we all struggle. Sometimes struggling and DOWN appear to be the same although they are quite different as I'm sure you know.

Perhaps a few comments can be made. Example: Class=Sunday School: Here my intent is similarity. In both class and Sunday School, we come together to study the Christian faith. In seminary, the effort is much more intense and thus the phrase 'glorified S.S.' Next: Chapel=Sunday morning: This is a time when the community come to do just what you said. I couldn't agree more. My intent is to show the similarity of the seminary and a church. We have the same struggles. Some come to class just bored like Sunday School. This does not mean that there is no excitement there. I really like the classes here. I'm glad I've been a part of them. We hear the same criticisms of chapel that we hear about Sunday morning services. I mean no more, no less. The things which face the church face us, except we talk about the parish off somewhere in our future and never talk about ourselves now - the same struggles.

Everything is not great here and there are some things quite good! Many are happy here, some are not. We are all struggling.

You are quite right about another thing - the tone is not up. But I do not perceive it to be DOWN. Rather it is meant to be straight ahead seeing things as they are. Seeing the cycles of life with ups and downs which become level with variances. As I'm sure you've probably noticed my eyes are rarely focused high. This is a minus for some persons, but it is a plus for others. I choose to focus in front of me for that is where I find God, in the midst of it all, good and bad. I must meet it head on so that I can see where I am going. I really pray that they'll remain there. If I always look up, I'll never see down and the millions stuck there. I don't believe it to be wrong to be DOWN if you must persist in believing that to be the case. I don't believe anguish, total anguish to be wrong nor so did Jesus or Job or Moses or Paul or.....

As for the frock. The frock is a symbol of many things just as you said. I don't wish to make the intent clear, but I will give you a few hints. It is a symbol which expresses humanity, the church, and the two within each other. The article is unclear and quite open to many different interpretations for that is the experience of life, the ups and downs. Another hint would be to read Craig's article. It is meant to include all interpretations for that is the experience of life and LTS. There are many ups in the article if you care to dig for them. Yes, LTS is the world (God's creation and our response) of many for a few years and frustrations.

I have a lot of feelings about this place and the article is the only way I could express all of them. If I was to spell them out, you would read a 500 page Seminarian. Try to read it in an up spirit, a low spirit, a straight-forward spirit, not as criticism but for seeing things as they are. It may never mean a thing to you either and I certainly wouldn't blame anyone for that.

Al Mann

Dear Friends,

I would like to share with you a little of the experience I had at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary on April 17, 18, and 19. I attended what was called a Faith Formation Consultation, designed to explore what is currently happening in the area of spirituality on theological campuses. It was a most exciting time for me. My horizons were broadened and I met many new friends.

The nature of the consultation was a ecumenical gathering of people from across the country. The purposes for the gathering were: To explore the place of faith formation in seminaries today; to discuss theological and Biblical dimensions of faith formation; to investigate the place of faith formation in preparedness for ministry; to discuss the psychological and sociological dimensions of faith formation; to investigate the strengths and weaknesses of faith formation; to share innovative structures of faith formation at seminaries where special programs have been undertaken; to explore faculty integration and curriculum planning of the faith formation program; to investigate the possibilities of future communication and mutual support in faith formation between those seminaries undertaking or desiring to undertake such a program.

The three day experience was packed with dialogue and new learnings. There were five workshops, each an hour and a half long and there were four lectures delivered by distinguished people in the field of spirituality. Topics for exploration were: THE PARAMETERS OF FAITH FORMATION, THE CATHOLIC TRADITION OF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT, MODERN FORMS OF MEDITATION and THE INTEGRATION OF CONTEMPLATION AND ACTION.

Some of the major learnings from this experience were: Spirituality is a vague term. It means different things to different people. There is no clear and common definition. However, it is safe to say that Spirituality or Faith Formation arises out of a lived experience. It is a process in which persons undergo maturing life experience so that there is an increase awareness of life around him/her and within him/her. It encompasses the whole person and is fostered by intimacy. It happens when God is let into the inner being of a person, increasing the quality of life. It is characterized as a life in dialogue with love, openness, caring, growing.....

Catholics have a long history and are well versed in the area of spirituality. Protestants are not so well versed, and are just now considering a Theology of Spirituality. There is some research being done in the field of spirituality but much more needs to be undertaken. There are many different approaches to faith formation including a one to one encounter, faith finding, expression in art, music, dance, motion, the use of silence and space; the development of faith sharing groups, the engaging of a spiritual director, the use of a journal, and the use of prayer with its many forms, the sacraments, liturgy and worship.

This is just a brief overview of my three day experience. I hope it has been enough to wet your appetite. When we come to understand the relation of life in a faith context then will we know what it means to "Pray without ceasing" and to be spiritual. It is evident to me that theological education now facing this challenge.

Sincerely,
Craig Snow