



THE SEMINARIAN

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Shepherds! shake off your drowsy sleep,
Rise and leave your silly sheep;
Angels from heav'n around loud singing
Tidings of great joy are bringing.

Hark! even now the bells ring round,
Listen to their merry sound;
Hark! how the birds new songs are making,
As if winter's chains were breaking.

Old French Carol

A TIME FOR SERVICE

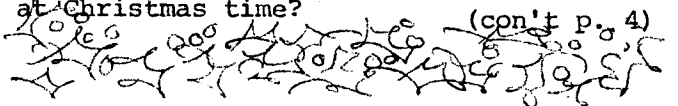
The Advent season! Even though it's a busy time, isn't it great?! There are so many things we can do. We decorate our homes and our churches, go shopping so we may exchange gifts, send Christmas cards to our friends and loved ones. Special Christmas cookies are baked to be enjoyed by those who visit our homes during this season.

The church is also very busy during the Advent season as many of us know. The church works hard to bring joy to others during this season. Singing groups take carols to nursing homes, people in church

families donate food to give to families in the area so they might be able to have at least one good meal during the year. Gifts are collected in the form of old and new clothes and toys to be taken to the less fortunate. More people attend church, there are special programs, and attitudes toward Christ, his birth and life, become much stronger throughout the whole Church and world as we prepare to celebrate once again the birth of our Lord. All of these activities are special and exciting, and to be applauded, for we are doing as Christ has asked us to do as followers of his word and example.

These past few weeks I have been part of several groups who have been doing these very things. I've been out singing carols in nursing homes, taking gifts and supplies to the less fortunate and similar activities. I had a nice warm feeling inside of me when I saw people's eyes light up and voices express many words of gratitude. However, during all the excitement and activity I was brought to a sudden, rude awakening, like someone had thrown a glass of icy water into my face. I couldn't help but think to myself as I viewed the elderly people who surrounded me in beds, wheel chairs and walkers, "They must really feel swamped this time of year. They must have over 50 groups of people come sing for them and throw parties for them during the month of December." As this thought kept racing through my mind over and over again, I was slapped in the face a second time. I couldn't avoid asking these questions: Why is it that so many people who claim to be Christians go to visit people in the nursing homes once a year--at Christmas time? Why is it so many people who claim to be Christians help support under-privileged people by donating clothes to the poor once a year--at Christmas time?

(cont p. 4)



NORT'S SPEWS

Ladies and gentlemen, I've been writing sports for nearly three months now, and believe you me, never have I seen anything as close to a bloodbath on the basketball court, in my entire career, as last Wednesday's game between LTS and the Screaming Pizzas. To be totally objective, I must say that the two teams could be equally charged with battery, yet the referees only whistled fouls at a minute proportion of the damages incurred. For this reason the game was out of hand for the most part, such that neither team could adequately prove their basketball skills. Near the end I'm certain that both teams were ready to clear the battlefield and assist the wounded (luckily only bruises and scrapes, it could have been worse) regardless of the final score. Oh yes, the final score, the Seminarians lost a tough one by ten, and it's not fair to blame anyone, not the officials, not the other team, not ourselves. One team simply outscored the other, amid temper flare ups, and we happen to be the team outscored. The loss levels out our record at 2 and 2, and the LTS Sems are idle now until February.

I don't think the bowlers are extremely proud of their stats from last week, either. Mike, the poet, showed that he is made of more substance than it sometimes appears, as he "penned" a 466 series, marking the first time this year that Bruce has been knocked out of the High-series catbird seat. The rest of the pins fell as follows:

December 5: Tim 270, Tony 376, Bruce 454, Jeff 340, Vicki 255, Mike 466, Ron 300(two games), and Nort 375.

December 12: Bruce 507, Tim 279, Tony 303, Mike 364, Vicki 286, Chuck 472, and Nort didn't bowl.(probably his best score all year.)

MIDWAY BOWLING AVERAGES: Bruce 166, Todd 160, Chuck 152, Ron 151, Nort 139, Mike 139, Tony 131, Mark 130, Jeff 118, Randy 116, Fr.Ed 114, Betsy 97, Pat 93, Vicki 92, Tim 90, and Celia 88.

Best wishes for a safe, happy holiday season, to you and yours from me and mine.

RULES FOR PLAYIN ONTO AN ORGAN IN MEETING

When the preacher comes into the pulpit and neals down, pull all the stoppers. That's what the stoppers is for.

When a him is given out to be sung, play over the whole toon before singin, but be sure to play it so they can't tell whether it's that toon or some other toon. It will so amoose people to guess at the toon.

When you play an interlood, sometimes pull all the stoppers out, and sometimes pull them all in. The stoppers is made to pull out and in.

Play the interlood twice as long as the toon. The interloods is the best part of the mewsic, and should be the longest.

Play from the interlood into the toon, without them knowing when the toon begins. This will teach them to mind their own business.

Always play the interloods faster or slower than the toon. This will keep it from being the same as the toon.

If the preacher gives out five verses, play four. Tew many verses is teejes.

During the sermon go out of the church, and cum back in time for teh next toon. This will show you don't mean to be hard on the preacher by haveing tew many listen to him at wonst.

Etude Magazine (1903)

WORDS OF GRATITUDE FROM AN ALUM...

"With gratitude for all the seminary has contributed to my life and education, (my wife) and I take joy in this remembrance of a venerable institution.

Let joy ring out from the tower at this special season and find reflection in the hearts of students and faculty."

W. Miller Price '30

CONGRATULATIONS...

...to Mercy Kasimbira on her being selected to attend the Consultation of United Methodist Clergywomen to be held on Jan 2-5, 1979, to be held at Perkins Seminary in Dallas, Texas.

the flight of man's first wing

so you came up with this idea
and decided it had to work
so man might
for a moment at least
take flight from earth

the wind whipped down the carolina beach
you paid little attention to those
who mocked and scorned you
for you felt man's unquenchable thirst
which he longed to reach
and with determination you conquered that
once vast frontier
giving man both hope and grace
and bringing the stars nearer

the freedom of the sky
opened and winking like a new third eye
beckoned man to come and join in the air
to rise and observe
his world in despair
and through looking and seeing his own
place
from new view
would recognize what he knew he could do

Written in honor of Orville and
Wilbur Wright in commemoration of their
determination and persistence leading to
their achievement of man's first winged
flight on December 17th, 1903.

December 17th, 1978
Marc A. Wessels

"I have come not to be served, but
to serve." This is the message of Christ
from Bethlehem to Calvary to the empty
tomb. It is this message of presence in
His Church today. Found and served by
His undefeated love, may we be servants
of His presence in all persons and
celebrators of the Word who in taking
flesh, has become deeply involved with
every woman and man.

Best Wishes for a Happy,
Holy, Generous Christmas!
Father Ed Sanders, S. J.

Plastic Nativity

So young a child
dressed in commercial prose,
pink cheeks defiled
by rag spun clothes
and snowflaked lashes
and hollow eyes,
and breath that thrashes
throats empty cries.
Concave cheeks
and whittled ribs,
stick fingers, weak
she is Hunger's sib.
She's there in the night
next to Santa's bells;
she's there in the light
of the corporate trees sales.
She's shivering there
in the flashing decore
of middle class houses
twinkling castles galore.
Huddled in the scene
of a plastic nativity,
Child of Need
Soul's spiritual Plead.
Few see her in the light
flashing above the tiers,
neon letters too bright-
"Christ Was Born HERE!"
"Christ Was Born HERE!"
"Christ Was Born HERE!"

by R. Michael Vaughan

My Christmas Wish For All Of You

Be it star you follow
or angel's song,
Across life's journey
a road so long;
May each step draw you-
closer still,
to the light of love
born in that lowly stable.

R. Michael Vaughan

A Time For Service (from P. 1)
Food once a year--at Christmas time; maybe twice including Thanksgiving? Somehow, it just doesn't seem fair.

Please, don't misunderstand me, I am aware there are people who do these all year 'round. But, it seems when the Advent season rolls around, the scales are tipped tremendously; the year becomes lop-sided. It's almost as if we are trying to cram a whole year of caring into one season of the year so we can say we have done our duty for another year. Is this fair to the person who needs help between January and November? Will one month of joy last another eleven?

We do well at Christmas time to help the elderly, the poor, the oppressed, the less fortunate. As Christians we are called to follow the teachings and example set before us by Christ. We are called to serve humanity all over the world, not just in our safe, quiet community. Yes, the Advent season is a time for service, but let us bear in mind that every season is a time for service.

Mark Broadhead

"A certain brother was going on a journey, and he had his mother with him, and she was old. They came to a certain river, and the old woman could not cross it. And her son took off his cloak and wrapped it about his hands, lest he should in any wise touch the body of his mother, and so carrying her, he set her on the other side of the stream. Then said his mother to him, "Why didst thou so cover thy hands, my son?" He answered, "Because the body of a woman is fire. And even from my touching thee, came the memory of other women into my soul."

The Desert Fathers
p. 74

A CERTAIN WOMAN

And a certain woman crossed Lake Mareotis into the desert wearing a robe of sheepskin and a girdle fashioned at her waist, barefoot, in search of the fathers. She came to the first cell of the fathers and knocked on the door. As there was no answer, she knocked again, but from behind the door she could hear the moans of an aging hermit lusting after the body of her

who stood outside his door. And she left the first cell and came to the second cell of the fathers and she knocked, and as before, there was no answer, but she called forth, "Father, I have come to see you," and from behind the door she saw tongues of fire leap from out of the father's stomach where his liver was. And she left this cell and came to the third cell and she knocked, and as before, no answer was given to her. And she called forth, "Father, I have come to see you," and from behind the door she saw the devil ascend upon the face of the father as he slept and the devil spat in the father's ear and as he spat the father birthed the hippopotamus and the lion and the crocodile and the scorpion. And she left the third cell and came to the fourth cell of the fathers and she knocked, and a father came to the door and opened the door to her and she said to him, "Father, I have come to see you," and he said to her, "Come in, child. The Lord has sent you." And the woman entered into his cell and was entertained by the father and together they celebrated the Risen Lord. And after spending a night in the cell of the Father she left the desert and returned to her native town.

Sandy Fluck

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children To remember the weakness, the loneliness of people who are growing old; To stop asking how much your friends love you and ask yourself whether you love them enough; To bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts; To try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you? Then you can keep Christmas. And if you can keep it for a day, why not always?

But you can never keep it alone.

-Henry Van Dyke

Keeping Christmas is good, but sharing it is a great deal better. -Anon.

CORRECTION...

...In line 19 of Plastic Nativity (p. 3) there is a minor mistake. Take out the word 'houses' and insert the word 'ware'. Thanks

RMV

Request corner

Magnanimous

While perusing the dictionary
 just the other day,
 I spotted a word
 whose usage has strayed.
 And so I made note
 of it's original meaning,

Magnanimous, --above revenge
 generously forgiving.

Not magnificently large
 as so often misused,
 when some through habit
 the English language abuse.
 One can not have
 magnanimous mountains nor lakes,
 and to use it so, John,
 is a magnanimous mistake.

(requested by Richard Harris)
 by R. Michael Vaughan

Metaphysis Litterarum

Remember i before e
 except after c,
 the golden rule
 of elementary school,
 that still we break
 unintentional mistake.
 Well here's an excuse
 you may find of use,
 just tell people you suffer
 like so many others,
 from metaphysis litterarum
 and see who's really dubm. (oops)

(requested by Father Ed)
 by R. Michael Vaughan

Any further requests as to poems may be
 submitted in writing to the seminarian.
 Please sign the request as I desire to
 publish the request. I do ask though
 that further topics desired to be address-
 sed in poetry please be in words that I
 can pronounce. Will be happy to tackle
 any topic you can dream up.

A Thank You and a Reminder

This is to thank all of those persons
 who took the time to respond to the ques-
 tionnaire, Opinions About Women As Clergy.
 To date I have recieved over 80 responses
 and I'm very grateful for this. At also
 means that approximately 100 people have
 not responded as of yet. If you are one
 who has not yet responded and wish to do
 so, please fill out the questionnaire and
 return to my mailbox on or before Thursday
 December 21, 1978. The more responses
 recieved, the more accurate the project
 will be. Thankyou very much,

Randy C. Possman

Shalom!

In response to the spirit of the
 gift giver:

Johannes Pedersen said, "Gifts, like
 good words of good deeds, carry something
 from the soul of one into the heart of
 the other." Love in Christ,
 K. C., Kurt, Christy
 and Brian Ackley

