



THE SEMINARIAN

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Issue 8

GALA THANKSGIVING ISSUE

In the spirit of the campaign mounted by some members of this community, Tyson and I have instituted a drive to write opinions to the newspapers of the community. Various members of the community have offered to do this, and the following is the letter which I submitted to the Lancaster New Era.

To the Editor:

This letter grows out of a concern I would like to share over a Holiday which I sense is being left by the wayside, Thanksgiving. This season of remembrance, praise and gratitude for the blessings of our individual and corporate lives finds clear meaning in the gatherings which will be taking place on that day next week.

Thanksgiving is a week earlier than usual this year, and I have begun to worry as to whether it is going to sneak up and blow right past without any public acclamation of the special nature of this occasion. We really take for granted the ease with which we have been enabled to live. We easily forget the trials of our ancestors, especially those incredible English settlers who found the wealth of this land, and suffered extremely harsh changes in lifestyle to accomodate their freedom.

The early settlers were a worshipping community and as such set aside this day of the year to celebrate the harvest, thanking God and good fortune for their survival. Let us be ever mindful of this as we gather on Thursday to share in a day of Thanksgiving, that we all have a great many treasures and harvests to be thankful for, even more than our forebears could have ever dreamed would exist for the people of this land.

In the spirit of love and celebration in brother and sisterhood, I wish, hope, and pray for all who will be giving thanks this day, that our lives may be enriched by the sharing.

Donald L. Mason

Ath this juncture I would like to encourage all of us who have a concern which goes beyond the community here at LTS to share that concern in the media, in this publication and in those with wider circulation like the Lancaster newspapers.

DLM

SOME BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE SPIRITUAL
LIFE

Father Ed

For the next five weeks, I will be sharing with you some of what I think are fundamental aspects of our life with God and with each other. I welcome the opportunity to discuss them with you.

I. God's first word to us is, "I love you" and His most basic grace is calling us to openness in receiving this love which we can neither deserve nor ever lose.

From all eternity, God has been thinking of me and loving me. He has loved me into existence. "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine." (Isa. 43) And a call that will never be retracted. "Can a woman forget her sucking child that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have graven you on the palms of my hands." (Isa. 49) And the Father's love for us is confirmed by the gift of His Son, the Christ. "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" (Rom. 8)

To love we must first see ourselves as lovable. Experiencing lovability necessitates our experience of being loved. It is here at the very rock bottom of our being that I feel God making His first overtures to me. As I peel away the layers of desires in my heart, I find at the base of all and flowing through all the desire to be loved, to hear "I love you" from another and to really believe it. My poor self-image I find as the greatest obstacle. And I know of no other remedy for a poor self-image than being loved out of it. But if self-image is an obstacle to love, how can love remove the obstacle? Because love as a gift of God brings with it the Giver Himself "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." Accepting in faith the fact of God's unconditional love for me, allowing myself through the power of God to experience the energizing effects of this love, I am opened by the Spirit to be transformed by the Good News.

Don't forget to sign up for the Prayer Retreat at Wernersville on Nov. 30 - Dec. 2.

TO THE COMMUNITY:

So many people are finding it easy to criticize Don and Tyson for their so called "Anti-Santa Claus Movement". I too found some of their ideas worth criticizing.

However, after listening to their concerns, I came to find validity in some of their arguments. And, in finding out more about their concerns, I found that I could help them in some way.

Although, I do not have any interest in limiting Christmas to December, I do have an interest in stressing (in a positive way) the realities of the holidays. For this reason, I agreed to help Don and Ty by writing to the Lancaster New Era. My letter does not even mention the commercialization of Christmas; but rather deals with the meaning of Thanksgiving.

So, you see that a letter to the local newspaper provides a freedom to say what you want to say. You are not limited to the exclusive opinions of Don and Ty.

They are only asking for a little help in getting people to look at the true meanings of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Hopefully, you will be able to support their letter-writing campaign by writing a few lines. Or, at least commit yourself to bringing the reality of the Season into the lives of others.

Thank-you,

John Schwartz

COLLATIO:

Tuesday, Nov. 20 - 7:00 to 8:00 pm
Harner 104. You are invited!

In response to your reply
I decided to give it a try
But I cannot lie
No matter how hard I try
All I do is sigh

JSD

EVANGELISMPART 3

Who were the people engaged in evangelism during the early years of Christianity? There were many different types of people involved in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. The most obvious group of people were the apostles. The great commission, recorded in Matthew 28, was given to the eleven disciples and this moved them into the area of evangelism. It was up to them to continue on with and share the teachings of Jesus Christ. Backed by Jesus' promise that he would be with them always, the disciples set out to tell others about Jesus. The disciples did not leave a clear record of their work and it is difficult for us to understand the nature of their work. We know that one disciple was added to their number and that Paul also considered himself an apostle. These apostles carried the word of Jesus throughout the civilized world.

Not only were the apostles at work preaching about Jesus, but there seems to have been a group of roving missionaries engaged in spreading the Gospel. Paul seemed a bit worried about these people, because of their unsupervised nature. Some of these people were considered to be false apostles. The sincere roving missionaries did not stay in one place and they were dedicated to living in poverty. These people had a strong influence on the early church and they sparked the desire of many Christians to follow in their footsteps.

The work of evangelism was further advanced by the settled bishops and presbyters of the early Church. These people were good teachers and were concerned with building up the community of believers. Men like Irenaeus, Polycarp, and Ignatius were continually pressing on with evangelism and the duties of their office. The Apostolic Constitutions, presented in the third century, were not

really innovative when bishops were required to, "Warn and reprove the un-instructed with boldness, teach the ignorant confirm those that do understand, and bring back those that stray." Evangelism in the community was full time work.

Another group that was very influential in early Christian evangelism, was the group of theologians and philosophers. The witness made by these learned people was very strong. It would be false to believe that only the ignorant were attracted to the Christian faith. Many people were convinced by or converted to Christianity because of its appeal to the educated. Christianity had a place in the discussions that took place in the marketplace. The debates between Christianity and pagan groups were often intense and Christian teachers were very often well prepared.

One final group should not be forgotten and that is the ordinary woman and man. These informal missionaries were the great champions of the Christian faith. Michael Green suggests, "Christianity was from its inception a lay movement, and so it continued for a remarkably long time." These were the people who passed the message on in their day to day lives. Christ was very real in their lives and they wanted to share their discovery.

We might ask ourselves, who were the people engaged in evangelism in our day? Many look to the professional clergy for leadership in evangelism. This was not the case in early Christianity. The early days of Christianity saw the faith being spread by informal evangelists. Christianity in our day has seen fit to give the responsibility to the pastor. A very important aspect of our faith has been given over to the professional and the amateur barely becomes involved in evangelism. Experience shows that it is the informal evangelist, the person in the pew, that is effective in evangelism.

The church must recognize this talent and

(cont. page 5)

NORT'S SPEWS

The sports scene here at the Sem is really livening up lately. This past week our valiant jocks engaged in passing, dribbling and running around and over their opponents in two games of hoops at Mayser gym.

Tuesday night before a standing room only crowd of nearly ten, the tennis shoesters broke open a close game in the second half, at one point outscoring the other team 20-2 over a span of 8 minutes. In their poised and practiced style, a 24 - 22 halftime advantage grew to a 50 - 38 victory. EXCELLENT JOB!

Thursday night with coach Bruce Druckenmiller policing the sidelines, those wily Seminarians never trailed in a game that was only tied once, at 0-0. Not waiting for the second half this time, they spun out a huge 30 - 12 half time lead, and hung on for a 52-39 victory margin.

COACH'S PREDICTION: An exclusive interview with Coach D. has given this reporter this scoop, and I quote: "I'm so proud of these boys, all of them, that I think they deserve a championship." Spoken with truly inner conviction Coach D. has always been this kind of inspiration to his players.

As a note of finality, ta - ta until next week.

Nort

HEY Y'ALL

Just a reminder that you'll remember what you're supposed to be doing tomorrow night. If your last name begins with the letter A-F, your best dessert is requested. F-K, your prize winning main dish would be appreciated. L-R, it may sound boring, but only you can make veggies exciting. S-Z, "lettuce" bring the salad. If you have a class Tuesday evening, no sweat! Come when you can, leave when you have to. (cont. next column)

HEY Y'ALL cont.

Please have all the dishes in the Refectory by 5:30 so we may join together in the spirit of Thanksgiving. Oh yeah, if you don't come, you must have a signed excuse blank from your family physician. Let's make this PLE the best ever!
Ron Parks

THANKS, DOC!!!

A minister who was an ardent temperance fanatic and lectured his congregation at least once a month on the evils of liquor was offered a Christmas gift from a parishoner on the condition that he thank the donor publicly from the pulpit. The minister agreed and the member gave him a jar of brandied pears. When the minister got up to thank him, he said, "I want to thank my friend for his gift of fruit and the spirits in which they were given."
DMC Englert

OLD-FASHIONED SCHISM COOKEES

For all you hungry Church Historian just in time for the holidays!

Mix together 1 cup of softened Origeno (with an 'e'), 1 cup sifted Sabellianer's sugar, and 2 teaspoons Basil (Ancyra will do, but Caesarea is preferred). Stir in 1 tablespoon monophysite-apollinarian. Add 2 cups sifted enriched Athanasius; mix well. Stir in 1 cup chopped Cappadocian nuts. Shape into 1" ousias and roll in sugar and crushed Nestorius.

Bake 1" apart on an ungreased Chalcedon sheet at 451 A.D. for 20 minutes or until hypostases are firm.

Cool before removing from Council.

Note: Schism cookies are especially delicious when served with Nicene tea.

Semi n'Arian

DATELINE: LANCASTER

Another week has gone by, and many things have happened here at LTS.

On Friday, November 9, several teenage vandals climbed up on the roof of the walkway between Richards Hall and the Parish Resource Center. While on the roof, they broke the drainspout. They also broke a door behind the PRC. The police were called in on the situation.

On Sunday, November 11, more of the wall between Richards Hall and the Refectory was chipped away by vandals. In addition, there was a fire set in the same walkway.

On Wednesday November 15, there was the Day of Prayer. It was attended by a great crowd. That's not to say that there were many there. However, it was a number of good people. There was not quantity, just quality.

I have another message for the mystery masseuse. It is evident that she doesn't want to give me that backrub. Therefore, I don't know whether Or not I want the backrub. (Sob, sob, rejection, pain, sorrow.)

I ask your prayers for Marie Grayson. She was injured in an a Automobile collision. At this time she is in a hospital in Philadelphia recovering.

I also ask your prayers for the hostages in Iran. Regardless of our stand on possible solutions, there are still 60 Americans going through their own little Hell. During our times of devotion and prayer, let us remember these people. When you boil away politics, religion and nationality, only people are left.

Thursday is a day of giving thanks to God. We have had a tendency to use it as an excuse for stuffing turkey into one's mouth. Over this Thanksgiving dinner, let us remember to thank God for all He has given us, and all those who need our help, financial aid and most importantly our prayers.

John S. Fair

EVANGELISM cont.

promote lay action in the area of evangelism. A new sense of vitality may develop within the church if the Good News is proclaimed by everyone and every group.

Tyson Frey

ONCE

Once when all was still
in silent midnight's misty chill
when stars refused the night
their company, gone the light.
And none but the moon's shadow
on the clouds could know.
I knelt and cried for human-kind
to a soul who died for humna-kind.

Once when life had hushed-
with the wind, a drunken lush
wobbling, giggling, whining,
through trees, and windows, sighin
in the demon lamplights sneer
the only sound to hear
with folded hands I knelt
a voice praying for the world.

Once when the crickets' lark
had drowned in liquid dark
and morning ever distant
the horizon still vacant.
A voice much like my own
in broken syllables, quivery tone
calmed my sobs, with wisdom true
"I love you, and I cry too."

RMV

ALL RESIDENTS AND FORMER RES-
idents of the Three Mile Island
region are encouraged to write
statements saying how the nuclear
accident has affected their lives.
These statements should be from
ordinary citizens rather than ex-
perts and can be written in any
form or style. Contributions from
children are also welcome. The
statements will be collected into
a book and hopefully published.
The project has no connection with
the government or any other agency
but is being done independently
by a former York resident.

WHEN....

When one begins to learn one begins to put shape and form on the world. When one learns one begins to put things into boxes of understanding. Slowly the universe is caught in our box of words and one begins to feel comfortable and safe and sure. Then when one feels just on the verge of putting the final touches on the box the futility of it all springs forth. One comes to see that all that has been boxed in is the yearning of the soul to feel part of the infinite. Instead of being boxed and trapped the spirit needs to soar and sing the song of the loving. One begins then to know the universe not from inside a box of rules and limitations. One begins to see the universe in the ever expanding eyes of his soul and grows calm and peaceful in knowing that life is good.

Bruce Strotman

WONDERING.... cont.

of possibilities of communication available, and the benefits of the use of imagination in interpreting faith.

' If you enjoy getting to know others better, hearing/talking about belief creatively, and the opening up of new horizons.... You are sure to be enriched by "Theologies of Imagination".

John Dalles

RECOGNITION TIME!!!!

All of us here at the Seminarian like to see our names in print time and again, thus we devised this space to recognize ourselves. The staff for this issue:
Color Coordination... Judy White
Chief duplicator & typist...

R. Michael Vaughan
Guest typist....Bruce Druckenmiller
Mastermind..... Don Mason

ALL RESIDENTS cont.

For further information, please write to susan Mills, 129 E. Irvin Ave., State College, Pa. 16801. Also, if you know of anyone who has left the area as a result of the accident, please write to the same address. Thank you for your help.

IF YOU'RE WONDERING....

Because some of you may be wondering about the "Theologies of Imagination" course (TH242) to be offered this January, perhaps a few words from one of last year's class members would be helpful..

The course as taught by Richard Vieth, James Sipple and Sandra Fluck, centers upon the use of metaphor to depict theological messages and kideas. Class sessions focus upon varied forms of expression-visual art, poetry, drama and short story- to show both the wealth (cont.

