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RELIGIOUS



BULLETIN

Colores W. Tancoco

Volume I

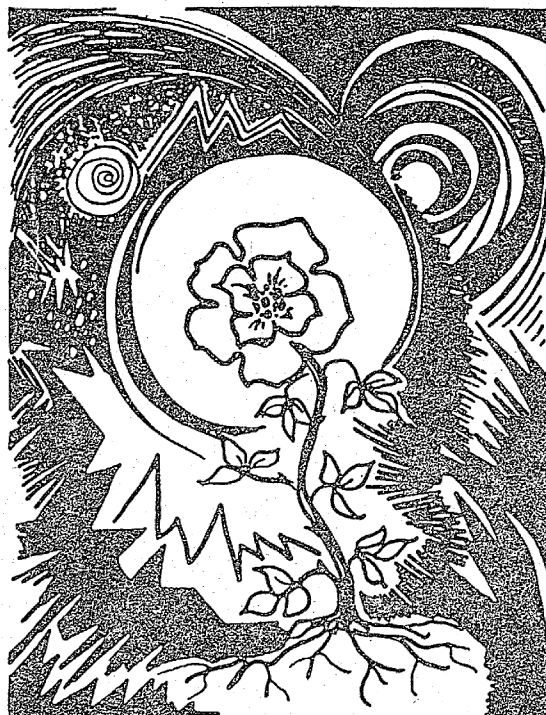
Issue 14 December 2, 1984

Office of University Ministry
University of Notre Dame

Today I received a letter from my nephew of eight years. Accompanying the letter, actually pasted to it with gobs of white glue that bonds paper-to-paper insuring wrinkles and permanence, was a school picture, background shimmering with pink and blue cloud bursts and wonderful eight year old face and hair: face smiling with teeth recently grown in and hair challenging background in its ability to diagonally burst forth! I loved the letter! Here in part is what he had to tell me: "And I wanted to tell you about a dream i was with a guy like jams bond and we were in a car and we stopted and jams bond got out and got on a little thing and he hung on it and started to slide on a wire and he went and went across a cliff and then he landed on a little bit of land and then he waved his hand and I went and then we were on the side of the cliff and there was a giant turkey standing and he chased me and then I woke up. I think I had fun dreaming it.

The Art of Imaging
- Imagining -
The Stuff of Mystery and Life

Dr. Jane Pitz, CSJ



The dream images of an eight year old were just as vibrant and full as my own dream images. Mind pictures form as the words tumble out. If I had asked Danny to draw what he had seen in his head he wouldn't have hesitated. Accuracy and realism aside, his hand would have filled in the details of "turky", "clif", and the "little thing". The stuff of art and mystery made real!

Too often, we limit the images that come to us, that push into our consciousness. You and I stick too much to the immediate surroundings -- and miss out on some of the wonder and mystery that seek to invade us. We place so high a value on control and rationality that our imagination is checked and limited. But how rich would be our existence if we paused long enough and often enough to allow what is burning inside to erupt into consciousness!



First Sunday of Advent

Take the reading for this first Sunday in Advent. Listen to them and explore the images of word and line: "rending the heavens and coming down with the mountains quaking before you...we have withered like leaves" (that image is close to home in this bleak landscape of pre-winter). Isaiah shouts the name of God in his prayer and that name in "rending" and "quaking mountains" leads us further into the mystery of our God. It allows us to call God by a name which has power. And the naming by way of imaging invites us into a landscape which carries us further and farther in our coming to "see". We know heavens and we know mountains. We can walk into the imagery of the prophet -- into the foothills of the mind and stand in wonder at the power and force of a mount towering far above us. The force of inner energy pulsing, pulsing, and then, while earth trembles in waiting, upheaving through the mountainous fissure until the very mountain is carried up and away in the stream of energy. Earth is moved in ways that humans could never move it. Destruction is borne on the tide of power and, in time, after ground and tree and water settle, new life is seen to be spurting forth from the scene of devastation.

Our God is like that. The secret too terrible to bear pushes from within the seeming destruction, only to bring in its aftermath new life, possibility made actual. What good news comes to us in the images of scripture this Advent? We begin to ask questions: how does our God save? what is the process of our life? am I broken open? do I allow this to happen? The images have led us to seek and probe. They have opened up wonderful ways of revelation and knowing.

The art of imaging is not just "kid stuff" or the pasttime of dreamers and artists. Imaging is what allows us continually to

bridge the gap between earth and heaven, between the impersonal God and "our God". It awakens us to the written word. But it also allows us to pursue the God within in ways new and bold. What surround us in the familiar environs becomes in our re-envisioning. We don't walk past withered leaf without seeing more there than withered leaf. We recognize ourselves and the meaning is intense. Relationship and possibility are there in that browning paper-thin substance. And we step into a world pregnant with meaning.

Welcome, Catechumens!

Last week at Sacred Heart Church the following men and women from the Notre Dame Community were enrolled as catechumens:

CARRIE BURKE
DEAN CARLISLE
TRACY CROY
ELIZABETH DeARMOND
KIM ESLINGER
HERU GUNANTO
PHILLIP HATFIELD
BARRY KANTZ
NANCY McCREARY
SHANNON MULLINS

These catechumens, each supported by a community sponsor, begin a more intensive stage of reflection and study as they prepare for full sacramental initiation into the Roman Catholic tradition during the Easter Vigil.

What Should Catholics Know About...

PRAYER

SACRAMENTS

SCRIPTURE and TRADITION

MORALITY

CHURCH



The CATHOLIC FAITH PROGRAM will address these topics on SUNDAYS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 17 in Grace Hall) and TUESDAYS (Jan 22 - Feb. 19 in Keenan-Stanford and Walsh Halls)... 7 - 8:30 p.m.

**Pre-registration Necessary
...deadline December 3rd**

Contact: OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY MINISTRY
239-6536 or 239-5242



Feast of the Immaculate Conception December Eighth

Vigil Celebration

Friday 5:00 pm

Presider and Homilist: Fr. David Tyson, C.S.C.
Music provided by Notre Dame Glee Club
Sacred Heart Church

Feastday

Saturday 11:30 am

Presider and Homilist: Fr. Edward Malloy, C.S.C.
Sacred Heart Church

The Immaculate Conception was a special blessing given to Mary by God since she was to be the mother of Jesus. This teaching is part of our sacred tradition and it is to be held in faith.

In 1846 Mary as the Immaculate Conception was named the patron of the United States.

Pope Pius IX defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, 1854 and so it is on this day that we continue to celebrate this important feast.

Christmas Outreach Program

IUSB Campus Ministry invites you to share with them in the opportunity to donate toys, food, or cash for 400 needy families in the Michiana area in conjunction with the St. Vincent De Paul Society of South Bend. Contact the Office of University Ministry at Notre Dame for details. IUSB Campus Ministry thanks you for your generosity.



University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN 46556