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BULLETIN

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Volume I

Issue 20 February 10, 1985

Office of University Ministry  
University of Notre Dame

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# God Amid Suffering

*Robert Krieg*

God is not Mr. Goodwrench. God does not rush in to repair our broken bodies, academic records and friendships. God does not fit our fix-it mentality.

God is compassion. God joins us amid tragedy. More accurately, in hardship we can join God who has endured evil since the dawn of time and suffered for us on the cross.

*continued*



Fritz Elchenberg

Such a shift in perspective occurs in the Book of Job. At the start Job sees suffering as the consequence of one's sin: If I am ill, I must have done something wrong, and for this God is punishing me. But this simplistic calculus breaks down as Job examines his life. After much painful dialogue Job realizes that there is no answer for why he suffers. Now Job's attitude changes; he sees that his life is wrapped in mystery, in God (Chapter 28).

Father Jerry Wilson, C.S.C., tells the story of a friend who made a pilgrimage to Lourdes. The man was diagnosed as being terminally ill. He tried one medical treatment after another; none worked. As a last resort, he sought a miracle.

The man travelled to Lourdes. There something did happen. The man noticed children, women and men sicker than himself. And he was struck by the faith of the other pilgrims and the sacredness of the place. His heart was moved as was his center of attention.



The man returned home -- not cured of cancer, but with a new view of himself and his plight. Here was the miracle: the man had taken a first step toward accepting his sickness.

In the gospels Jesus' miracles are linked with faith in him. Faith, the letting go of our view of how the world should be and recognizing God as God, is the recurring wonder as Jesus touches the blind, the cripple and the woman hurt in love. In some cases -- very few -- this inner transformation shows itself physically.



When Jesus learns that Simon's mother-in-law is ill, he sits with her: "He went over to her..." He shares in the evil that afflicts her: "and [he] grasped her hand..." In Jesus' presence the woman is able to endure her illness: "and Jesus helped her up,..." In this case, the woman's new view of herself displayed itself physically "and the fever left her." Her attention turns from herself to others: "She immediately began to wait on them" (Mark 1:31).

How do we allow God in Jesus to alter our outlook? We need to make a pilgrimage. This journey can consist of regular visits to the Lourdes' grotto on campus and to Sacred Heart Church. This path may lead to the Hall Rector's room, to Psychological Services, or to courses in literature, philosophy and theology, offering new images of life.

The responsorial verse for the Fifth Sunday is: "Praise the Lord who heals the brokenhearted" (Psalm 147). God is not Mr. Goodwrench. God does not repair; God transforms us and our attitudes.

Fr. Bob Krieg, C.S.C., is associate professor in the Theology Department at Notre Dame.

## Decisions

### *D'Arcy Chisholm*

Assistant Director  
Institute for Pastoral and Social Ministry

A classified ad measuring 4 inches by 2½ inches appeared in the February issue of California Magazine, a publication that postures itself as "The Marketplace for the Entire State of California." Whether in fact, California Magazine is what it pretends to be is not the issue at hand. The substance of the ad is what is of significance - the ad reads:

#### "SURROGATE MOTHER"

We are seeking a surrogate mother to bear a child through artificial insemination. Applicant must be 22 - 35, tall, trim, intelligent and stable. Your child will be reared in an outstanding environment. A successful applicant will be paid \$50,000. Send a resume describing your personal and family background, with a photograph, to our attorneys.

### PHONATHON

The Notre Dame - St. Mary's Right to Life group is conducting a fund-raising PHONATHON to help support the Women's Care Center. The event will take place between Feb. 18 - 28, from 6:15 - 9:30 p.m. Anyone who would like to help should call 234-0363 or Bill at 283-3002.



### TO BE A WITNESS

Does not consist in engaging in propaganda nor even in stirring people up, but in being a living mystery. It means to live in such a way that one's life would not make sense if God did not exist.

CARDINAL SUHARD

Since the ad appears at the same time that we are engaged in the debate over Roe vs Wade and the aftermath of the legalized abortion decision, I was struck by the irony of this plea for a child by the rent-a-womb process.

Life, it seems, becomes increasingly complex and the decisions facing the "me" generation, likewise assume a development of character and conscience heretofore unchallenged.

Today's graduate faces debates about genetic engineering; when to suspend life-support systems, the nuclear dilemma and national preparedness; increasingly sophisticated notions of economic justice in the marketplace; the rightful emergence of women; the future of the institutional Church as we have known it; as well as the normal day to day array of decisions.

Such deliberations require maturity; an unusual level of awareness; continuing education and the search for information and perhaps most of all, a reflective and prayerful attitude. At times like these it's best to return to the basics.

Perhaps the well known prayer of Reinhold Niebuhr says it best -  
 God, grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
 Courage to change the things I can,  
 And wisdom to know the difference.

RESIDENCE COMMUNITY DAILY MASS SCHEDULE University of Notre Dame		
RESIDENCE HALL	DAILY MASS	SUNDAY MASS
Alum	5:00 pm M-Th	11:00 am
Badin	10:30 pm M-Th	11:00 am
	12:30 pm M-F	10:30 pm
Breen-Phillips	4:30 pm M & F	4:30 pm (3rd Sun.)
	10:30 pm Tu & Th	10:30 pm
Carroll	10:30 pm M-Th	10:30 pm
Cavanaugh	5:15 pm M-F	11:00 am
	11:00 pm M-Th	10:30 pm
Dillon	7:30 am M-Th	8:00 am
	11:00 pm M-Th	11:00 pm
Farley	11:00 pm M-F	10:30 pm
Fisher	11:00 pm M-Th	4:45 pm
Flanner	10:30 pm M-Th	10:30 pm
Grace	10:30 pm Tu-Th	10:30 pm
Holy Cross	10:30 pm M-Th	10:30 pm
Howard	11:00 pm M-Th	10:30 pm
Keenan-Stanford	11:00 pm M-Th	4:30 pm
		10:30 pm
Lewis	4:30 pm M & Tu	10:30 pm
	10:30 pm M & Th	
Lyon	4:30 pm M & Tu	4:30 pm
	10:30 pm M & Th	
Morrissey	10:30 pm M-Th	10:30 pm
	8:00 am F	
Pangborn	10:30 pm M-Th	11:30 pm Sat.
		5:00 pm Sun.
Pasquerilla East	10:30 pm M & F	
	11:00 pm Tu	
	10:30 pm Th (at Grace)	10:30 pm
Pasquerilla West	11:00 pm M-Th	10:30 pm
St. Ed's	10:30 pm M-Th	10:30 pm
Sorin	11:00 pm M-Th	4:15 pm
Walsh	11:00 pm M-Th	10:30 pm
	(at Sorin)	
Zahn	10:30 pm M-F	10:30 pm
O'Hara-Grace	8:00 am M, W, F	10:30 am
University Village		9:30 am
Law School	11:00 noon F	10:30 pm

FROM ASHES TO EASTER	
You are invited to participate in "FROM ASHES TO EASTER", a four week program of prayer and reflection on the Sunday readings of Lent. Small groups will be sponsored in different halls, facilitated by head staff members. This is the first year of the program at Notre Dame. The program will start on February 24th. If you have any questions please call Sr. MJ Griffin at 239-5242 (Badin-University Ministry Office) or 239-7072 (107 Farley Hall). Registration deadline is February 13th.	

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE	
11:30 a.m.	Sacred Heart Church
12:10 p.m.	Crypt Church
12:30 p.m.	Badin Hall Chapel
5:00 p.m.	Sacred Heart Church
Ushers and Eucharistic Ministers needed. Call 239-6536 by Feb. 14.	