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RELIGIOUS



BULLETIN

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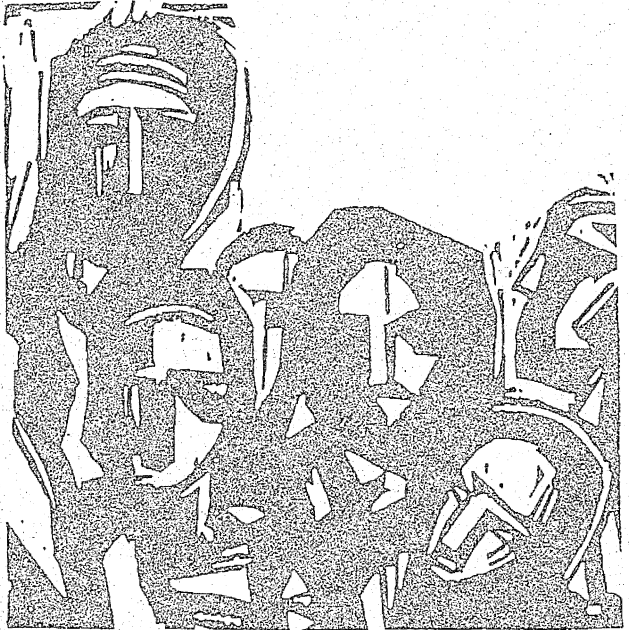
Office of University Ministry  
University of Notre Dame

# Making Saints Out of Sinners

Father Dave Schlaver c.s.c

Jesus attracted crowds wherever he went, as do most people who have something to say with their words or their lives.

He spoke from a hillside in Palestine, but it could easily have been a broken stoop over an open sewer in Calcutta--where crowds gather so fast you don't know where they come from. Or it could have been the Altiplano in Peru--where the air is as thin as the wraps under which the poor huddle on a cold night. Or it could have been the side of an interstate highway running through the shanty towns of Mississippi, or a concrete parking lot in suburbia, or a playground in an urban ghetto, or even a pulpit in Sacred Heart Church.



Jesus came when he did, worked where he lived, and did what he could with the gifts and time allotted him. Jesus in his most basic mission made saints out of sinners. Simple as that.

Saints have reached beyond human boundaries and limited expectations. They have put that extra spirit into their humanity so that their humanity borders on the divine, as it was meant to.

In addition to our heritage of saints in the church we remember people like Pope John XXIII and Dorothy Day. Or Mother Theresa who still walks the streets of the world picking up the dying, destitute, and the many martyrs for human rights and peace, good people of the faiths, recognized for their holiness.

We honor and respect the saints. We plead for help through their intercession. Yet we seem so slow to do as they have done. Why? Are we afraid of the consequences?

Perhaps that's it. We might have to give up some of our comforts and securities. We might have to change our lifestyles and attitudes. We might even have to die.



For whatever reason, while WE procrastinate, THEY have become saints. They have chosen to share in the kingdom, and to suffer the unknown consequences.

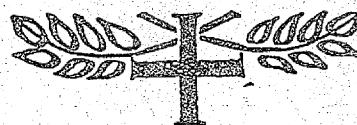
The danger is in using them as scapegoats: THEY suffice for what WE should be doing. It is much easier to sing the praises of Mother Theresa than to love the poor, to take them into our own hands. Easier to hang a picture of John XXIII than to embrace all humanity as brothers and sisters.

We do seek the easy way out, more often than not. Nobody wants to be laughed at. But as a consequence in the eyes of the world, we really don't seem to want to be saints. I think that's worse than being laughed at.



The poor gathered around Jesus and listened closely. They had little else to look forward to, besides potential sainthood. And we have so much else to look forward to, don't we?

Jesus made sense to his listeners. He spoke from the heart, a heart filled with love. Not some blind, easy-living sort of love, but a love that filled emptiness, promised hope, healed hurt, forgave sin, a love that raised the dead to life.



Funny thing, we never refer to Jesus as a saint. But even those of other religions look at him as a holy person--the basic definition of a saint. Let's presume for a moment, that--in addition to being God--he was, in his full humanity, a saint--perhaps even the paradigm for sainthood.

Can we then do any less than try to imitate him? After all, we call ourselves by his name.

# Every Day Heroes



## J. D'Arcy Chisholm

A few weeks ago, the Gospel issued the challenge, "greater love than this hath no man, than that he lay down his life for his friend." A powerful challenge indeed! If total personal sacrifice is necessary in order to achieve the greatest level of love then most of us, as a practical matter, will fall short of such a standard. History is rich with examples of those who have made the supreme sacrifice, beginning with Jesus Himself whose ultimate gift of love transcended the ages. John and Robert Kennedy sacrificed themselves while in the course of exercising national political leadership. Ghandi did the same in India. Abraham Lincoln a hundred years ago, recognized that all Americans shared equally in a common opportunity and was shot as a result. A century later, Martin Luther King followed.

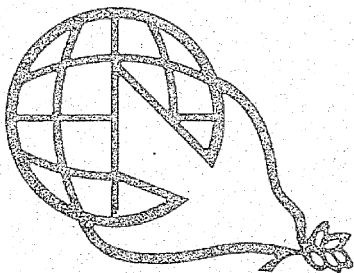
Wars have likewise provided us with heroes, men who sacrificed themselves to save their friends. We occasionally read of great acts of courage spawned by concern of one's fellow man. Notre Dame's own Dave Butler reached into a burning car to save a victim. The man who dove into the icy waters of the Potomac to rescue air crash victims had to have been motivated by love of neighbor.

Simple enough, isn't it? Or is it? For those of us who might have difficulty making the transcendental leap by prayer to God we are given a systematic opportunity to praise Him by loving His creatures around us. And that can and often does demand daily heroism. For those who are married, it requires the practice of fidelity and commitment, understanding and endurance. For those in religious life, it may require forbearance with superiors, tolerance of community members and patience with the structures of religious life. For the student, it may require understanding and tolerance for a roommate whose personal habits aren't in accord with one's own.

For all of us, this great commandment demands finally, that we see the face of Christ in every person we meet. Such is the stuff of every day heroes.

For the rest of us, however, circumstances probably will not provide us the occasions to perform singular acts of heroism, assuming we possessed the will to do such deeds. We are, rather, with the notion of fantasizing about such possibilities.

All would be heroes, however, are offered an alternative. Mark's gospel this week, reminds us of Jesus' instruction as to the greatest of commandments—Love of God and love of neighbor.



## CALL TO PEACEMAKING WEEK

Monday-11/4	7:00 PM	Keynote Address: "Getting Rid of Nuclear Weapons: An Alternative to Star Wars" by Randall Forsburg, Director of Institute for Defense & Disarmament Studies and Originator of the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign	Memorial Library Auditorium
	7:00 PM & 11:00 PM	Social Concerns Film Series: "Roses in December" movie	Center for Social Concerns (CSC)
Tuesday--11/5	12:Noon	"Biblical Hospitality to the Stranger: Immigration and the Sanctuary Movement"	CSC
		Brown Bag Lunch - Verghese J. Chirayath, Dept. of Sociology, John Carroll University	
	7 PM & 11 PM	Social Concerns Film Series: "Roses in December" movie	CSC
Wednesday 11/6	4:00 PM	Pax Christi "Internal and International Issues of Peace"	CSC
	7:00 PM	"Discussion with Marianne Jackman Escobar", Nicaraguan rural sociologist working to provide social services for displaced Nicaraguans in settlement camps.	CSC
Thursday 11/7	12:Noon	"Peace Witness", Jim Kurtz, Mennonite Relief Services Missionary in Phillipines --Brown Bag Lunch	CSC
	7:30 PM	Dr. Eugene Diamond of Chicago, "The Medical Case Against Abortion on Demand" --Reception following - ND/SMC Right to Life	Hayes Healy Aud.
Sunday 11/10	4:00 PM	"Peace Child" Musical, sponsored in cooperation with the Family & Children's Center and United Religious Community --Shuttle van will leave campus at 3:30 PM. main circle. Reserve tickets through CSC.	Bendix Theater Century Center
Monday 11/11	5:00 PM	Mass for Peace, Rev. Edward Malloy, presider	Sacred Heart Church
	10:00 PM	Prayer Service for Peace Pax Christi	Grotto