

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY
LECTIONARY
LD of The Year
November 16, 1986
R 279 The Lord comes to rule
the earth with justice!



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MINISTRY

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notre dame



RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

HEAR YE!

HEAR YE!

Hear ye! Hear ye! What's
happening?

NOV. 16-22 AIR FORCE ROTC
THANKSGIVING CLOTHING DRIVE.

NOV. 16 APPEAL FOR EL SALVADOR
EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS.

NOV 20 THURS OXFAM'S SKIP A
MEAL SO OTHERS MAY EAT.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION
RETREATS: JAN, MAR. APRIL.

DEC 7 SUN 12:15 LITURGY AT
SACRED HEART CHURCH: THE RITE
OF BECOMING A CHRISTIAN.



Retreats continue to be a
favorable way to increase
one's awareness of what it
takes to be a disciple of
Jesus. Fr. Tom Gedeon of
Retreats International here at
ND shares his thoughts on the
meaning of retreats in our
times. Worth reflecting!

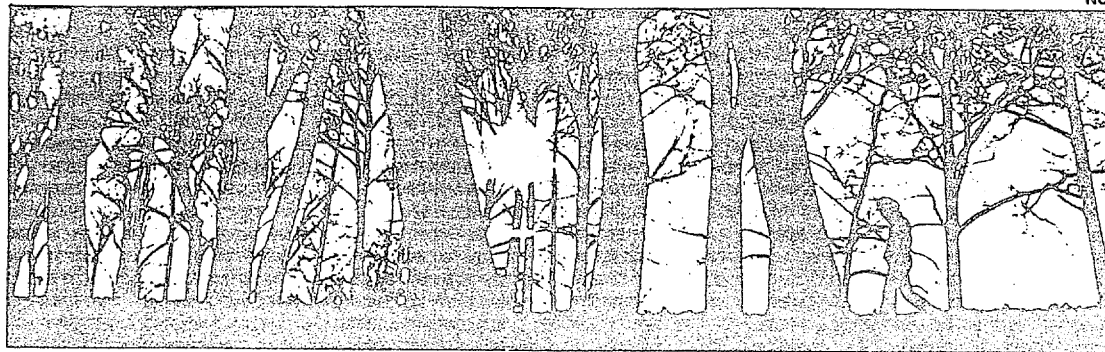
The Cost of Being A Catholic : Patient Endurance .

"ALL WILL HATE YOU BECAUSE OF
ME, YET NOT A HAIR OF YOUR
HEAD WILL BE HARMED. BY
PATIENT ENDURANCE YOU WILL
SAVE YOUR LIVES!" Jesus
speaks these words and they
are the last words of today's
gospel. Ye gads! Jesus is
speaking about the end of the
world or end of our time. Ye
gads! The end of the semester
is close at hand. Holidays,
Thanksgiving and Christmas are
in the air. Jesus answers his
critics and tells them that it
won't always be easy to be his
disciple and that our PATIENT
ENDURANCE will pay off. One
characteristic of a Christian
is his/her ability to stick to
christian principles
regardless of criticism.

I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA I says the Lord

The Place of Retreats

NC



This issue's question comes from a reader who says:

"I recently returned from a retreat. I felt pretty good until I started telling a friend of mine about it. The person kind of smiled at me, saying, 'Retreats really didn't seem to be necessary these days, because now we have a stronger emphasis on God being with us in our daily lives and we can pray to him without going anyplace special, like a retreat.'

"Well, I certainly believe that God is with me as I work and care for my family, but I'm not so sure about what my friend said about retreats, though it has set me to wondering.

"My question is this. What role, if any, should retreats play in a person's spiritual life? In other words, what is a retreat and how should they be used?"

We invited Father Thomas W. Gedeon, a Jesuit who is executive director of Retreats International, in Notre Dame, Ind., to respond. Retreats International is a service agency of the retreat and renewal movement in the United States and Canada. In addition to providing continuing education and formation programs for pastoral ministry, Retreats International has coordinated the establishment of 15 regional areas of retreat centers across the country to foster collaboration between the administrative and professional staffs of the 575 retreat centers in the U.S. and Canada.

We welcome your questions on prayer and spirituality and will select

one to be answered in each issue. Send questions to Praying, Box 410335, Kansas City, MO 64141.

By Thomas W. Gedeon



Confusion over the role of retreats is not surprising these days. The reason: We are undergoing a major renewal of spirituality and that is affecting the way we pray and the way we look at such practices as retreats. In view of that, I will make some general observations about prayer and spirituality before dealing specifically with retreats.

The renewal of praying is more widespread than you might suspect. Ken Briggs wrote in the *New York Times Magazine* that "The prayer revival is the most powerful, least documented development in modern American religion today." Popular writer and Merton scholar James Finley in his book *Awakening Call*, published last year, wrote that this yearning for a life of prayer is "a delicate, subtle fire — a desire without name, which people intuit to be the presence of God calling them to union with himself."

✓ "A desire without name . . . calling to union with himself." This desire is the foundation of prayer, the source of all religious experience. I can pray only if I

believe God is the author of this invitation to union with himself. Prayer is recognition of this relationship.

✓ We need experiences that heighten this awareness of God. Every age and stage of life asks something new of our religious beliefs and practices. The burning bush of Moses' journey to God tells us that life abounds in reminders of God's presence. Gerard Manley Hopkins, the Jesuit poet, says that all of creation is like shook foil. Its splendor is sacramental, charged with loving reminders of the nearness of God.

And so we need to ask: Where are the burning bushes and shook foil for our lives? How do we learn to develop the eye for God's presence and the ear for his word? You and your friend who set you to wondering about retreats, like all of us, are in need of keen vision and a listening ear. We need sight. We need insight. Above all, we need a heart that is ready for friendship with God. One of you finds a burning bush while on retreat, the other finds that the family household is shook foil, filled with reminders of God working in daily life. Both are rich experiences.

People of faith have a conviction that God is at work in our times no less than he was at other periods of history.

✓ Prayer is our way of keeping in touch with the way God is acting and is present in our lives and in our world.

✓ The history of civilization is a record of the cycle of the loss and the rediscovery of the sacred, of the holy. In our own time one of the more significant statements of Vatican II

(*Lumen Gentium* #40) is the reaffirmation of the sacredness of everyday life. All people are called to holiness. All of creation is once again viewed as sacred. We may have lost that reality for a time with the impact of science and technology. We tend to view the sacred as opposed to the secular.

Our own lives are affected by those cycles of loss and rediscovery of the sacred. The universal call to holiness is sometimes obscured by the demands of earning a living. There is little in our culture that favors the relevance of the sacred. We live in a high-velocity century where technology has diminished our sensitivity to the transcendent.

The goal of spiritual living is to learn to face as sacred the moments of ordinary living. Burning-bush and shock-toll moments are insight experiences that happen deep within — they afford us a fleeting glimpse of what is holy in all of creation. The more we are attuned to the way God is acting in our lives and in our world, the greater is the possibility for the romance of the human and the divine within us.

We may ask then, how do we go about the task of facing the events of our life as sacred? How do we "find God in all things"? Often, it seems, the significant events of life are so fleeting that their meaning is lost in the flurry of everyday living. At best their meaning is understood and appreciated only in looking back, in remembering.

And that, perhaps, is the clue to understanding the role of the retreat experience in a person's spiritual life. Retreat is an experience of remembering.

We are creatures who remember. We enter life with only faint memories of the womb and infancy; we exit life with nothing but memories. In between we collect. Each day, each week and year is spent collecting events of joy and of sorrow, work and rest, friendship and dreams. Of all God's gifts, perhaps memory is his greatest. We treasure it as precious for it is in remembering that we have opportunity to find meaning.

Retreat is a relished experience, centuries old, of withdrawing to a quiet place, alone — or sometimes with a friend, marriage partner, or a group — to take a view of life, to sort things out. How is life going? Where is it going?

Where is God in all this? Have you noticed lately that he loves you? The experience can be as brief as a few moments in a busy day or as long as a month or more. It can happen at home, on a park bench during lunchbreak, on a weekend, in the middle of a desert, or in a retreat center.

For centuries, spiritual writers have urged us to come at life reflectively. They have taught us in different ways the skills of punctuating our days and our nights with points of rest where we romance the divine, where we find God — or he finds us — tenderly concerned that we be a holy people.

It is out of this tradition that the "retreat movement" was born. There is a deep need within the human heart to look back upon our lives with reverence and gratitude, and to look forward into our lives with strength and hope and great measures of generosity.

Some of life's experiences seem to fall beyond understanding. Death and suffering, loss of friendship, hurt and pain — all take their toll of our resources of faith. Jesus was no stranger to such as these. Edge of life experiences drove him to the desert, to the garden, to his friends, just as they do us! Memories that hurt need healing, memories of joy need to be shared and celebrated.

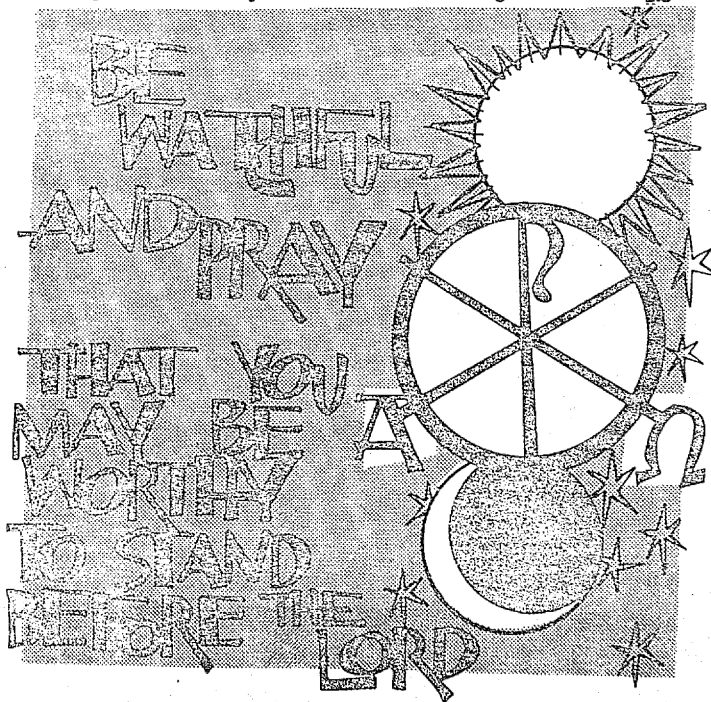
The retreat experience, like every

religious experience, is a journey into solitude and back again into the human circle. The romance of the human and the divine always returns us to our friends, to our family, to our work and our world. There is no friendship with God that does not embrace the loving relationship of neighbor.

For nearly a century now, retreat centers across the U.S. and Canada have become the symbol and the setting of our quest for solitude and prayer, for union with God, and for communion and compassion for others. They have been centers of renewal and rediscovery of the sacred in the lives of thousands of people. In recent years there has been a new springtime of programs designed for groups as well as for individuals. Nearly a million people each year set aside time for this renewal of spiritual living.

A friend of mine who takes a group of people on a mountain-climbing retreat each year invites his retreatants with the challenge, "Come with me to a more beautiful place than you have ever been before!"

Retreat centers across the country — more than 500 of them now — extend that invitation. The beauty of the retreat center setting is surpassed only by the interior beauty of the retreatant who is rediscovered during the retreat!



EARTHQUAKE

VICTIMS IN EL SALVADORE NEED
OUR HELP NOW

The recovery after this disaster continues to be slow and in need of continuous aid. Over 100,000 have been left homeless and over 1000 have died. The Center for Social Concern and University Ministry make a common appeal to the Notre Dame Community to contribute funds to help these victims on Sunday Nov. 16 when collections at the Masses at Sacred Heart Church will be shared with this Appeal. Halls are encouraged to have collections at their Sunday liturgies. Contributions may be also made at either the CSC or UM. Remember our fellow Christians in need in El Salvador.

R.C.I.A. PROCESS: RITE OF
CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

RCIA GROUP SESSIONS: Nov. 16 and 23 from 4 until 5:15 pm at the Center for Social Concern.

Sunday Dec. 7 at 12:15 p.m. Liturgy at Sacred Heart Church : The Rite of Becoming a Catechumen.

The precatechumenate period of the RCIA seeks to help the inquirer into the Catholic Faith get in touch with his/her faith journey through a dialogue between their lives and the message of Christianity.

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DISCOVERING GOD THROUGH SELF-KNOWLEDGE AND SERVICE TO OTHERS---A RETREAT

Fr. André Léveillé,
C.S.C., Director, 239-6536

At Crowe's House Friday Nov 21, 7 pm to Sat. Nov. 22, 7 pm

Sign-up at either University Ministry Office: Library Concourse or Badin Hall,

**Skip a meal.
So others can eat.**

The November 20, join thousands of people across the country who are learning about the causes of world hunger. Take part in Oxfam America's 13th annual Fast For A World Harvest. Just skip a meal! Then donate the money you would have spent on that meal. Your support will go to emergency relief and long-term self-help projects in the Philippines, Southern Africa and other areas of the Third World. Send for a free Fast Kit and organize a fast event in your community.

NOV 20th

Fast For A World Harvest

Oxfam America

"LIVE SIMPLY THAT OTHERS MAY SIMPLY LIVE!"

The Notre Dame Air Force ROTC's F-Flight volunteers are organizing a Thanksgiving clothing drive for the local ST. Vincent de Paul Society.

When: Nov 16-22 Where: Halls

What: Clothing, toys, sports equipment, us able appliances, etc.

Boxes will be placed in each residence hall during the week of Nov. 16-22.