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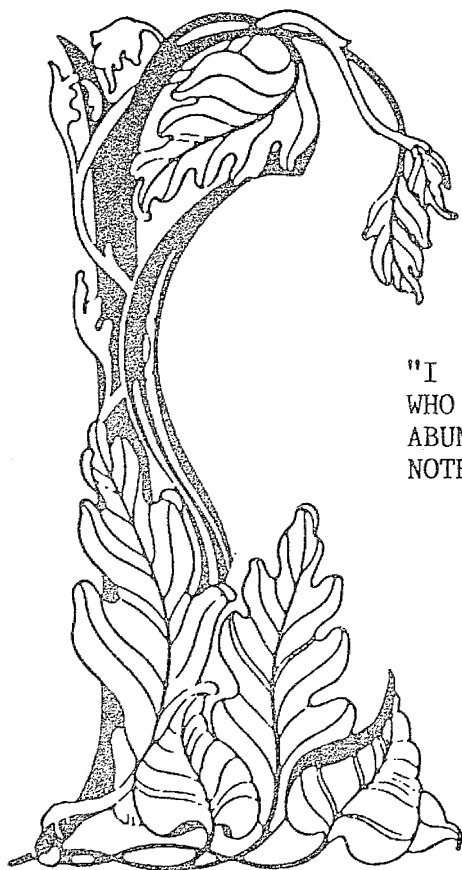


BULLETIN

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THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES

Mary Ann and Jim Roemer

"I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES, HE WHO LIVES IN ME AND I IN THEM WILL PRODUCE ABUNDANTLY, FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING."

John 15: 1 - 8

In the past seven years we have known all of the 125 Notre Dame / St. Mary's students who became involved in the Holy Cross Associates program. Some of the finest examples of love we have seen is in the unselfish work they do in concert with the Holy Cross priests in the western domestic locations where they serve and also in Chile.

(continued)

During a recent past week, we interviewed 37 Notre Dame and St. Mary's seniors for next year's Holy Cross Associate program. In their applications, but especially during the personal interviews, much was revealed about their own life of faith and prayer and how that life has influenced them to be concerned about service to others.

Many were asked, "Who have been your role models as Christians?" Most people cited their parents, a roommate, or a priest on campus, and many pointed to outstanding faculty members who lived their faith both in class and outside of class. But one particular senior commented, "A Christian is a person who has developed an ability to get outside oneself and fully into the lives of others." That seemed to us to be a beautiful response, unselfish and caring.



During these interviews, it was interesting to note the paths each of these seniors had taken in the past four years with regard to service to others. Some had been too busy with studies to have done too much for the community. But they were anxious to test out such a commitment for a year before going on to a full time career. Others have been big brothers or sisters, tutors, overnight shelter volunteers, visitors to the home for the elderly, Logan Center friends, and helpers of the poor. They found the time, even as busy R.A.'s, to get outside of themselves to live the Gospel and visit the sick and feed the hungry and comfort the homeless. They now seek to live a Christian life every hour of the day, not just on Sunday!

The experience of these past seven years with these 125 Holy Cross Associates has been a remarkably good influence in the lives of us as parents and in our role as parents for our five children. They are a constant reminder to us of the life of Jesus.

May we share with you some of the Associate reflections on love as taken from letters which two of them have written in the past several months. One is now serving as an Associate in Hayward, California. The other is an alumna of our program now living in the northwest. The fruits from the vine which are apparent in their lives are an inspiration to us.

Rooted in Love

"I can be pretty sure that I was conceived in love; at least that is what my parents tell me. So I was born as an expression of my parents love for each other, for God, and for family. This love was very evident as I grew older and our family grew closer. There was much pain, anger, and uncertainty in growing up -- life has a way of throwing pain, anger, and uncertainty our way to compare with our joy, compassion, and faith -- but there was always one thing present in our home and that was love. Love meant that everyday I have been home going to bed with a hug from my mother and father; love was the special time shared with brothers and sisters after all the lights were out and the darkness invited our secret thoughts; love was four kids, two parents, an Irish Setter, and a rusty trailer traveling to worlds beyond Chicago, where the beauty and violence of creation would be soaked in with awe. My mother would say, "I love you kids so much it hurts." Love was a real physical, boundless presence; it created energy, integrity of the feelings -- to feel anything deeply painful pointed to the ability to feel love joyously. This is my background -- rooted in love."

Mike Barrett, ND '84
(Carroll Hall)

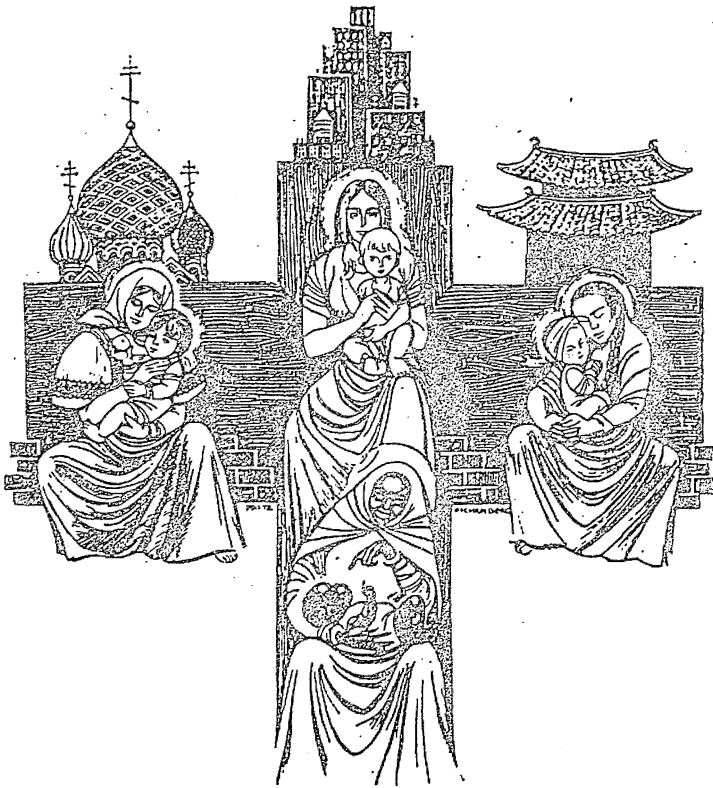
Transformation

"In past months I have felt the need to open myself more to God and see myself as someone who is still being shaped. Searching out God's will for my life is sometimes hard and painful for me to do -- it seems the more I get on with life the more clutter there is. Many times I get frustrated when the way isn't clear and other times it just seems simpler to live with your conception of how you think things should be. I know I need to learn patience to become aware of lessons the Lord is trying to teach me! I see God's word as not something static but a message to be acted on, so the connection between faith and the work I do is important to me. I believe the Church has a mission in the world -- to put flesh to the Gospel by helping people to challenge those things about their communities that are oppressive or unjust. The work I've done has tried to put that into practice, and I'm now doing community organizing through parishes for the archdiocese of Washington. I'm learning patience on the job, too, because the work of transforming hearts and minds takes persistence and effort."

Jan Pilarski, Portland (1978-1979)
Lewis Hall

Book Review

The editors of the Notre Dame Religious Bulletin recommend to our readers a book published in 1984 by the Ave Maria Press, Miryam of Nazareth, Woman of Strength and Wisdom. The form of the book is a collection of Magnificats. Three sections depict Mary's life as a faithful Israelite, her life with Jesus her son and as a member of the resurrection community. The book introduces us to Mary as a woman of faith, a companion to each of us, not to be forgotten or ignored but emulated as our model of Faith.



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