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BULLETIN

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Office of University Ministry
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Our Life Our Prayer

The Cross

by Phelia Cassidy

I like to think of our lives as being in the shape of a cross.

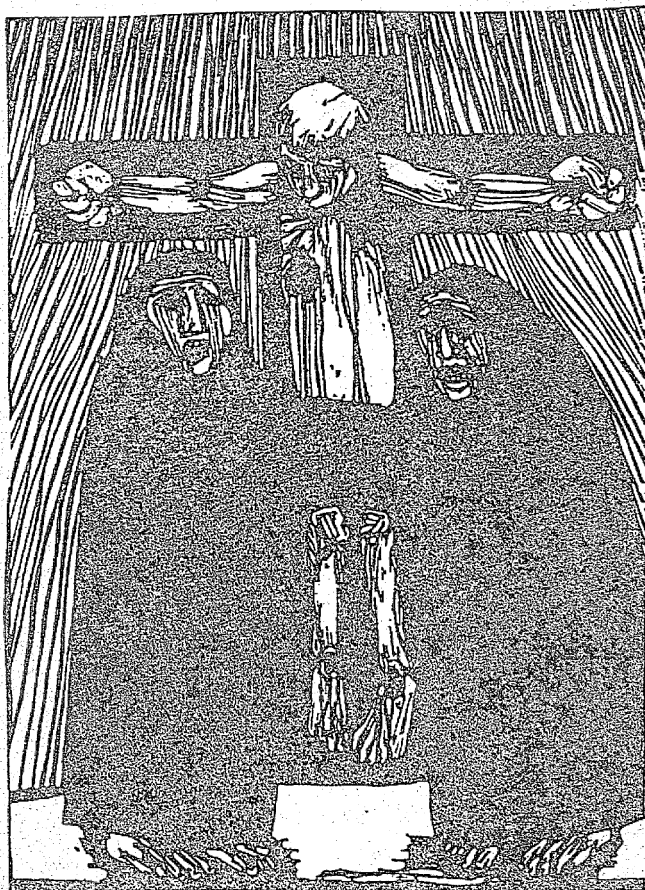
The upright—we can call it the vertical component—is man's relationship to God, his response to the first and greatest commandment of all:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your strength.

This upright beam, then is our prayer life.

The cross beam—the horizontal component—is man's relationship with his fellow men: his response to the second commandment which is 'like unto the first':

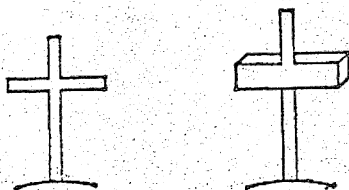
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.



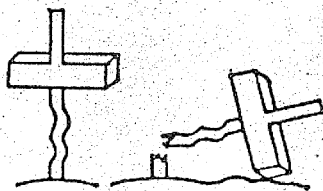
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Perhaps one of the greatest difficulties of the committed Christian is working out what is, for him, the correct balance between these two dimensions of his life. There is a very real sense in which we can never solve this problem because the more we pray the more we realize our need to pray, and the more we pour ourselves out for the hungry and the oppressed the more we feel called to serve. I have found my own answer to this problem, in so far as there is an answer, in a consideration of the mechanics of the cross.

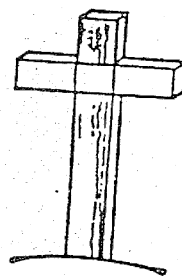
Now, if a cross has a slender upright, the crossbeam it carries must be proportionately slender.



If we gradually increase the weight of the cross beam, that is, if we try to carry a heavier and heavier load of social action on a weak prayer life, our cross will hold together for a while but there will come a time when the strain is too great and the whole structure will buckle and fall. I believe that this happens to many people who are able to do great things for a while and then, because they are running on their own energy, 'burn out'.



If, however, we make the upright of our cross immensely strong and solid, if our prayer life is unshakable and deep rooted, then we shall find that we are able to support a broad and heavy crossbeam, that we can bear the weight of our brother's and sister's pain and suffering, steadily, day by day, because it is not we who are carrying the load, but God.



The above article is reprinted from Prayer for Pilgrims, by Dr. Shelia Cassidy.

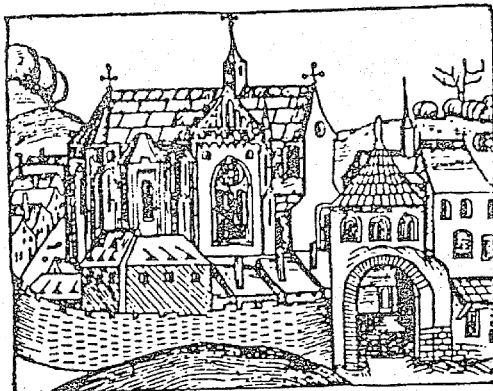
Lenten Reflection

Each Wednesday evening at 7:00p.m. members of the Notre Dame Community will give a Lenten Reflection in the Lady Chapel of Sacred Heart Church. All are invited. The schedule of speakers is as follows:

February 19th-Mark Searle
February 26th-Regina Coll
March 5th-John Dunne c.s.c.
March 12th-Katherine Tillman

*Sponsored by: University Ministry
and Center for Social Concerns*

There are places where prayer
finds its natural climate:
those places are churches,
fulfilling the promise
"I will make them joyful
in my house of prayer."



prayer of abandonment

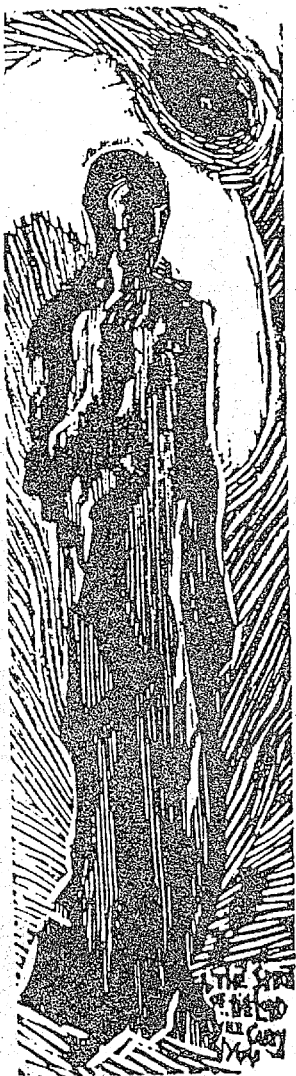
father,

i abandon myself into your hands;
do with me what you will.
whatever you may do, i thank you:
i am ready for all, i accept all.
let only your will be done in me,
and in all your creatures -
i wish no more than this, o lord.

into your hands i commend my soul;
i offer it to you with all the love
of my heart,
for i love you lord,
and so need to give myself,
to surrender myself into your hands,
without reserve,
and with boundless confidence,

for you are my father.

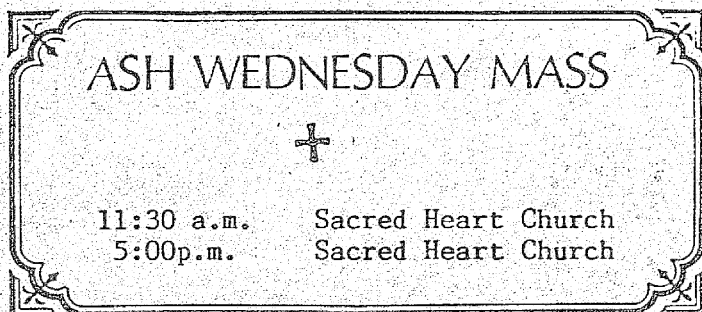
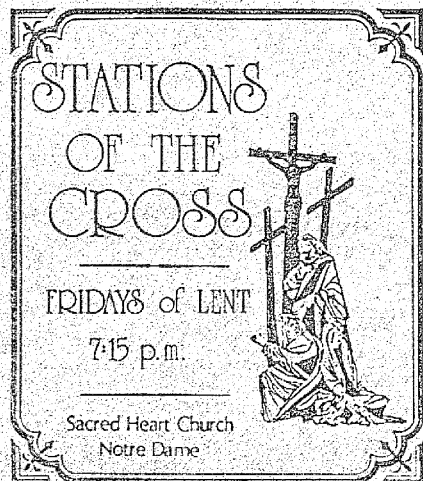
brother charles of jesus



LENT: prayer, fasting and almsgiving



Each year the season of Lent comes to us with its call to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In the Christian tradition, to pray is to turn toward God, listen for God's call and discern God's will for social and personal life; to fast is to turn away from superfluous needs and abstain from all that estranges us from God; to give alms is to turn our attention to the concrete needs of others and seek their good through a ministry of caring action. During the Lenten season then we renew our baptismal promises and repent our failure to live up to them. We repent and turn to the Lord.



prayers for peace

The Notre Dame Community is invited to join in a prayer vigil for peace. The vigil will commence after the 5:00p.m. Ash Wednesday liturgy and will conclude in the Lady Chapel of Sacred Heart Church after the 12:15 mass on Friday, February 14.