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THERE IS NO RESURRECTION WITHOUT THE CROSS

Peter Walshe

When a child dies of malnutrition, she or he is as stiff and cold as when shot through the head.

As this century unfolds, more and more Christians have come to understand that it is the structures of injustice that maintain high infant mortality rates and stunt the psychological and physical lives of the poor. The new commandment, that we love one another, has taken on deeper meaning: charity alone will not do. Rather, our Christian faith calls us to work for justice too - a world of far greater equality than the one we inherit.

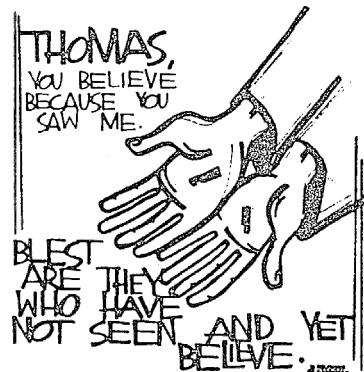
Yet, when prophetic voices are raised, so too are the fists and guns that would silence them. To speak out, to challenge the rich and the powerful, is risky business. In many countries it leads to death. Each generation discovers that the vision of a more loving world is a dangerous one to hold onto. It was this vision of the coming of God's kingdom or Commonwealth that motivated the prophets and led Jesus to the cross - the clerical and the political establishments could not tolerate his message.

In the resurrection of Jesus, however, we have the assurance that the struggle cannot be repressed - the voices of prophecy will never be silenced. Nevertheless, there should be no illusions. When Christians exercise a prophetic ministry, tension and conflict follow, for THERE IS NO RESURRECTION WITHOUT THE CROSS.

Second Sunday
of Easter
April 26, 1987

Rejoice to the full glory
that is yours.

MY LORD
AND
MY GOD



REFLECTIONS ON PRIESTHOOD

Fr. Paul Dwyer, CSC

A friend reminded me last week as we discussed a vexing situation that had arisen in his business, "your essential vocation is not to be an ordained celibate nor is my essential vocation to run this business or even to be a spouse or a parent. Our fundamental call--yours and mine--is to live in the kingdom and to bring as many people with us to the Lord as we possibly can." This sounded a lot like a reference to our Baptismal commitment. Indeed, participation in the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist does precede and make possible the living of consequent vocations.

An invitation to ordained priesthood has come to me from God by means of the faith and example of numerous other Christians. Exactly ten years ago when I received the Sacrament of Holy Orders, the bishop said, "Never forget that you are from the pews and that it is for the people around you and for our God that you are singled out." The faith and example of others like my friend, who recently reminded me of our underlying vocation, continue to invite and to develop my ordained ministry.

As a priest I have privileged opportunities to reconcile and motivate. To me reconciliation means bringing closer together; i.e., bringing the People of God closer to each other and to our God. Whether the reconciliation needed is within an individual heart, or between peoples, it is to be pursued. All Christians bear the responsibility to be reconcilers. Priests are uniquely positioned in the community of believers to invite, effect, and celebrate reconciliation.

As one charged with motivation it is important for me to foster dialogue among God's People. Each believer has insights given by the Spirit for the good of all. So no matter how difficult it may be, each must speak out in love in order for God's will to be more clearly discerned, embraced and lived by the body of believers.

My experience of ordained ministry convinces me of what an enormous blessing it is: to have had such privileged access to the faith lives of others; to be nourished by their journey; and to witness God's using me to sacramentally join others to Christ's death and resurrection.




RCIA NEWS---

FIFTEEN CONFIRMED SUNDAY AT 2

The Sacrament of confirmation will be celebrated this Sunday, 2 PM at Sacred Heart Church, by Bishop John D'Arcy. We Welecome you to attend as the following students are confirmed:

SCOTT BAKER
GLEN KERSGIETER
JAMES LACKEY
IDA TERESA MARTINEZ
NICHOLAS PERRY
JOANNA SANCHEZ
ELIZABETH THOMAS

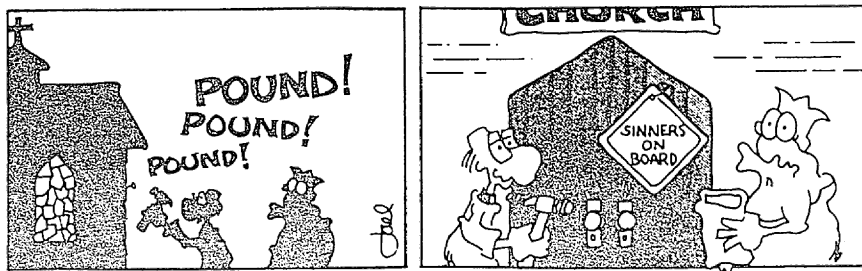
MATTHEW HICKIE
KEVIN KEYES
LUIS MANGLANO
MARGARET MARANDI
GEORGE RODRIGUEZ
HARTONO SUTANTO
MIKE WALLACE

 Pontius' Puddle



APRIL 30, 1975: VIET NAM WAR ENDS FOR THE U.S.A. Let us be mindful of the many fellow Americans who participated in this war and the 55,000 who gave their lives, of the many others, mostly Indo-chinese, who suffered and died in this war. Let us not judge the motives of any parties involved but let us pray for the insight to learn from this difficult event we continue to allude to in our movies and lives and to seek peace and justice among and for all.

 Pontius' Puddle



RETREAT EXPERIENCE

From Friday, February 6 at 1:10 until Monday, February 9 at 8:00, I went on a retreat sponsored by University Ministry, called "Notre Dame Encounter #1". The people and events of NDE#1 changed my life in subtle but strong ways. They helped me to deepen my personal relationship with Jesus and increase the spreading of my energetic love to those around me.

During the weekend, my personal relationship with Jesus was challenged and renewed through the talks given by the team leaders, the times of individual silent reflection and the small group discussions. At the start of each session, one of the team leaders of the weekend discussed one aspect of a relationship with God. Through these down-to-earth Christians (who are members of my peer group), I found great insight into the implications of living a Christian life. These were sincere and moving because they brought abstract ideas into personal situations I really identified with. After several of these, there was time set aside to be silent and reflect on the topic brought out. It was during these moments that I was forced to come to grips with myself; this is one hard thing for me to do. I finally had the opportunity to look at my life and evaluate my Christianity. This activity was very strengthening. Another activity that followed the speakers was small group discussions with the people in my group. I talked about what God's friendship meant to me and I was exposed to eight other perspectives on the subject. Overall, I was forced to look at my life and my God, recognize where change was needed, and begin to grow in fellowship and love.

The second (theme) that came to me on the retreat was an increase in my community worship and communion with Christ. I seemed to laugh all weekend long (this is no exaggeration). I couldn't help smiling and laughing with everyone at NDE#1. The weekend let me release some of the energetic love that I have, which effected a "cleansing of the soul". One main reason that I was able to be so free with my toothy grin was that from the moment I reached my room and my roommate (Andy) firmly shook my hand and introduced himself with a smile, I felt an overwhelming sense of welcome and acceptance. I knew everyone there and they certainly knew me. Flowing from this came one of the greatest gifts that I received on the weekend, a strong sense of peace and serenity-even amidst the whirlwind of actions and speech that I cause wherever I go. This is truly a great gift.

One thing that for me really has set the NDE#1 apart from other retreats is the strong sense of continuance that has been carried on. Everytime I see someone from the retreat on campus, both of us smile and a rush of goodness flows through me. I see many of the participants every Thursday (at Farley Mass, celebrated by Fr. Paul). In my opinion, the Encounter Series at ND will flourish and maintain itself indefinitely and I hope that I can be part of it for a long time to come. With a hearty laugh and a sincere smile,

Peter J. Smith