

Companions on Pilgrimage

A Theological Reflection Based on Luke 24:13-35
by the Bridge of Nonviolence Delegation

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all those things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?"

We came as strangers to a strange land. Fearful of the unknown, of our guilt, our complicity, fearful for our health, safety and well-being. Fearful of each other, our responsibility, of conversion. We came with hope in our hearts for understanding, reconciliation, peace, forgiveness, growth, compassion, empathy and solidarity.

Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened in these days?"

In Managua we listened to the experts: economists, agronomists, sociologists, politicians, party leaders, health workers, educators, the Witness for Peace team, government officials, and Americans.

Moreover, some women of our company amazed us . . . they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.

We shared songs, laughter, tortillas, rice and beans from the substance, not abundance, of women who have lost husbands, brothers, children; who have been forcibly relocated, suffering threats, kidnappings, hunger, illness and the deprivation and marginalization caused by the military and economic war, and, in spite of all this, have held their families together.

Some of those who were with us went to the tomb . . . but him they did not see. And he said to them,

"O foolish people, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!"

We observed the beauty of the people, flowing streams, flowering trees, colorful birds, land ripe for abundance, a land that could easily feed its people. However, fields are left unplanted, roads become impassable, bridges destroyed, schools abandoned, hospitals devoid of basic medicines and equipment, families torn asunder, arms in the hands of children, military check points, gunfire in the hills, campesinos standing vigilant in mud, dust, rain and sun, crops being harvested with primitive tools, fatigue, lack of water and sanitation, poverty, swollen bellies and stolen youth. The devastation of a people, their land and culture, but not their faith. And the US Embassy speaks of the self-interest of the United States, rather than the needs of the Nicaraguan people.

And they said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scripture?"

We experienced forgiveness, understanding, the ability to separate persons from policy, an urgent desire for *paz con dignidad* (peace with dignity), hope, tremendous love, integration of gospel into life, a sense of us all being Children of God. As expressed in the words of Carlos Fonseca, "It is not that we are friends, but sisters and brothers."

And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem . . . then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

And so our work begins. *La Solucion Somos Todos!* (The solution is all of us.)

February 5, 1988
Managua, Nicaragua

- artwork by Robert Thraeparambail, '89



Hail Mary, full of Grace...

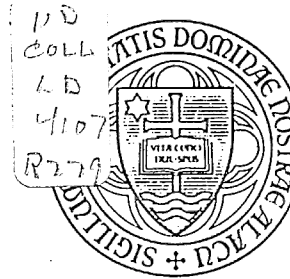
Holy Mary Mother of God...

*Hail Mary, full of Grace, The Lord is with you,
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.*

*Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.*

+++PRAYER STARTER+++

"To accept Jesus as savior means then that we must be open to the beauty and potential of life all around us. What we despise may be the source of our salvation." ---Carroll Stuhlmuehler, CP



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Notre Dame Religious Bulletin



John 10:2 by Jim Corbett

Fourth Sunday of Easter

*Jesus the Good Shepherd,
knows his sheep,
and his sheep know him*

JOHN 10:14 BY SYLVIA BIELEN, O.P.

Fourth Sunday
of Easter
April 24, 1988

Blessed is He who comes
in the name of the Lord.

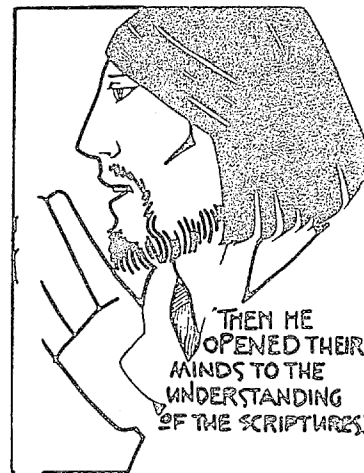
IF WE LISTEN TO HIS VOICE...

Twenty years ago this month, a congregation of two thousand gathered in Clayborn Temple, Memphis, to hear Dr. Martin Luther King. He predicted difficult days ahead in the struggle for human rights and added, "Like anybody else, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And he's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over, and I've seen the Promised Land."

He wanted people gathered to know they would get there, their goal would be achieved. He knew he might not be around very long to take part in the struggle, but he was neither worried nor afraid, for "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord." THE NEXT DAY HE WAS DEAD BY AN ASSASSIN'S BULLET.

LIKE JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD, DR. KING WAS WILLING TO LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS PEOPLE. Because Jesus continues to live among us, he calls us to follow him, to love as he did. If we listen to the voice of our shepherd, we come to know him and are drawn into greater unity with one another. We will experience his risen presence and power to live our vocation as his disciples.

.....C. Ross Finlan



"This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved."...Acts.

+J E S U S+

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING
MEMBERS OF OUR NOTRE DAME
FAMILY IN YOUR PRAYERS:

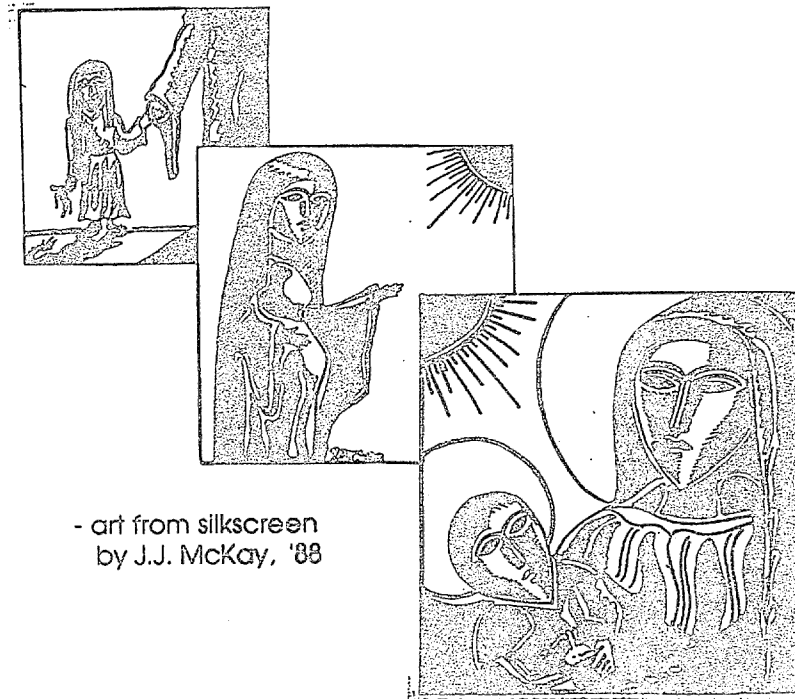
RIP: The father of Craig Merrigan, the sister of Steve Rhoades, and the grandfathers of Rodney Chou and Maurine Bennett.

"BEHOLD I am the Good Shepherd"

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NDE Notre Dame Encounter
88-89

Sept 16/17/18-----Nov 11/12/13
Feb 3/4/5-----Mar 31/Apr 1/2



- art from silkscreen
by J.J. McKay, '88

Highlights of the pastoral

Here are major points in the first draft of the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on women's concerns.

- ✓ Sexism "depersonalizes women" and is a sin against human dignity.
- ✓ Discrimination against women, a result of sexist attitudes, cannot be condoned.
- ✓ While the church considers itself unable to ordain women as priests, it should study the possibility of women deacons and should open all lay ministries to full participation by women.
- ✓ All other church leadership positions that do not require ordination also should be fully open to women.
- ✓ The church should lead in providing non-discriminatory wages and employment opportunities to women.
- ✓ The church should educate people, especially priests, to treat women as equals in all areas of life.
- ✓ Legislation and employment policies should promote women's equality and end the economic inequalities which place a disproportionate number of women in poverty.
- ✓ Maternity leave, job protection and other policies should protect the special role of women as childbearers and mothers.
- ✓ Education is needed to promote male responsibility in marriage and family relationships and to halt the violence and sexual exploitation that women suffer.

DRAFT LETTER ON WOMEN
BY CATHOLIC BISHOPS