



SEMINARIAN

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EDITORIAL

RESURGENCE OF THE GOSPEL

We hope we are not infringing on the copyright of Dr. T. A. Kantonen when we take as our title for this editorial, the title of his book: The Resurgence of The Gospel. Perhaps it is too early to see a "trend" or to say that there is a resurgence but the signs certainly point that way. For the past several chapel services we have had an increase of 150% over last year in the number of meditations given by seminarians.

This is good. Good in the sense that these men are not content to just "read the service" but that they have spent time and what is more important - thought, on the worship life of the seminary community. Good also in the sense that these are not mere homilies or platitudes but they have had something to say. Good in that they have stimulated thinking and meaningful discussion. To Seniors Lee Miller, Ziegler, Scott, and Crumpton and Middler Bresnahan-well done. If no trend is indicated now, we pray that one be started.

CONTEST * CONTEST * CONTEST * CONTEST

The Student Body needs a new letter-head design and will offer a grand prize to the sole winner a year's subscription to Dialog. All seminarians are eligible with no age limit. The design should be submitted on 8 1/2 x 11 white paper, drawn or sketched in ink, ball point, or pencil. Indicate the lettering: "The Student Body The Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia." The design need not be a finished drawing for it will be rendered by the SEMINARIAN staff illustrator.

Contest opens September 18 and closes September 30, 1962 at 5:00 p.m. Submit entries to President Lee Miller.

SOURCE MATERIAL

The faculty of our seminary has been asked by the American Association of Theological Schools and the National Association of Biblical Schools to supply them with information regarding the resources of our students, and what we should and should not take at the undergraduate level. The purpose of the two-year study, aimed at all protestant colleges and seminaries, is to determine how college and university resources can best serve the total enterprise of theological education in the church. A grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. is making this study of pre-seminary education possible.

In particular, the study concerns itself with the education of ministerial students prior to their entrance into private schools, the relationship between undergraduate religious courses and seminary curricula, the place of religion in the curriculum of higher education, the relationship of the ministerial call to educational standards, the degree of emotional maturity required for theological students, and the balance between theological study and religious growth.

Our faculty consented to their request. For that reason we took part in the study by filling out Wednesday's questionnaire. It is hoped that this study, which will be completed in Sept of 1963, may do much to effect not only new thinking on these problems, but also needed change in vital areas.

CORRECTION!

The correct title for the letterhead as mentioned in column one should be "The Student Body - The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia."

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

The original Seminary property was purchased on September 29, 1886 for the sum of \$35,741.83.

2-9/19/62

The following article is the first of a regular series to appear in the SEMINARIAN. "Footnotes" on current thoughts and events is from the erudite and prolific pen of George A. Weckman.

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FOOTNOTES (On Current Thoughts & Events)

Why retreat when the need of the moment is advanced? Simply because it is good strategy! To grow, one must rest; in order to give, one must receive; planning precedes the successful act. Not that we aim to retreat all of the time - that is as foolish as the dream of constant progress. Life has a rhythm, in its spiritual dimension too. A formal group retreat is just one aspect of the recollection which gives breath to the day's business.

One retreats to higher ground, away from the fray, to attain perspective. Knowledge in the deepest sense is the goal, the knowledge of how things are with the world and with oneself, knowledge of God. (Something about seeing forests instead of trees applies here).

We withdraw in order to meet. Buber, that wise Jew, knows that meeting requires distance and a peaceful spirit. We meet ourselves in the terrible moments of silence when that which some have called conscience gets a hearing. We meet God in his Word and Sacrament (no pious orthodoxy is this, in the heightened receptivity of a sincere retreat). We meet our brother, now now on some tenuous horizontal plane but in common allegiance to a Lord and a purpose, and in a shared experience.

Seminary is itself a retreat. But we can lose perspective toward it. It is geared to the rhythm of years - but there is also the motion in smaller spheres of days and hours. The Seminary is a school (it's often said). But there is a haven in the Church which a school can never give.

Come, live with us a moment in anticipation of transfiguration. Pray and wait on God, and learn of Him. Concentrate the deepest expectations on this day, that we may learn to watch in equal fervency for the new and and glorious morn.

BOOK REVIEW: Atlas Shrugged, Ayn Rand,

Perhaps you've heard of "Objectivism" It is the philosophy which Ayn Rand presents and exemplifies in this over-long novel. They say that this attitude has quite a following in New York, and I suspect that many would subscribe to it if they knew of it or thought that it was socially acceptable to do so. On this account alone the book is worth our perusal.

It is the story of an intellectual strike, or what would happen if the atlases of our society, the competent businessmen, would revolt against the injustice of socialism (let alone Christian love). We follow our heroes through their education and success in the economic jungle where the fittest not only win out but also drag the others along by the strength of their greatness. Then we follow their slow realization that the world is militantly slovenly and envious, and will not give due respect to its benefactors. So our heroes go on strike and the world falls apart around the "do-gooders", the democrats who will not recognize genius.

There is much here to which we must give attention. The secular world (at its best) demands competence (do we use love as an excuse?). There is a real revolt of the masses going on which cannot but effect our ministry. We have here another demonstration (they are constantly necessary) that Christ and His Way do not make sense from the world's point of view. We agree too that the world's conception of equality is unreal, for we are equal only before God.

On these and other points we can learn from the children of darkness. But be forewarned: if you read this book, with its definite appeal to nature minus Christ, you may find yourself charging through doorways where only saints properly enter.

G.W.

Did you know that the name of our Hagan Hall was "Magnolia Villa" when owned by Franklin B. Gowen?

Philip Jurus

There are three questions which I am sure can be generally assumed of an intern: How does it feel to be out in the parish (which is usually asked at the beginning of the intern year when it is too early to tell), how does it feel to be back in school (which again is asked when it is too early to tell), and what do you think of an intern year (which is usually too much to tell). What I will relate in this article will no doubt cover a part of all three questions, but my main emphasis will be on the last, my evaluation of an intern year.

With a bit of humor, my answer to the third question usually runs something like this: "I've gained everything but weight." Of course, this is my peculiar case; there may be others who would make qualifications. But it is a true answer. Briefly, to tell you why, suppose I begin back a little over a year ago with my first days in the parish. It was an experience the likes of which I have never known before...visiting, visiting, visiting. Luckily for me, my co-operating Pastor accompanied me in these situations which were a good cross-section of the congregation I was serving; and also, what I believe to be a good cross-section of the visitations which any parish pastor makes. We visited shut-ins and elderly folks, parishoners who were afflicted in numerous ways in the various hospitals in the Allentown area, ranging from the general hospital to the mental hospital and the county home. We called on prospective members, regular members, and, of course, "inactive" members. "Good grief, he's keeping me on the go" was a first recation....but I lived with it. What was strikingly more significant was the realization, "Suppose I was just out of seminary, a pastor of my own congregation, no co-operating pastor who would accompany me, answer my questions, help me to solve my problems? Suppose that were the case and I had to make these visits...what would I do? I'd be overcome by the tremendous task I was responsible to fill!" And I know what I would have done, as actually happened when I went out on my own about two weeks later...I would have stumbled and fallen, and picked myself up only to

stumble and fall again and perhaps again.

And it was this way, not only with the visitations, but with all the responsibilities a pastor has to handle which I got a taste of... "suppose I had come fresh out of seminary, with the world on my shoulders and the facts in my head, and there I met the towering wall in front of me, all around me, that wall of practical inexperience...I would have hit it head-on and have been shaken badly by its jolt." It was a good thing I had a place to turn and did not have full responsibility. Here, in my opinion, is one of the great values of an internship. Some might argue that you can receive a degree of these experiences through Sunday assignments, hospital work, and a summer's work, as required by the Seminary. I will agree to a point, but your experience is limited in time and scope. I served fourteen months in the parish and I encountered new and different experiences right up until I completed my work...and I would further add that there are many experiences I have never seen nor been confronted with.

Visitation was a most rewarding aspect of my internship. It was also a most difficult one, and, it is probably the most necessary aspect of the parish ministry. The visit is where you really meet people face to face, in all sorts of conditions which would take pages to describe. Visiting was a hard thing to persuade myself to do at first, but I eventually realized its tremendous value. It is where you can really make the Christian Gospel relevant to the people... but this is by no means easy. The major thing I had to constantly keep in mind was to be a listener and not a religious encyclopedia from whose mouth would break forth gems of a theological education. Such gems have their place but you have to hear first and hear well before you speak, if you even speak at all.

The reward in visitation is a funny thing; if I felt pleased with myself, the visiting would knock me off my pedestal and put me in my place, and it was a good feeling, a feeling that I was most certainly grateful to have experienced. On the other hand, if I felt down in the dumps and miserable, the visit lifted me to an unexplainable height, bringing

brightness into what had been a rather gloomy day. And it was in visitation and personal confrontation that I met with the sincere appreciative words of the members of the congregation. Some sermons or sermon points might have struck home, but it was the visits where a relationship was established, a need may have been met, and an act remembered with gratitude.

I spent much of my time with the youth of the congregation. This was the main artery of my energies. Through the Luther Leagues, the Sunday School, Catechetical Class and Weekday and Vacation Church School, I learned many lessons and had many rich experiences. They taught me a lot even though I am not many years beyond their age. (I did get by, however, without learning how to do the "twist" or the "fly" of the Boston Stomp, much to their dismay). They do have problems, though, with which they want help and I had work cut out for me in this area. One idea which we instituted might be worth passing on in this connection. We held "Table Talk" discussions at my apartment about once a month to which six or seven leaguers would come for a supper snack and then we would discuss matters that concerned them very much. We had a secretary at each discussion who kept a record of what we talked about for the sake of prosperity. At our first get-together the first question raised was "what is justification by faith?" That was the subject of my sermon the preceding Sunday. (I tore that page out of the record for fear of the scandal of a heresy trial.). But we did reach down into the depths of some real concerns of teenagers.

Of course there are the meetings of the organizations of the church, the administrative work, and the matter of worship in which I had much participation. Time and space do not permit, so I will not attempt to set these things forth here.

It was good to get away for a year, to get out, as it were, and see what the world is like. And it was also good to know that I could come back here and have an opportunity to seek out the answers to some of the questions which were raised in my numerous experiences throughout the year. I did miss some

of the academic atmosphere that I have been accustomed to, so for another reason it is good to be back. But one thing which disturbs me in class is the fact that many times the words of the professors are "much easier said than done."

As I said, there's too much to tell. Perhaps you will have some specific things you would like to discuss about an internship...if so, I will be most willing to talk about them with you, as I am sure will be my colleagues, Ken Bailey and Bob Meschke, who were also "out" last year.

Remember, my internship was only one man's experience; the others may have been quite different. We all do agree, though, it is an experience worth the while of a year of our life.

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FLASH*** HALL CHAIRMEN ELECTED

In accordance with the Constitution of the Student Body all Hall Chairmen have been elected(?) and their names have been filed with Vice President, Robert Miller. Those men chosen to assume responsibility for their respective halls are:

Grad Hall-- John Light
 North Dorm-- Jim Gahagen
 A-- Richard Weller
 B-- Bill Arnold
 C-- Wes Johnston
 D-- Russ McIntyre
 E-- Bernie Bischoff
 F-- Bodo Nischan
 G-- Peter Schumacher

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Letter to the Editor:

I should like to express my personal appreciation for a trend that has begun in the senior class. It is the inclusion of a short message at the Matins and Vespers. These short "tidings" have helped to make the services at the Chapel more meaningful and relevant. They bring also a word from those among us, and in a way that is qualitatively different from the ordinary discourse that we have in class and bull-sessions. May this practice of sermonettes continue this year!

Sincerely,

Douglas E. Werner