



# The Seminarian

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WOMEN, RELIGION, AND POLITICS

EIGHTH ANNUAL WOMEN'S INTERSEMINARY CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 22-24, 1980

THE LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT PHILADELPHIA

Co-sponsors: Commission on Women in Ministry  
of the National Council of Churches

LTS/P students have attended the Women's Interseminary Conferences for the past three years—in New Haven, Conn. (1977), in Minneapolis (1978), and this year in Dayton, Ohio. As intended, the conference has given us the opportunity to meet and share with women from many seminaries across the country the joys and struggles of preparing to minister in what is still predominantly a male role.

Next year, LTS/P will be the host school! Members of the Committee on Women's Concerns have already begun planning, but the conference will succeed only if the entire seminary community offers its support. WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!! As the weekend actually approaches, there will be many opportunities for you to offer some time and energy—maybe as little as a couple of hours. But there is also something you can do RIGHT NOW and it will take only a few minutes. We need your ideas as we plan to invite speakers and other resource people.

"Women, Religion, and Politics" has been chosen for the theme of the conference. Two factors influenced that choice:

1980 marks the 10th anniversary of changes in the LCA and ALC constitutions which removed barriers to women's ordination.

1980 marks yet another national presidential election. We hope to find three main speakers who can discuss how women are involved in and affected by political processes at three different levels:

- 1) National or state governments
- 2) Denominational hierarchies or Church agencies
- 3) Local congregations

In addition, we may schedule short workshops or interest groups. In past conferences, topics have included: Ministry to the Aging, Simple Living, the Single Pastor, Team Ministries, Community Organizing..

Do you know of any exciting people you would like us to consider inviting as either main speakers or workshop leaders? We'd also like your input on workshop topics and any other suggestions you may have. Please put a note in my campus mail box (#813) by April 5th. Or Ann Larson (box #713).

Ann Larson and Joanne Kernitz  
Program Committee

## Reconciliation

Though closely related, there are two sorts of reconciliation. There is the act of reconciliation in Jesus Christ through which God overcame our revolt against Him and brought us into divine communion. There is also the kind of reconciliation through which the antagonisms between people, and their accompanying wounds and hurts, are healed and people are brought back into fellowship with one another. This is the kind of reconciliation I am interested in here. It involves love and relationships and is at the heart of the Gospel.

Human reconciliation rests on divine reconciliation, on that act of reconciliation by which God restored us into relationship with Himself. God did not want to let us go; He reached out, healed the breach, and brought us back to Him. Since then, God has lived in a relationship of ongoing reconciliation with us through the Holy Spirit. The fact that our relationship with God rests on His reconciling activity toward us suggests that our Christian existence should be grounded in our posture of reconciliation toward other people. This posture is one which enables a person to extend forgiveness and love to another person who has caused one pain. Perhaps this runs against the human grain but this grain can be transcended by the love with which God overcame our rebellion against Him and which He makes available to us through His Word and sacraments.

Reconciliation does not necessarily involve complete harmony. It does not preclude disagreement over some matters or tentative judgments over right and wrong. In fact, reconciliation takes differences seriously and does not brush over them artificially. But it takes with equal seriousness God's command that we love one another despite our differences. It takes with equal seriousness the fact that every one of us is a sinner who lives by no power of our own to do what is good and right but solely by God's gracious desire to uphold and preserve us.

God's love makes human reconciliation possible and to live within the splendor of God's love involves living within an ongoing and never ending process of reconciliation with other persons. Reconciliation involves more than isolated acts of forgiveness, though it certainly includes them. It is an orientation of life which looks on the other person as a Thou and does not take oneself too seriously, which is reverential toward the mystery and sacredness of the human, and which sees other people not as objects to be acted on but as recipients and sources of God's love.

Reconciliation means humility and it is not a human asset which we can produce and possess. It comes from God and for that very reason has a potency which can possess us and sanctify the lives we live with our neighbors so that we can love and be ready to communicate with even those with whom we have little in common. We have been saved by God's love. Any differences between people, real though they may be, are impotent in the face of this fact.

Galen Tinder

NODDING YOUR HEART

by Ramona Carroll

The hand-pierced High Priest

bends

way

down

receiving/repairing.

He, only He, can take you,

take you to the eternal

height of God.

A spaced-out soul:

nodding, but not agreeing;

body bent, nose dripping;

vein-pierced, itchy scratching

is high in the depths of oblivion.

But the hand-pierced High Priest

bends

way

down

receiving/repairing.

He, only He, can take you,

take you to the eternal

height of God.

Just nod your heart in agreement.

Agree by nodding your heart.

REPORT ON WORKSHOP: Submitted by Wanda K. Snyder

I saw the bruise marks, the stitches, the swollen faces - it was on film, but the bodies were not those of actresses. There was no make-up; the marks of violence on their bodies were real. These women in the film were victims of domestic abuse - victims of violence. I saw the face of our suffering Lord in the faces of these women.

Above paragraph is to introduce our seminary community to some consciousness raising that occurred to me this past weekend at Union Theological Seminary, New York City. Ann Larson, Sarah Brown and I attended a "Workshop on Ministries in Domestic and Sexual Abuse". Through speakers, films and discussions words such as "rape, battered wife, incest and child abuse" became words of hurt and violence. The statistics alone are mind boggling: "Every 3 minutes a wife is battered.

Every 5 minutes a woman is raped.

Every 10 minutes a girl child is molested" (from keynote address by Mary Pellauer). Many of my myths about violence to women were shattered. Sadly, battered women and rape victims don't find the clergy a source of help. We can change that. I feel we must change that. I'll share more in future issues.

From ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH:

While risking confirmation of that frequent institutional phenomenon in which staff communicate with one another rather than with clients, I can not refrain responding to Faith Burgess' wistful wondering about the readership of "Random Notes". I, for one, am a loyal and enthusiastic reader, not for the information, which is directed to others, but for the evidence of a thoughtful and effective deanship, the civilized prose, and the grace of a randomness which includes crocuses, as well as classes.

- George Freeman

NOTE: We have been informed that some poor little lady in Mt. Airy has been getting misdirected phone calls. Our correct phone number is: 242-6473. Cheryl and Devie

ANNOUNCEMENT: Practice saying "CHEESE"! On Tuesday, April 10'th at 10:30 a.m. a student/faculty/staff photo will be taken in front of the library. Be sure to leave this space open on your calendar. More details to come.

FATHER JOHN'S CONFESSIONS (and Traveling Road Show)

CHICKEN POX DIARY: Have you ever tried to daub 451 small spots with calamine lotion while the child on whose body the spots are located does a St. Vitus dance? The amount of itching is inversely proportional to the activity of the moment. When cartoons are on TV nothing itches. When he's supposed to go to sleep, everything itches. Name eleven places where you wouldn't like to have chicken pos, and you will have named the first eleven places they show up. The child who just got over the chicken pox is throwing tantrums because he's the only one who has to do everything. (i.e. school, vegetables, church, chores, bed).

Mommy leaves town, leaving Daddy with sickies.

Daddy goes to work, leaving Mommy with sickies.

Mommy goes to choir, leaving Daddy with sickies.

Daddy goes crazy, leaving Mommy with sickies.

Mommy goes crazy, leaving Daddy with sickies.

The house smells like calamine lotion. The food tastes like calamine. Your spouse smells like calamine. Calamine stains on the kids, kids' clothing, rugs, furniture, bedding, food, tools and the spare tire in the trunk of the car.

ALL YOUR FRIENDS will tell you it's better to get it over with. As you stay up all night every night for a week you decide to change friends. Sexually separate sleeping quarters: Dad with the boys; Mom and Raechel together. Nobody gets any sleep. Nobody has any fun. It's bad enough that you see spots before your eyes. And it's for real, but the worst is that after the kid's spots begin to disappear you begin to itch.

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Let me take this "gnome-like" space to bid farewell to our Seminarian letterhead. When last we met, Yuri raised the issue of exploitation of the gnome community and asked to be set free of his obligation to lean against the "S". In short, (no pun intended) we will have a new letterhead next week thanks to Jan Fullenwieder. Please observe this passing in a moment of reflection.

CREDITS: Editors-Ruth Hankins and Peter Breitsch. Typists- Wanda K. Snyder, Galen Tinder and Ruth Hankins  
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Thank you all!

We get letters! One recent correspondent asked: What are the ethical issues involved in having more than one dessert in the refectory? Answer: You've got to get protein somewhere so don't worry!

Another person wrote in and said: C'mon you guys, everyone knows who the Brothers Bob really are. Why don't you just come out of the closet? Answer: We don't feel like it. (Ed.-Has the DPL checked these guys out yet?)

We also received this letter: I think your column is the best thing in The Seminarian. I look forward each week to reading your column, as it makes Thursday the highlight of the week. It's so creative and well written and I appreciate it so much. Reply: Thanks, Mom.

Also: Dear Brothers Bob, What do you think of incest? Answer: It's all relative.

We've also received requests for the answers to last week's matching: They are: AEGNMKFLJCB DHI.

This letter arrived yesterday: The Brothers Bob are really sick. They have no writing style, no literary talent, and no sense of humor. They should be banned. Reply: We can't decide whether this is from John(of Patmos) or Galen so we won't answer it. This person is just jealous anyway!

Then there's the question: Is there life after seminary? Answer: We didn't know there was any life during seminary.

Also: Dear Brothers Bob, Ever since I've cometo the seminary I feel like they've taken away my God, my Jesus, my Bible, and my faith. Can you offer any words of comfort and assurance? Reply: No.

Another question: Why haven't you told us any gossip about Chris Nelson? Answer: As long as he keeps paying us, his name and the names of the three women in his love life will never appear in our column.

Finally, we received a letter with the following question: You write such a wonderfully creative column every week. What do you do when you run out of ideas? Answer: We write silly letters to ourselves.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Next week's worship opportunities for the community include:

Compline(LBW): Monday, April 2nd at 10 pm in the Library rotunda.  
Leaders: Greg Wenhold and Paul Myers.

Holy Communion(LBW): Tuesday, April 3rd at 9:40 am. Dr. Harold Albert, officiant; Bruce Ewen, preacher; Larry Hank, liturgist; Frank Anderson, lector.

Compline(LBW): Wednesday, April 4th at 7:30 pm, will be a combined service with Ascension congregation.

Special opportunity for nonverbal praise to God: Thursday, April 5th at 9:40 am. Connie Grogan, mime artist; Rich Sauer, assistant; Bob Ashburn, technical assistant.

Please make use of these opportunities to grow closer to your fellow community members and to God.

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And let your best be for your friend. If he must know the ebb of your tide, let him know its flood also. For what is your friend that you should seek him with hours to kill? Seek him always with hours to live. For it is his to fill your need, but not your emptiness. And in the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter, and sharing of pleasures. For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed.

SEMINARY ANIMAL LIFE TODAY; EXPLORATIONS OF SOME ISSUES

In a community of faith and within the context of an appreciation for the loving will of God, creatures known as animals are to be understood as good gifts of the Creator and to be recognized as such. It is important then to discuss some basic factors connected with responsible stewardship of such gifts, lest we injure ourselves and pervert the creative purposes The Giver has for His seminaries. Two concerns present themselves at this juncture.

First, with regard to the maintenance of the sanitary conditions of this sanctuary of theological enlightenment, and with a healthy admiration of the patriarch of Lutheranism in America, the occasional station of pigeons and their activity on and about the Muhlenberg monument comes into question. We do recognize that these birds of the air are part of God's creative work in which he delights as much as the fish of the sea or every living thing (Gen. 1:26). However, it is impressed upon us that as we reflect the imago Dei there are certain responsibilities which we are to exercise. One such responsibility is dominion over the above-mentioned creatures (Gen. 1:28). As a faithful response, and because we are to be a guide and model for others in community, we are compelled to prohibit these birds from any further defiling of this monument. With compassion and concern, recognizing that these pigeons too reside in our community of faith, we would hope that ample opportunity for discussion would be given to this subject on our campus.

Second, and of equivalent if not greater importance, is a concern for the conduct of other inhabitants of our campus. Permissiveness of sexual expression is pervading our culture resulting in widespread recognition of what is to be done in the context of the covenant of heterosexual marriage. With a higher incidence of on-campus children than in years past, there is great concern over the occurrence of squirrels entering into relationship, and the example set before these impressionable children. This is not to call into question the squirrels' sexuality (which we do not deny, but affirm) but rather what the squirrel does with its sexuality is the key factor here.

These animals, having taken residence within these walls should be instructed in the articles of faith in order that they may live in harmony with the Lutheran Church of America and each other. Once again we would hope that there would be ample discussion on this paper and opportunity for input from those who are affected by it.

THE SEMINARIAN

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Thomas

First  
Class