

# The Third World

By Father John Hempel

Seminarians at St. Bernard's recently sponsored a weekend to which concerned laymen and religious throughout the diocese were invited. The weekend was devoted to the identification of the Third World—Africa, Asia and Latin America; also the underdeveloped portions of this country; the way in which we explicitly or implicitly are involved in the oppression of these areas, and developing a strategy for change. Simulation gaming was used to give participants a sense of the powerlessness and stratification of society that works to the disadvantage of Third World peoples. The seminarians, especially Dan Finn, are to be commended for opening St. Bernard's to the discussion of these problems.

Conferences are fine; they serve to initiate the uninformed. The rub seems to lie in translating the knowledge gained at conferences into actions designed to meet root causes of poverty and oppression. Too, a conference such as this one tends to pose problems that are unanswerable, or to suggest courses of action that will have no effect on the status quo.

One sympathizes with the plight of the people. Does one withdraw the support given that enables them to have half a loaf on the theory that none at all will change their situation? Or does one quietly acquiesce, thus becoming accessory to what sometimes is murder (Sharpesville massacre in South Africa)?

When one sees the daily suffering of the people, it becomes evident that there are no simplistic answers to the cycles that have entrapped them for

centuries, yet comfort must be given to keep hope alive.

In looking at the problems of the Third World, we must evaluate the Church's response. We know of the special mission to underdeveloped nations, but we must continually address the basic questions of organization and building a structure through which the poor will have a voice. If the Church is to remain the moral teacher of the world she must continually be in the vanguard of social change.

Use of the church's resources to combat oppression is nothing new. One recalls the initiation of the EIGHT Organization in Rochester as an example of the church standing in the vanguard. Recently, several denominations have used their economic power to effect change or register protests. The essence of all this is that the church must dare to take RISKS. In spreading the Gospel to all people, and making it a living truth for all, we must be careful not to guard only our good reputation, we should be willing to become unpopular, to utilize whatever means we have for the betterment of all people.

RISK does not end when you put a check in an envelope for missions. It entails the giving of self in whatever capacity you are able. One does not proclaim "I have the love of God"; one manifests that love, and in so doing, proves it.

It would be wise during this Lenten Season to keep in mind One who took the ultimate risk for all of us and ask ourselves if we, as His brothers and sisters, can afford to do less.

## At Our Request

# Varieties of Faith

By Msgr. Charles O. Rice

Could we say that one is faithful when belief affects one's actions? Must we go further and say that one is faithful only if one is willing, even anxious, to suffer for some thing, ideal or concept, or at least be inconvenienced?

Father Daniel Berrigan in a recently published interview said that he has faith in the Eucharist but he would not die for it, as Jesuits gladly did in England a few centuries ago. He is obviously willing to suffer, even die, for the sake of other ideas and ideals. To him they are concrete expressions of what the Eucharist (God in man, God in human flesh) is all about.

Our changed ideas about faithfulness might explain how we have changed in attitudes and in life style and thinking style from former generations.

To me and my generation, faithfulness to the Church was faithfulness to an absolute. By being faithful to the Church one made a voluntary oblation of himself, often of his reason, for the sake of God and goodness. The more difficult it was, the more it meant. We were not merely looking for goodies in eternity, although the caricature one reads in avant garde writings would say that we were. There was far more to it than that; there was faithfulness that rose above self.

Were we more faithful than was necessary to methods of expression, habits of prayer, personalities and institutions

that were not necessary, that to put it another way, were not objects that God really required us to be faithful to under penalty of not being faithful to Him? I am not prepared to utter an unqualified no, or an unqualified yes. We were mixed up, though earnest, human beings, which means we were normal.

For the less committed and less motivated, was faithfulness diluted to habit or superstition? A little Mao Tse Tung and his violently contorted national session of renewal and socialist repentance indicates how hard it is to keep idealism of any sort pure and healthy in both mass and elite.

I grieve, would that there were a stronger word, that our Catholic traditional faithfulness which lead so many to sacrifice personality itself to the service of God, did not prove more pure and resilient in this our day when so many of our people think they are being faithful to God and goodness when they are being xenophobic or when they regard being faithful to capitalism as an act of religion.

But faithfulness to God, the Church and true, true, pure doctrine will not vanish from the earth because the Church will not vanish. I believe that another sort of faithfulness which is under even more challenge, the faithfulness which holds together the nuclear family (which some quasi-scientific nuts would doom to extinction) that also will not vanish but will endure.

# Waverly Science Fair Winners Listed

Waverly — Two brothers at St. James School here were awarded first prizes for separate entries in the school's annual Science Fair last week.

Timothy Kelly, a sixth grade student, won first prize for a narcotics exhibition, while his brother, Michael, gained top honors for a joint project in fifth grade competition.

Michael Kelly teamed up with Richard Ruth to present a project concerning the solar system and the ocean floor. Another first prize winner in the fifth grade competition was Carole Covert for her project on an eclipse.

There were also two first prize winners in the sixth grade category with Timothy Kelly sharing the top honors with Mary Ellen Lippincot for her project, which involved the incubation of chicken eggs.

Fourth Grade Science Fair winners were Donald McClermon, for a chair, and Mary Gorman and Michelle Covert, for a project dealing with the planets.

One third grade first prize



Tim Kelly, a sixth grade student at St. James Grade School shows some of his entries in the school's annual Science Fair.

was awarded to Mary Ellen Temple for a bird's nest.

Two winners were selected from the second grade with James O'Brien earning a first prize for a telegraph set, while Patty Bunao, was named a first place winner with her exhibit

of a map of the Waverly area, including street, houses, and churches.

Susan Viselli, of the first grade, was the sole winner in her category. Miss Viselli presented an exhibit dealing with the four seasons of the year.



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