

Pastoral Perspective

Holy Spirit's Gifts: Discoveries in Discipleship

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

FORTITUDE

[The fourth in a series of eight meditations for the Resurrection-Pentecost season.]

Our last two meditations highlighted reverence (or Fear of the Lord) and Piety. In summary, the first is an awareness of the sacrament of the universe; the second is an acceptance of God's acceptance of man. The first looks for God's absolute "I am!" mirrored in the mystery of everything that is; the second is an adventure of response to the divine "You are mine!" One urges us to walk in wonder; the other guarantees a sense of belonging. The first touches the truth; the second savors the beauty of the Lord. The present column takes up a third gift of the Spirit, Fortitude.

One approach to fortitude is to see it as **basic paradox**: weakness transfigured into strength. In this sense fortitude is a discovery that "triumph" consists of two elements: try and oomph! In their picturesque language, I understand, the Chinese combine two signs, conflict and opportunity, to express courage. In his eloquent *Profiles in Courage*, President John F. Kennedy showcased examples of this type of fortitude. We Americans relate well to this type of courage by our psychology of the underdog, our philosophy of frontiersmanship, our Halls of Fame that celebrate the victories of moral determination over average limitations. But then no nation in history has been without its favorite shrines of heroism.

While philosophers eulogize the fulfillment of duty in the face of difficulties, theologians look to the source and motives

of courage. One group looks at the inner mechanics, the other looks to the ultimate relations. The difference is one of perspective. Perhaps the basic difference would be that the second group insists on a capital "S" for what the first group would write simply as "spirit."

The apostle Paul at least twice dramatizes the basic paradox of Christian fortitude. "He (God) chose what is weak by human standards to shame what is strong. (1 Corinthians 4:7) In another place he writes: "I am happy to make my weakness my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me. That is why I am content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions; and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong;" (2 Corinthians 12:9)

A provocative definition of fortitude as paradox would be: Fear proclaiming "I can't!" while Duty resolves "I will!" Put in theological terms, "Courage is fear that said its prayers."

Another approach to fortitude is to see it as **steadfastness or stick-to-it-iveness**. One should not downgrade the "time-release" fortitude that is manifested in the "daily grind." Indeed a serious challenge must be leveled at the mass media which gives a freak accident front page coverage, while a half-century of married love scarcely gets two inches of space on page 10.

Courage has many faces. One of the least glamorous, yet an authentic face of courage is **long-term devotion**, whether the setting is the home, the hospital ward, the classroom, the caseworker's desk, the judge's bench, the missionary's station. Wherever men make a commitment to serve with integrity and carry it out faithfully, they exhibit the more difficult courage that chooses to live, rather than die, for a cause. These are the unsung heroes — the "horizontal martyrs" whose

contribution is constancy rather than a blaze of short-lived heroism. Both types are needed, of course. Martyrs can die in two ways: once upon a time, or forever and ever.

A third approach to fortitude is to see it (in Bonhoeffer's phrase) as "the cost of discipleship." Strength of spirit, supported by the Spirit, is the price one pays to be "faithful in Christ." The Christian who has truly experienced the Spirit takes life as a "daily discovery of God," a "Yes to God's daily demands. Such a person does not merely keep the faith, but keeps it alive — and even shares it. He is not content with cheap graces — a routine, line-of-least-resistance Christianity. Rather he yearns for the "costly graces" — the institutions to higher levels of spiritual growth. This spiritual wrestling is with "impossible dreams" (namely, good undone) rather than missions accomplished. This brand of fortitude calls all of us to be, in the Spirit, more than we are, for every Christian is more than he does.

Christian discipleship is a commitment to the Christ of two gardens. In one garden fear is a moment's question enroute to courageous self-surrender. In the other glory is the endless exclamation of courage rewarded. In the beginning fear . . . in the end glory. Only fortitude can convert the first into the second. For only fortitude can bury risk and have it resurrect as victory.

Every diamond unlocks a lesson of courage. For every diamond has lived through a paradox, stuck to its task, and even paid the price. Minerologists remind us that the only difference between a piece of coal and a diamond (essentially both carbon) is that one has crystallized by bearing the pressures of the earth and sticking to the task a lot longer. These two factors make one a black lump meant for the fire, the other "the drop of liquid sunshine" at once precious and prized.



Fr. Wahl



Fr. Frankenberger



Fr. Ranalletti

Basilians Ordain 3 Priests

Three Rochester men, all Aquinas Institute and St. John Fisher College graduates, will be ordained Basilian priests Saturday, May 26, at 2 p.m., in the Church of the Annunciation by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

Father William Frankenberger, 30, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Frankenberger of 45 Doran St., with a Master of Divinity Degree (1969-72 University of Toronto) has recently been employing his B.A. degree in Spanish (1966) in parochial work at the Church of St. John Chrysostom in Mexico City. After his ordination he will continue in the Basilian Mexican Missionary Apostolate. The Frankenberger family parish, Immaculate Conception, where Father attended grade school, will witness his First Mass at 12:15, Sunday, May 27. Besides teaching at Aquinas (1966-68) and St. Thomas High in Houston (1968-69), he was involved in youth work in parishes of the Toronto Archdiocese.

subject he taught at Aquinas (1967-69), and a Master of Divinity degree from Toronto (1969-72), he was involved for some time in catechetical work in Toronto.

Corpus Christi Church, the parish where Father Ranalletti began his education, will be the scene of his First Solemn Mass at 12:15 p.m., Sunday, May 27.

Father Richard Allen Wahl, 29, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wahl, of 203 Emerson St., with degrees in History (MA, 1968 U of Detroit) and Master of Divinity (1969-72, Toronto), has been working with the Ontario Penal System, and involved in the charismatic Renewal Movement, and the past year as deacon in the Basilian parish of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. He has been appointed to Aquinas for the next school year, where he taught history in 1966-69.

Father Wahl will celebrate his first Mass in his home and grade school parish of St. Anthony of Padua on Sunday, May 27, at 12:15 p.m.

Father Richard Anthony Ranalletti, 28, son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Ranalletti, of 28 Hall St., has, in the past diaconate year, been a counselor in the Aquinas Guidance Program, and will continue in that appointment after his ordination. Besides taking a B.A. Degree in Mathematics (1966), which

Ax Divorce Ban, Anglicans Ask Eire

Dublin [RNS] — Removal of the constitutional ban on divorce in the Irish Republic was urged in a report unanimously adopted by the 102nd General Synod of the Church of Ireland (Anglican).

The report, submitted by the Role of the Church Committee, said that while the Church of Ireland was pledged to uphold the permanence of marriage, "we must face the fact that there are people . . . who disagree with the Church's unequivocal teaching and practice and maintain that in certain cases divorce is justified as being the lesser of two evils."

Rare Prisoner

Vatican Jail Put to Use

Vatican City [RNS] — One of the most closely guarded secrets in the Vatican these days revolves around a prisoner, said to be only the third or fourth person ever to have been locked up in Vatican City's two-cell jail house since the papal state came into existence in 1929.

When rumors spread that the case involved a current Rome wire-tapping scandal — the rumors claimed several phones inside the Aposolic Palace, where Pope Paul lives, were among scores of "bugged" phones in Rome — the Vatican issued a firm denial.

Vatican press officer Federico Alessandrini said that no Vatican palace phones had been tapped. He did say, however, that two telephone technicians had been questioned in connection with the theft of valuable medals.

He said that Vatican City laws prevented any disclosure on details relating to matters under judicial investigation, adding that one of the two telephone technicians had been detained

for several days "pending the outcome of a preliminary phase of the investigations."

It was the first time in decades that a person had been detained in the Vatican. Alessandrini said he could not remember how long the Vatican jail had been empty. "There must have been someone else in there after World War II," he said.

Investigating Judge Guiseppe Spinelli said he knew for sure that no one had been detained in the jail during the 22 years he has worked for the Vatican.

The medals reportedly stolen were said to be worth around \$3,500.

When investigations are completed, and in the event the suspect is ordered to stand trial, he faces two prospects. He may be tried by a Vatican court or he may be handed over to Italian authorities for trial in an Italian tribunal.

In either case, if convicted and sentenced, he would spend his jail term in an Italian prison approved by the 1929 Italian-Vatican Concordat.

Cardinal Slipyi Visits America

Toronto, Ont. [RNS] — Prior to his visit to the U.S., Ukrainian Cardinal Joseph Slipyi presided at a special Mass in Maple Leaf Gardens here before 10,000 Ukrainian Catholics. The celebration of the Mass coincided with the 10th anniversary of the prelate's release from a Siberian labor camp.

Cardinal Slipyi, 81, currently visiting the U.S., is scheduled to visit Ukrainian Catholic communities in Newark, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis-St. Paul, New York, and also make a return visit to Toronto.

Musical Show Set For E. Rochester

Images, a stage production built around popular show tunes, will be presented next weekend in East Rochester High School under the auspices of St. Jerome's parish. About 150 young people will take part. Paul Cimicata is the director.

This will be the sixth annual show sponsored by the parish. Curtain time is 8:15 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, June 1 and 2; 7:30 on Sunday. Tickets, \$1.50 for students and \$2 for adults, are available at the rectory or from cast members.