

Rediscovery of Prayer Seen Generation's Hallmark

Our generation will be remembered not for nuclear warfare or visits to the moon, but for the rediscovery of contemplative prayer.

So said Father Jean Leclercq, French Benedictine scholar, in a conference at St. Bernard's Seminary Wednesday, Dec. 4. The lecture was offered by the Department of Continuing Education of St. Bernard's as "The

Saint Bernard Lecture," in commemoration of the eighth centenary of the canonization of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, the seminary's patron saint.

Father Leclercq is professor in the Institute of Spiritual Life and the Institute of Religious Psychology at the Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. Editor of the definitive edition of the writings of St. Bernard, the great

medieval writer and monastic reformer (the Trappists trace their traditions to Bernard), Father Leclercq is a special student of the spiritual and monastic traditions of non-Christian groups like Buddhists, Mohammedans, Hindus and animists. He finds that the best level on which to meet them ecumenically is that of spirituality — retreats, prayer, etc.

Christian spirituality has learned from Eastern religions in the past. The use of beads to count prayers, for instance, was Buddhist in origin, spread to the Moslems, was brought by Moslems to Spain, and there the Dominicans in particular developed it into the Christian rosary. Today, too, we can find much to admire and imitate in the sincere prayer-practices of these faiths.

It was Father Leclercq who induced Father Thomas Merton to attend the conferences at Bangkok at which the famous American monk suffered his accidental death. The speaker believes that Merton's greatness lay in his being an ordinary American. Being thoroughly Christ-centered, however, he could take an active interest in political questions, oriental religion, and many other matters of human concern.

Contemplative prayer, for Father Leclercq, is essentially the receiving of the word of God and then returning that word to God.

Conciliation Council Elects New Officers

The diocesan Council of Conciliation has elected Msgr. Gerard Krieg, pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Scottsville, as its new chairman. Sister Josepha Kennedy, SSJ, professor in the Department of Music at Nazareth College, is secretary. They succeed Father William Graf and Miss Catherine Wobus, respectively. Officers serve one-year terms.

Three new members were welcomed to the council — Father Joseph Dailey, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake parish in Watkins Glen; Sister Mary Hilarie Gaelens, RSM, a member of the faculty of Notre Dame High School, Elmira; and Father Louis Hohman, pastor of St. Vincent dePaul parish in Churchville. Father Dailey was appointed by Bishop Hogan to replace Father Elmer Schmidt. Sister Mary Hilarie was appointed by the Sisters' Council to replace Sister Mary Lynch, SSJ. Father Hohman was elected by the Priests' Council to replace Father William Schifferli. Miss Wobus has been re-appointed by Bishop Hogan. Members are elected or appointed to three-year terms.

The Council of Conciliation

provides the initial step in the diocesan due process procedure. Its purpose is to bring together parties in the diocese who have been unable to resolve a conflict in an informal way. One or more members of the council serve as objective third party mediators to assist the conflicting parties in a mutual resolution of their conflict.

Any layman, sister or priest who is in an unresolvable conflict with an individual or institution in the diocese may initiate this "due process" procedure by contacting Bishop Hickey or any member of the Council of Conciliation.

The members (and their phone numbers) are:

Fr. Joseph Dailey (607-535-2786); Fr. William Graf (716-647-1964); Mrs. Deirdre Hetzler (716-458-5881); Fr. Louis Hohman (716-293-1400); Mrs. Jane Howe (716-473-2988); Sr. Josepha Kennedy, SSJ (716-586-2525); Msgr. Gerard Krieg (716-889-3100); Fr. John Mulligan (716-482-6211); Mr. William O'Brien (716-924-3489); Sister Mary Hilarie (607-734-2267); Miss Catherine Wobus (716-482-7636).

Pontiff to Jesuits

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self-realization will not be achieved. Hence there is the desire to be everything, the desire to do everything, and to follow indiscriminately all human and Christian vocations — those of the priest and the lay person, those of religious institutes and of secular institutes, applying oneself to spheres that are not one's own. Hence there arise dissatisfaction, improvisation and discouragement. But you have a precise vocation, that which we have just recalled, an un-

mistakably specific character in your spirituality and in your apostolic vocation.

To resolve these problems, the Pope went on, there is need for careful "discernment" that is, a prayerful consideration of all options. "You have always," the Pope told the assembled Jesuit delegates, "to distinguish with absolutely lucid and consequential clarity between the demands of the world and those of the Gospel, with its paradox of death and life, of cross and resurrection, of folly and wisdom."

Gregory, Jackson

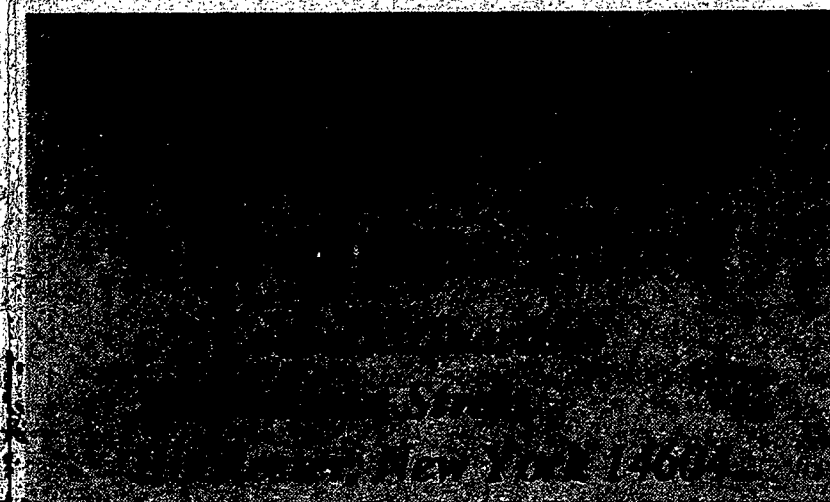
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stitution that would promote the value and dignity of every human life.

The 42-year-old father of 10, who sees in youth the "strong moral force capable of saving the nation," is currently involved in bringing attention to the world food shortage, particularly in Africa. He termed efforts toward population control the work of the wealthy elite seeking to exploit natural resources by limiting births.

Mr. Jackson, a Baptist minister who was a close associate of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., said it is not the genocidal aspect of the pro-abortion movement that "bothers me" as much as the effect on people "who operate without any sacred absolutes."

"You can't kill people just because they're in your way," he declared. "We are born in debt to a legacy of life" and "we repay that debt by the perpetuation and growth of life."



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