

Opinion

Detroit Finances Explained

Editor:

I would like to respond to Louis Pasqua's two questions pertaining to the Detroit Conference on "Women in Future Priesthood—A Call to Action" which appeared in the Courier-Journal (1-14-76):

1. Who financed the conference?

Thirty-one persons met to decide if there should be a conference, the affirmative decision resulted in the creation of a taskforce entrusted with the responsibility of bringing the conference into being. The taskforce was composed of married, single, and Religious women who had a conviction but no funds.

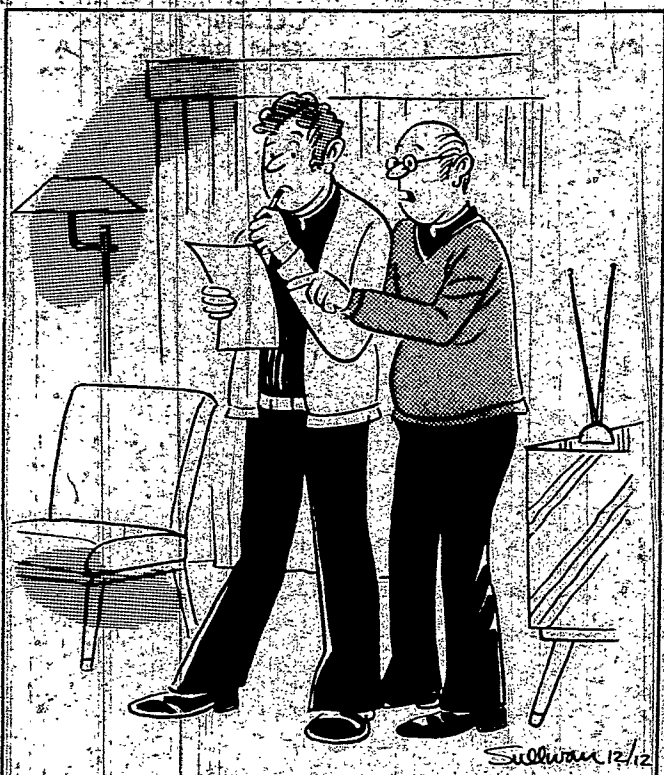
A finance committee was appointed. Funds were solicited from the bishops (only a few responded with financial support), seminaries, congregations of religious women, friends, the Taskforce members personal contributions, anonymous donations, and through a response to a request for funds solicited in an ad which appeared in the National Catholic Reporter. Expenses far exceeded income until shortly before the conference. The many small contributions which did come in, however, gave the taskforce members some of the needed courage to continue.

The registration fee together with the above "seed" money did cover expenses adequately and there is now a surplus to be used to continue the monumental task. One of the taskforce members served as financial director and the books have been prepared for audit.

Taskforce members were requested to acknowledge the amount of their contributed services; this, not for reimbursement purposes, but to have a more realistic and accurate record of costs. That is probably how the "quarter of a million" dollar figure was arrived at, which figure I have not read to date.

2. You ask, "Will a quarter of a million dollars also be available to challengers of priestesses?"

I don't know. Have you enough dedicated people to do the necessary research on the question? Can you bond together deeply enough to commit yourselves to the cause which involves an inestimable number of hours? Can you weather the emotional hassle of the opposition over a long period of time? are you in the deepest recesses of your heart willing to let the Church be less Church because you are unwilling to assent to that which maybe could be? If you answer "Yes" to these questions,



FRED OSBORN WOULD BE A GOOD VACATION COMPANION! HE SPEAKS ABOUT 40 WORDS A MINUTE IN CITY DRIVING AND ABOUT 60 WORDS A MINUTE ON THE OPEN HIGHWAY!

Editorial

Detente and B-1

One of the biggest issues of this bicentennial year will be the B-1 bomber with its high cost and questionable effectiveness.

Each one of these huge planes will cost \$86 million and a fleet of 244 is planned at a total cost of \$20.6 billion. Those opposed to the plane claim that the total cost when weapons, fuel, operation and maintenance of the fleet is taken into account will be \$91.5 billion over the next 30 years.

Now it would be foolhardy for anyone from this vantage point to attempt to pass arbitrary judgment on the necessity of the planes. Unfortunately, the world is a treacherous place and despite detente and cocktails the possibility of trusting Moscow or Peking is tenuous at best.

Still it behooves the American people to ask some important questions of our military-industrial complex. For instance, is this supersonic bomber necessary in an age of rockets and nuclear submarines? If they are, then conversely it should be wondered if the \$1 billion we pay for each Trident submarine can be used elsewhere.

Proponents of the B-1 not only say it is necessary for the national safety but also point out that it will provide jobs at General Electric, Rockwell International and Boeing. However, it should be asked if \$20.6 billion or \$92 billion were put into other sectors of the economy, such as needed housing, wouldn't even more jobs be provided? B-1 opponents claim this is the case.

The American Friends Service Committee, openly opposed to construction of the B-1, says that if spent for college operating costs, the \$86 million cost of one B-1 would keep nine community colleges, each serving 10,000 students in business for a year.

Of course, statistics can be shaped to fit any argument. Regardless we think that there are enough moral, pragmatic and economic questions raised by the planned construction of the bombers that every American, certainly every thinking American, must give it extra attention and analysis. And we must let our elected officials know of our concerns.

The Real Story

In a recent editorial, we mentioned that miracles are all about us if we take the proper perspective to see them. In line with that thought, we appreciate a recent story in Newsprint, an ecumenical newsletter.

In Grannis, Ark., population 177, some 25 persons recently holed up in a house awaiting the end of the world and the second coming of Christ. For a time, a great deal of attention was centered on Grannis because of these folks.

Grannis residents got a little perturbed over the attention because they feel the real news is that 260 Vietnamese refugees have been resettled in their town — with 100 jobs provided at an area chicken-processing plant — and there are 75 refugee children in the schools. Two Catholic priests among the refugees have received a donation of land for a Catholic church, although the community is primarily Protestant.

As Newsprint points out, "Some kind of a second coming may already have occurred." It only takes eyes that see.

and others, then I don't doubt but that 1/4 million will be available to the "challengers of priestesses" — and the money will come from the blood, sweat, tears and supporters of the challengers.

Welcome aboard: to resolve any issue the best of the pros and cons need to be researched and studied. For your sincere interest in the question — although I suspect we represent the two poles of the issue — thank you.

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Conversions The Aim

Editor:

It is very praiseworthy to see your promotion of prayer for Unity week. This has brought about many conversions since it was started by Father Paul of Graymoor. However, he would be the first one to say it is dangerous for a Catholic to believe you can bring about unity through prayer — unless there is also unity of belief in the one true faith.

Father Paul tried for 10 years to bring the whole Episcopal order into the Catholic church and found you cannot graft a dead branch onto a living vine — only through personal conversions is this possible.

Interfaith Churches are the result of believing in unity through prayer.

Mary Kelly
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A TM Experience

Editor:

In response to Father Graf's article, TM — "Not a Religion" — permit us to share our experience with TM three years ago.

In the TM initiation ritual we were asked to bring flowers, an apple and a white handkerchief. These were placed on an altar in front of a picture of Guru Dev, where incense was burned, accompanied with bowing and chanting. Through a teachers handbook, entitled The Holy Tradition, we were enlightened that the above ritual is most important and the heart of this ceremony is the "puja," a Sanskrit hymn of worship which the instructor recites before imparting the mantra. (The mantra is a secret Sanskrit word, found also to be worship to ancient Hindu gods.) The English translation of the puja consists of a recitation of names, representing the line of "apostolic succession" through which the "holy knowledge" of the mantras has been passed. Maharishi's spiritual master, Guru Dev, along with other deities recognized by classical Hinduism, are exalted and given homage through chants of adoration and bowing.

If the candidate refuses to bring an offering or objects to the ritual, he will not be initiated. So, the idea that you can separate Transcendental Meditation as a religion from the technique of TM, we found to be false. It is religious in character and worshipful in intent and the candidate is involved actively and passively.

As Christians, we have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and made Him Lord of our lives. Yet, the TM philosophy is basically one of turning into yourself for inner peace. Ultimately, we make little gods unto ourselves, pulling down His Lordship, for through SELF we attain freedom from stress, peace and relaxation. And now, who gets the glory?

Yes, TM works, but we saw the subtlety of Satan, once again appealing to man's ego and offering us the same package of deception which caused his own fall and that of Eve.

Read a few of many Bible Scriptures warning us of deception and His promises to be our source of peace. (1 Tim. 4:1, Prov. 14:12, 1 Cor. 1:19, John 14:6, 27, Matt. 11:28, Phil. 4:7, Isaiah 26:3).

Remember, Satan is an expert in counterfeiting what God has already promised and ordained us to do. Be still — meditate on Me, and thy meditations shall be sweet. (Psalm 104). In summary, we have found true peace, spending time in real communion with God, meditation upon His Word and being led by His Holy Spirit. It can't compare with TM's "vain repetition" of mantras.

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'Glory to God' Brings Peace

Editor:

TM brings peace? The angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace among men of good will." Giving glory brings peace.

I'm 72 so it's been tried and it's true. Praise the Lord!

Mrs. Lucy Martin
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Charismatics Not 'Anti-Intellectual'

Editor:

Father Andrew Greeley continually criticizes charismatic renewal for being anti-intellectual. The fact of the matter is that people who have experienced the baptism with the Holy Spirit hunger to know more of God. They are intensely aware of the importance of spiritual reading and Bible study. There is a great wealth of spiritual insights that has grown out of the charismatic renewal. This beautifully complements the traditional spirituality of the Church.

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Pope Is Final Arbiter

Editor:

We offer these quotations and words from Father John McKee's book The Enemy Within the Gate (Lumen Christi Press, 1974) as our comment on the presentations recently displayed in a local Catholic church, during which some rather liberal opinions were spoken concerning Catholic morals:

"A point which must be faced is: if the pope is to be the source of unity then, as St. Thomas Aquinas maintained, it falls to him to say the final word as to what things are of faith (Many say). But I do not hold that this matter is of divine revelation. Therefore I deny your competence to teach it. Those who maintain this line have not grasped the *raison d'être* of the papacy; that by the appointment of a Head, the occasion of schism may be taken away.

"Vatican II, in the Declaration of Religious Freedom, laid down that it is the Church's duty to declare and confirm by Her authority those principles of the moral order which have their origins in human nature itself. It is accordingly the Pope's duty, and a Catholic cannot appoint himself arbiter of the scope of tradition."

Since the earliest days of the Church, when she was begun on the rock called Peter, clergymen have spoken their human opinions to her. Thank God for the Father John McKees who choose to speak for her.

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