



By Ben Susso

Queen of Peace Parish Plans Annual Dance

The annual Dinner Dance of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brighton has been scheduled for Friday, March 12, at the Oak Hill Country Club. A St. Patrick's Day theme has been chosen by the co-chairmen, Dr. and Mrs. Nino Trunfio and Dr. and Mrs. J. Paul Lortie, who have selected "The Irish Jig" as title for the event.

Queen of Peace Church, and their guests are welcome. For further information: Mrs. Ida McVeigh, 244-0386.

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Sr. Margaret Traxler

Women Will Be Priests

By MARTIN TOOMBS

Women will be ordained priests, and will do work that is now left undone because of a shortage of male priests, in the opinion of Sister Margaret Traxler, a School Sister of Notre Dame.

She said that "people should not be afraid or anxious" about female priests, noting the role women played in Jesus' life, and that "Jesus never refused the request of a woman."

Sister Margaret was in Rochester as the director of the Institute of Women Today at the Jewish Community Center Feb. 29 and March 1. The institute is a traveling workshop, based in Chicago, that examines women's role in the modern world.

While noting that "I myself don't feel called to ordination," Sister Margaret stated that "I do want women to minister to me." She emphasized that "it isn't that we in any sense reject the teaching authority of the church" but that disagreement over the issue indicates a need of further examination.

Sister Margaret responded to the following questions during an exclusive interview at the institute:

How would you explain women priests to those already upset by the changes since Vatican II?

I would go to the life and ministry of Jesus. Jesus was surrounded by women who ministered to him and who carried the good news about him. The first person he sent to his apostles after His resurrection was Mary Magdalene. And then, incidentally, they didn't believe her and they had to run to see for themselves which was all right, it was such amazing good news. Jesus never refused the request of a woman. And so I see this as a return to the true spirit of Jesus, his ministry and the gospel.

People shouldn't be afraid or anxious. Women in asking for the priesthood aren't thinking of it as real estate or parish boundaries. They're not thinking of it from the viewpoint of power. I honestly believe they want to be priests so they can be conduits of sacramental grace. They want to take the word of God to the poor, and they want to live with the poor, like the poor. I think it will be a different kind of ministry, and I don't think priests or lay people should fear at all.

Then you see female priests doing different work than male?

I would think in many instances, yes. For example, I visit many homes for the elderly, which are visited by priests maybe once a month. I think that there would be women in residence in those homes. It would be a different call.

Even conservative demographers who talk about world population say that in the year 2000 the Christian community will be only 11 per cent of the population. We're going to have to take the word of God and we're going to have to work with zeal if we want Christianity to be at least preached and announced.

Do you see the ordination of women as a need, or as a right?

I see it as both a need and a right. I don't know why it ever came within the tradition of the church to exclude half of the Christian community from the priesthood. Of course in the time of Jesus the socio-economic situation was such that the position of women would have not tolerated His appointing them or calling them. We know from the Acts of the Apostles that there were female deacons, and so it isn't a matter of right or justice, it's a matter of what God wants, and I think God wants this. No man has any right to say what God wants or doesn't want. It isn't that we in any sense reject the teaching authority of the church but they must be serious when they address themselves to this question. Because why is half the church

feeling one thing, hearing one thing, and the other half hearing it according to sex?

I feel that a miracle will come, and that Jesus is going to work that miracle. He will work it through Pope Paul, or through the assembly of bishops, but it will come, I really believe it.

Some people suggest that women should not be ordained now because people aren't ready for it. What is your reaction?

Oh, the people weren't ready for the discovery of the wheel, or they weren't ready for the discovery of fire, or television, or nuclear energy. Those things come. As a woman religious of 34 years, I want women ministers to celebrate the liturgy for me. I myself don't feel called to ordination, but I do want women to minister to me, to administer the sacrament of penance to me.

This is not an attack on men. This is an appeal for men to hear, that we also have needs.

Doesn't the Bible prohibit women's direct involvement in liturgies?

No, I see this as growing from the Bible. I see women's liberation as a true translation of what God really wanted. Anything that frees a person has to come from God. I think it translates the Bible into very efficacious action.

Ecumenical Gathering Studies 'Women's Place'

The Institute of Women Today drew 75 women of various faiths to the Jewish Community Center for two days of lectures and workshops. Several Catholic laywomen and 11 sisters from the diocese attended. The institute, sponsored by the Women's Interfaith Coalition, examined the religious and historic roots of women's liberation.

Sister Betty Rogers, a Cenacle sister, noted that the speakers were "very professional" and that the institute was "consciousness raising" for her. Ordination of women was not a major issue, she explained, as the conference examined women's position in the whole of society. Scriptural references to women's role and how they have been interpreted were examined, she added. The good ecumenical mix at the in-

stitute, Sister Betty felt, resulted in interesting small group discussions.

Sister Kathleen Kircher of Nazareth Academy cited the talk by Ralla Klepak on women and the law as a high point of the conference, as she explained the sex discrimination written into present laws. Sister Kathleen said that several women changed their opinion of the Equal Rights Amendment as a result of the discussion. She said she was glad of the opportunity to discuss women's issues with women of different faiths.

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