

Sr. Margaret Farley:

Women, Men Equal Persons'

By MARTIN TOOMBS Southern Tier Editor

Ithaca—Speaking on "Justice and the Role of Women in the Church," Sister Margaret Farley told the Sage Convocation March 27 that it's "false to think that God cannot be represented by a woman."

The logical conclusion, she said, is that "women and men are equal persons." If "women's experience today has told them anything," she stated, "it is that they should claim their position as human persons."

Sister Margaret, a Sister of Mercy, was Dean Sage speaker at Sage Chapel, Cornell. She is an associate professor of Ethics at Yale University Divinity School, and holds a PhD in Religious Studies from Yale.

It surprises many women, Sister Margaret said, when they find that many current Church laws are based on the idea "of women as embodying evil." The female is "seen as the seducer of Adam," and women "appear in Christian writing through the ages," as instruments of evil, she said.

Paradoxically, women also became the symbol of all virtue, she noted. Women were placed on a pedestal and "extolled as paradigms of virtue," she said, and became

responsible for their children's virtue. The result was that "women were relegated to ordered spheres," either marriage or cloister, she said.

Justice for women means "neither oppressing them nor placing them on a pedestal," Sister Margaret stated.

Explicit use of woman as a symbol of evil may be changing, she said, but the implicit effects still exist. She noted that when extraordinary ministers began distributing Communion, many persons "would refuse to receive Communion from the hand of a woman."

The attitude toward women can also be seen in the "preponderance of sexual laws," she noted, especially when compared with those for lying, stealing and "even homicide."

Sister Margaret pointed out that even though we now know that women aren't less intelligent than men, and are not "misbegotten males," the attitude that women are "secondary derivatives, destined to be followers, not leaders," is still influential.

"It's false to change laws but not attitudes," Sister Margaret added. Only when attitudes toward women change will women be able to fill an equal role, she concluded.



Sister Margaret speaking in Sage Chapel on the Cornell University campus.

SOUTHERN TIER AUBURN-GENEVA

Honesty Discussed At Seminar on Dying

Ithaca—A seminar on death and dying drew 50 persons to St. Catherine's of Siena recently. They heard Marggy Kerr, Dr. Jules Burgevin, a professor at Ithaca College, and W. Jack Lewis, a Cornell chaplain, discuss their perspective on dying and grief.

The positive changes that occurred before her husband's death were explained by Ms. Kerr.

Her husband, Bill, died four years ago, during Lent. He walked openly into his own death" much as Christ had, she said. She credited that to the honest relationship she and her husband and their children developed. That honesty "let us live in the open as a family," she related. Knowing the possibilities didn't eliminate fear, she added, but leaving them unknown and unspoken would have increased stress. She noted that the openness made the situation much less fearful for their children.

The open relationship meant that problems could be resolved quickly, she said, leaving energy "to celebrate Bill's living."

The months before her husband died were "a very rich six months," she emphasized. She summarized four changes that occurred during that time: she found that their lives became simplified; they lived more fully and could relate more deeply; she experienced

trust, and she gained a feeling of eternity. "I feel like I have one foot in eternity because Bill is there," she commented.

W. Jack Lewis, a Presbyterian minister, commented that he wished more people could handle such situations with such honesty. It is more common for people to deny death, he said, causing a situation in which no one is willing to face reality. He admitted that he doesn't know how to deal with such situations. Those who deny death are missing the benefits of a relationship such as Ms. Kerr described, he said.

Ms. Kerr was asked how best to help someone who was in a crisis concerning a death. She said that the most important thing is to "express your love" and "support each other by saying: in some way I love you, I care about you."

"Community love," expressed by neighbors and friends, "is a real, tangible thing," she reported, and something that provided great support for her and her children.

One way of acknowledging death, Burgevin said, is by designing your own funeral. He noted that his funeral is completely planned. He added that not preparing can also be valuable for survivors, as it gives them something to become involved with immediately after a death.

NAS Inducts New Members

Horseheads—Twenty-four men were received into the Nocturnal Adoration Society on Sunday, March 20, at St. Mary Our Mother Church.

10 p.m. and watch until 7 a.m. Saturday morning. The parish is divided into nine regions and the members from each region watch for one hour.

The Nocturnal Adoration Society chapter was established by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan a few years ago because of a strong interest on the part of the men of the parish to watch before the Blessed Sacrament.

In their Act of Consecration, the new members pledged: "As a member of the Nocturnal Adoration Society, I promise to live that belief, to consider the Holy Eucharist as the center of my spiritual life, to witness its vitality in the world, and through it, to let You work Your divine plan in me."

The members meet on First Friday each month at

Consultant Appointed

Elmira—Michael V. Sobel, MD, has been named part-time consultant in Rheumatology for the Southern Tier Institute of Rehabilitation of St. Joseph's Hospital, effective March 29. Dr. Sobel will provide consultation and treatment of Rheumatic and Arthritic diseases.

Dr. Sobel is presently in a similar capacity at the Tompkins County Hospital, Ithaca, and is an assistant professor at the Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse. A graduate of Cornell University and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, he completed his internship and residency in Wisconsin, and served fellowships in Rheumatology and Immunology at Strong Memorial Hospital and at the Cornell University College of Medicine, New York City.

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Retreat Scheduled

There will be a retreat for Human Development Committee members on Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30, at the rectory in Rexville, in southern Steuben County. The retreat will begin at 7:30 Friday evening and end at 5 p.m. Saturday. Retreat master will be Father Charles Mulligan, diocesan Director of Social Ministry.

DSG Meets

The retreat is for committee members of Steuben, Chemung, Schuyler, Tompkins and Tioga counties. The first 20 registrants will be accepted; the cost is \$10, \$5 with registration, and the remainder at the retreat. Interested persons may contact Father Neil Miller, 517 Park Place, Elmira, 734-9784, or Sister Mary Kluckow, 108 Griffith St., Corning, 936-6175.

Where did I get the idea your mother is an invalid? I was glad to be informed that she is not, but that you are a good son to her.

We have never been intimate friends. In fact your restricting your gifts to the parish of St. Patrick while the Church is harassed by the anti-dogma, anti-authority sociologists has been a sore point with me. I have long thought that you should have taken the role of a modern St. Lawrence of Brundisi, leading the troops against the modern Turks. But if friendship has not been intimate, my gratitude for your devotion to the Church, and for your gifts to serve her has been great. May that beloved Church of ours be well-served in your new apostolate: author, lecturer, and maker of teaching tapes.

Burn Unit Work Starts

Elmira—Construction work has begun on the \$300,000, four bed, self-contained specialized Burn Services Area at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Planning for the project began in February 1974, and is being financed through an Appalachian Regional Commission grant and nearly \$65,000 in contributions made by residents, organizations and firefighter fund-raising efforts in New York and Pennsylvania.

Seminary, your name and fame is great, but limited to the priests and seminarians of that era. Eleven years as St. Patrick's pastor extended your name and appreciation of your gifts, but again, limitedly.

I am happy that you are going to write. God knows, priests with a profound background of Catholic dogmatic theology and patrology seem to be a relatively silent if not a suppressed species; while the anti-dogma social activists, e.g. the crowd at Cobo Hall, Detroit, too often have seized the seats of the teachers.

Of course, 45 years ago we did not have cassette tapes and lectures available. Now the spoken word is reproduced continuously on tapes, and I hope that you will utilize this great tapes apostolate. Father J.J. said: "I love to hear him preach. He has substance. He delivers his talks as a great teacher. And he has a felicitous flare with words to make his teachings memorable."

Last Friday I phoned Pomfret, Md., which produces the Sheen Conferences given to priests in Washington. Father Wedow had ordered both the Gary and Washington Sheen sets Thursday, when I was at the clergy get-together at Fr. Ray Wahl's in Auburn. I was out of the Washington sets,

ON THE RIGHT SIDE Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

TO: Father Joseph M. Egan, Elmira:

A loyal parishioner from Elmira put me over the hurdles. She wrote: "I am sure that our Pastor needs no one to defend him, but your reference to him in your column in the 3/16 issue of the Courier was not a true statement..." She kindly, or pointedly, enclosed the series of analyses of the Call to Action affair which you had published in your parish bulletin. My regret is that you limited your incisive thoughts to the people of St. Patrick's, rather than sharing them through the Courier with the Grass Roots people.

Your bouncy associate, Fr. P. J. Ryan, sent me your bulletin in which you "plead not guilty of the charge" which I allegedly had made about your indifference concerning the Detroit debacle. That was not a charge. It was a lamentation. I lament over the hostility of priests and Sisters toward the Holy Father and the Holy See. It usually is couched in cagey expressions like: "We respect the Pope and the Magisterium." They then proceed to insinuate that Pope Paul is not with it; and the Magisterium is special game for attack.

Excepting for the Elmira area I doubt that most of the Grass Roots people of the diocese know you are. Our priests certainly do. Having taught for 21 years at Old St. Bernard's