

Swidlers See Rome's 'No' As Plus in Women's Role

By JOHN DASH

The "absolutely uncommon dedication" of Leonard and Arlene Swidler to the cause of women's ministries in the Church was heralded last week after a round-robin of mistakes and confusions with airlines forced the couple to undertake a seven and a half hour car journey from their home in Philadelphia to Rochester.

Here to address a conference sponsored by the Rochester Regional Task Force on Women in the Church, the Swidlers, both known nationally for their work in ecumenism and the question of women in ministry, spoke on the recent Vatican declaration which reaffirmed the Church's practice of excluding women from Holy Orders.

"A 'felix culpa' is Leonard's description of the statement. (In Roman Catholic liturgy, Original Sin is referred to as a 'felix culpa', a happy fault, because it occasioned the Incarnation and Redemption.)

Noting, "I don't think there's any doubt but that it

has been helpful," to the cause of expanding women's ministry in the Church, Arlene concurred.

Knowing last week that the question would arise in the U.S. Catholic bishop's conference, as a result of the "Call to Action" program, Leonard commented that the Vatican's declaration "has the opposite effect of what was intended." People, he said, who hadn't thought much of the question before the declaration "have now become quite irate. . . have felt quite insulted either for themselves or for their sisters. These people now find themselves either for or actively behind the move for women's ordination in the Catholic Church, where they were not before."

Yet, Arlene noted, the question has been bubbling for a number of years, and is not strictly an American phenomenon, as she admits, is a fiction the media and the proponents of women's orders have allowed the American church to believe.

Overseas, she said "a lot of research was done 10 or 15 years ago and the subject was discussed among theologians, and academic types."

Not until "a large number of women came forth to say that they were interested in being ordained, did the question become a real one a living one.

"And so, the Vatican response after that becomes very important," Arlene said.

Regarding a recent Gallup Poll which indicated an attitude shift of 15 per cent of the American public toward a more favorable view of women clerics in the Catholic Church, Leonard cited what he considers a real "sign of progress."

"New ideas are ignored in the first stage," he said; "Then new ideas are taken notice of and laughed at," in the second stage.

In the last stage, "Those in the positions of power, where they can be affected by the new idea, really begin to think this is a serious issue, and then they begin to resist it actively. And that's what's happened here on the highest level of the Roman Catholic Church.

"Evidently, we are now in the third stage and I think that's real progress," he said.

COURIER-CALENDAR

Lilac Time - Highland Park's annual celebration of horticultural marvels opens at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 15, with ceremonies at the geometrical pansy bed on Highland Avenue. Lilac gardens to be floodlit until 11 p.m. each night next week.

Queenship of Mary - St. Louis Rosary Guild celebration, Monday, May 16; Mass, crowning ceremony, 6 p.m.; banquet at Pittsford Tavern on the Mall. Reservations: Mrs. Patrick Gough, 381-2537.

Two Faculty Art Shows - At Memorial Art Gallery, works of Creative Workshop teachers, through May 26; at National Technical Institute for the Deaf on RIT campus, works of institute teachers, through May 18.

Festival, Garage Sale - At St. Philip Neri, May 20, 21, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Sale items may be left at school Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. For pickup service: Mary Montana, 482-0080; Celeste Palermo, 288-0496.

Roots - Free showings of television series based on Alex Haley's book are scheduled for nearly all branch libraries. Now in progress at Edgerton on Mondays; Mendon, Wednesdays; Wheatley Community Library, Thursdays; Charlotte, Tuesdays, all at 7 p.m.

Divorced Catholics - Northeast group card party, 7:30 p.m. May 15, St. Joseph's School, 43 Gebhardt Road, Penfield. Players should bring cards and snacks; all interested invited.

Mercy Benefit - Entertainment entitled 1008 Broadway, performed by St. Rita's school children at school, 1008 Maple Drive, 7:30 tonight; and tomorrow, for Mercy Sisters Infirmary Fund

Art History Lecture - Whistler at Odds with Almost Everyone, illustrated, by Sylvia Davis, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 17, Memorial Art Gallery; sponsored by Rochester Art Club, free.

Maytime Magic - Party prepared by Concepts '77, a group of Nazareth College enthusiasts, for Friday, May 20, in Shults Center on campus; dinner, dancing, entertainment, 7 p.m.-1 a.m. For details, reservations: 586-3072.

Justice Forum - A Handbook for Abolitionists reviewed by Supreme Court Justice David O. Boehm' 12:15 p.m. May 18, 101 S. Plymouth. Today's topic: Battered Women.

Calendar items should be mailed to the Courier-Journal Calendar Desk, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Deadline is Wednesday noon, one week ahead of the publication date.

The Progress of Peoples

Rich Dismiss Encyclical

Rome (RNS)-Ten years after the publication of Pope Paul's encyclical on "The Development of Peoples," in which the pontiff stressed the responsibility of rich nations to help poor nations, developed countries appear to be more involved in political squabbling than in pursuit of the ideals espoused in the papal document.

Recently, for example, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ended a two-day meeting in Geneva, unable to agree on how to set up a fund for commodity-price stabilization that experts agree could help to narrow the gap between rich and poor nations.

A newly-released "multivision" audio-visual slide program, produced under Catholic Church auspices in Rome, is designed to illustrate, with graphic immediacy, what its sponsors call "the global crisis that threatens mankind."

The film also says that the developed world is not only using most of the natural resources, but it is polluting the environment as well.

The same point was made in a recent report published by the International Institute of Labor Studies, a Geneva based section of the United Nations. Its director, Albert Tevoedjre, 47, was recently in Rome to discuss the report with members of the Vatican's Commission for Justice and Peace. Tevoedjre, of Benin (formerly Dahomey), said "the natural way of life for millions of human beings in the Third World is almost total deprivation."

He said that such a situation called for massive help on the part of the world's rich nations. Leading to what he called "contracts of solidarity." Under such "contracts" he explained, rich and poor countries would come together to negotiate the transfer of resources.

The 55-minute multivision show, called "One Earth" vividly depicts the problems of the "haves," who have too much and use too many of the world's resources, and the "have-nots," who are undernourished or even starving. It stresses the point that unless the growing imbalance is short circuited, the "resulting chaos" may lead to global destruction.

The recorded com-

mentary, emphasizing that the problem is not in-sufficiency of food in the world, but "bad distribution and too much waste," points out that 15,000 people die every day of starvation, and that nearly 500 million people suffer from malnutrition while a like number of people suffer from problems connected with over-eating.



Bath

St. Mary's Prayer Group, 32 E. Morris St., 14810 Mary Giblin, 776-6726. Tuesdays.

Caledonia

St. Columba's Prayer Group 198 North Street, 14423 Loretta Parnell, 538-2378 Saturday, 8 p.m.

Canandaigua

St. Mary Prayer Group, St. Mary's School, Bob Abraham 394-2955. Tuesdays 8:00 p.m.

Corning

Corning Charismatic Prayer Group, St. Patrick's School 280 Denison Parkway E. 14830 Mark Casey, 962-2148; Leo Thomas, 962-2027. Thursdays 7:30 p.m.

St. Mary's House of Prayer, 161 State St. 14836 Sisters Mary Ann and Cornelia.

Elmira

St. Mary's Church Prayer Group, Marion Center, Fulton-Franklin Sts. 14904.

Geneeoc

Agape - St. Mary's Church 10 Ward Place Wed. 10:00 a.m. 243-0141 (men & women)

St. Michael's Prayer Group 23 Main St. Geneeoc Sunday 7:30 Charismatic Service 8:15 Prayer Meeting Mary Derley 243-2775

Geneve

St. Stephen's Charismatic Community, DeSales High School, 14456, Jack O'Malley 789-5770. Mondays, 8:15 p.m.

Greece

Precious Blood Prayer Group, 133 Stonecliff Rd. Larry and Helen Kavanaugh 663-9327. Thursdays 8 p.m.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Prayer Group, St. Lawrence Library, 1000 N. Greece Rd. Klaus and Renate Schultz 392-9646. Fridays 8 p.m.

Hamlin

Chadash Prayer Group, 830 Clarkson-Hamlin T.L. Rd. Helen and Warren Lynch 964-2498. Wednesdays 8 p.m.

Henrietta

Good Shepherd Prayer Group Good Shepherd School Chapel Fred & Madeline Gabriel Call 334-7408 for day & time.

Horseheads

Bob and Donna Lamm 739-0234. Mondays 7:30 p.m.

Lima

Marantha Prayer Group, 7369 E. Main St. Bill and Bobbie Buechel 624-4259. Wednesdays 8 p.m.

St. Rose's Church Prayer Group, 1985 Lake Ave. 14456 Jean Labore

Mount Morris

St. Patrick's Church Convent Stanley St. Charles Garagozzi 658-4660 or 658-3413 Thursdays 8 p.m.

Newark

Fred and Ann Burgess, West Union St. 14513. Saturdays 9 p.m.

Ontario

St. Mary of the Lake Prayer Group, 139 Waiworth Rd. 14519 John Brooks 524-8805. Leo Nycz 524-9684. Thursdays 8 p.m.

Penfield

Holy Spirit Prayer Group Pland and Hatch Rds. 14526 Tom Meagher 671-2944. Fridays 8 p.m.

St. Joseph's Church

School AV Room Bob and Beverly Hess 271-5339 Thursdays 7:30 p.m.

Pine City

Mt. Saviour Monastery Prayer Group, Brother John 734-1688. Tuesdays 8:30 p.m.

Pittsford

Armand and Cathy Tanquay, 311 Tobey Rd. 14534 381-1949. Fridays 8 p.m.

Rochester

Emmanuel, St. John's Convent 150 Floverton St., 14610 Judy Costello 654-9597. Wednesday 9:30 a.m.

102 Frederick Dr. Joe and Betty Gray 436-6127. Friday 8 p.m.

Holy Apostle School, 2 Austin St. 14806. Joe DelVecchio 328-4990. Monday 7:30 p.m. Prayer and Praise: Wednesday 7 p.m. Bible Study

Holy Cross Prayer Group, 4488 Lake Ave. 621-7418; 663-5351. Wednesday 8 p.m.

3000 St. Paul Blvd. Don and Mary Lou Mikel 266-3749. Wednesday 8 p.m.

St. Ambrose Prayer Group, St. Ambrose School, 31 Empire Blvd. Ruth and Bob Dodge 288-2930. Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

St. Andrews Church, 923 Portland Ave. 544-2172 Thursday 8 p.m. Joe & Pauline Marotta

St. Anne's Prayer Group, 1600 Mt. Hope Margaret Whittney 461-1656. Thursday 8 p.m.

St. Augustine's Prayer Community, 410 Chili Ave. John and Betty Bunce 235-0235. Tuesday 8:30 p.m.

St. Charles Borromeo Church (Nursery) 131 Rae Dr. John Taffner 227-5579. Thursday 8 p.m.

St. Mark's and St. John's Prayer Group, 1245 Culver Rd. Rev. W. Mitchell 654-9229. Mr. E. Miller 467-1561. Friday 7:45 p.m.

St. Michael's Prayer Group, 3681 Lake Ave. William and Mary Buechel 663-7645. Tuesday 8 p.m.

St. Michael's (Women's) Prayer Group, 3681 Lake Ave. Mary Buechel 663-7645. Wednesday 10:30 a.m.

St. Pius the Tenth Prayer Community, 3000 Chili Ave. Bob Dunning 247-3740. Wednesday 8 p.m.

Santo Spirito, St. Francis School, 314 Bay St. Jose Malave 342-7750. Thursday 7 p.m.

Mother of Sorrows Church, 5000 Mt. Road Blvd. Tom Kluchko 665-0163 John Gellell 865-2966 Thursday 8 p.m.

St. Cecilia's Prayer Group, 50 Sandon Circle Joyce and Gene Mielteiski 342-5785. Thursday 7:30 p.m.

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