



Mass

Becket Hall at St. John Fisher College celebrated its 10th anniversary on Friday, October 7, with mass and a reception following the service. Above, from left, Fathers Vincent Panepinto, John Hempel, Thomas Statt, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, Father Michael Conboy, Father Louis Hohman, Stephen Dutille and Father Gerald Connor.

## Nobelist's Work Seen Important to Theology

Austin, Tex. (RNS) — Awarding of the 1977 Nobel Prize for chemistry to Ilya Prigogone pays recognition to a theoretician whose formulations have had profound influence beyond science to affect philosophical and theological thought.

But he himself dismisses partisanship for one or another ideological viewpoint.

Of his work, he's said, "I knew it could lead to many interpretations of the universe, including even a Marxist interpretation. I prefer to regard it, however, as a tool of understanding."

The 60-year-old Russian-born scientist, whose family fled the Bolsheviks in 1921, divides his time between the University of Texas here and the Brussels Free University. He won his laurels for showing how the evolution

of life fitted in with a natural scheme of things and did not contradict a classic law of physics.

That law — the second law of thermodynamics — states that in any process involving a flow of energy there is always some loss. For instance, a steam engine will run down, not go on forever. Why then, scientists puzzled, in the living world has there been an increase in order and organization, culminating in the most complex organism of all, man?

The riddle's been kicking around for a century. A number of theoreticians have tried to answer it, notably the late Austrian physicist Erwin Schroedinger, who suggested that energy loss must occur in a closed system but not an open one. An organism draws upon its environment, he said, "sucking orderliness from its environment."

Dr. Prigogone advanced that concept through precise mathematical formulas first developed 30 years ago. The concept of an organism in an open system has since gone

beyond the biological to help explain growth of cities, organizations and even efforts of the human species to leap into space.

Students of the late Jesuit Father Pierre Teilhard de Chardin see in Dr. Prigogone's formulations further evidence of a universe ever increasing in complexity as part of a divinely inspired plan. The culmination of evolution, Father Teilhard wrote, lies in a mystical union of creation with the Creator.

DAY IN COURT

People who want to know more about the criminal justice system may have their day in court under the auspices of Church Women United. Everyone is invited to attend a 9 a.m.-2 p.m. session Oct. 28 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh. There will be a tour of county and city courts, a review of criminal court procedures, conversation with lawyers at a brown-bag lunch and a talk on citizen involvement. The CWU Task Force on Courts asks for reservations by tomorrow through 454-6443.

## 'Support Traditional Values' Sociologist Tells Meeting

Denver (RNS) — A Jesuit sociologist said here that there is a "central core" of Catholics who still cherish the traditional views of marriage and the Church today must transmit "knowledge and mutual support...for those who do uphold the values we preach."

One of the central values to be supported is procreation, said Father John L. Thomas, SJ, of the University of Notre Dame. "You cannot deal with sex and marriage as if it had nothing to do with birth."

He declared that the act of procreation is "the only time man touches eternity, when he brings into the world something even God cannot take away."

For the Catholic "sexuality must always be a human thing — an act of the person," said the Jesuit. And he urged family marriage preparation counselors to help couples "develop the ability to see the 'otherness of the other.' Marriage is not 'two shall be one, and I'll be the one.'"

Speaking at a general session of the National

Catholic Family Life Conference, Father Thomas asserted that the frequency of broken marriages and "a complete misunderstanding of sexuality" show that "our whole society is going through a period of shock. There are large numbers of children growing up today who will never know a stable marriage. What do they have as a model...?"

In a society dominated by a "pragmatic mentality," he said, the Catholic Church "must provide an overarching framework of values of marriage and family life." He said there must be "something distinctive about Catholic marriage, an identifiable set of beliefs and values about marriage which is Catholic."

He called on the Church and especially those in the family life ministries to foster Catholic marriages and families by transmitting "knowledge and mutual support for those who do uphold the values we preach" in the Church.

Catholic marriage, he stressed, must be grounded in the central values of "belief in God as a loving Father, in Jesus Christ, who died and rose again, all of which is supported by a Christian community of believers."

Father Thomas said the community is essential to all Christian development "We must carry each others' burdens, because we're all so utterly incomplete."

Another conference speaker, Dolores Curran, who writes a syndicated column on the family for Catholic newspapers, said the real change in women's roles in the Church will not come from ordination of women but from the changing women in the pew.

Mrs. Curran, mother of three children, noted that as a result of the women's movement, laywomen in the Church "want to become part of worthwhile Church activities." She said the laywoman "wants to become part of the decision-making process of the Church" and said that too often the Church takes a stand on questions concerning women "without asking women how they feel."

## Catholics Give Less As Incomes Rise

New Orleans (RNS) — As the education and income levels of U. S. Catholics rise, donations to religious organizations decline and ties to the institutional Church are weakened,

according to a research specialist in church management.

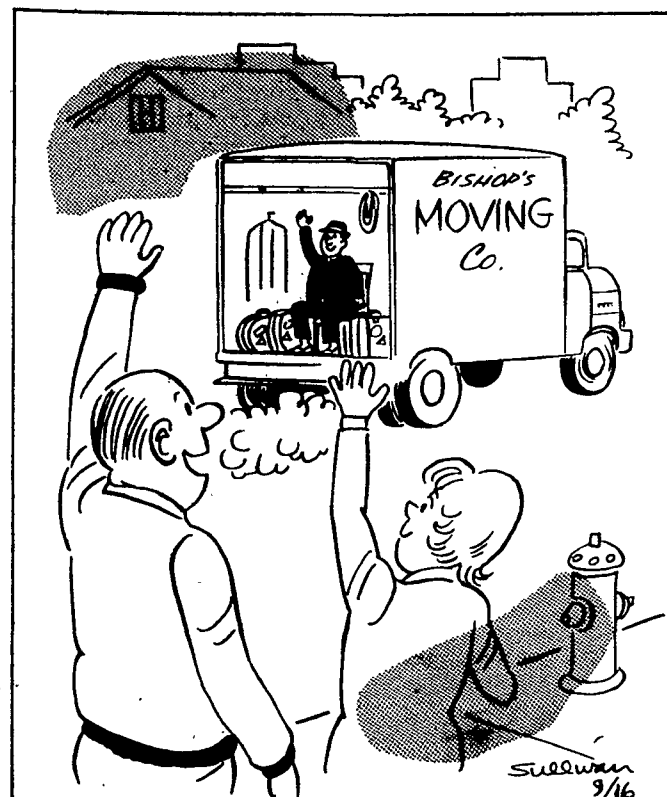
Father Francis Scheets, OSC, chairman of the National Catholic Stewardship Council meeting here, said that two-thirds of total giving to Catholic institutions and programs in this country come from families having incomes of less than \$20,000 per year.

He pointed out that while no serious study has ever been made of "total giving" to Church institutions by a group of representative Catholic families, several national surveys reported up factors which influence all givers, including Catholics. He said those factors are income, age, education and volunteer time.

He stressed that the latter factor, the amount of volunteer time spent with an organization, had a "large impact on the size of the family gift." The more education the head of the household has the more time is likely to be volunteered, he added, noting that those between 35 and 44 can be counted upon to

give the largest segment of time

The 14th annual meeting of the NCSC had for its theme "Stewardship: Dynamic for Accountability" and stressed the responsibility of providing resources for carrying on the mission of Christ through spiritual and corporal works of mercy.



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