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Harvard Dean:

The Big Split: Right vs. Left

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — The "real divisions in Christendom today" are between liberals and conservatives, according to Rev. Krister Stendahl, Harvard University Divinity School dean, and that conflict is "far stronger than denominational" differences, he said.

Arguments over such issues as the relative importance of social involvement and individual piety are dividing Christians, Stendahl said in an interview. "Basic allegiances are not according to denominational lines," he stated, "and that has been so for a relatively long time, although Catholics haven't felt it until after Vatican II."

Stendahl was in Elmira to conduct a Lenten Preaching Mission at Park Congregational Church, sponsored by an inter-faith community group.

Now an American citizen, Stendahl was ordained in the Church of Sweden (Lutheran) in 1944; he joined the Har-

vard Divinity School faculty in 1954. His books and articles have brought him recognition as an authority on religion.

The conflict between the left and right wings of Christendom has brought forth several movements, he noted, and among these "movements of various kinds, there is a not-always-holy ecumenism," he said, implying the existence of conflicts that are not always conducted in a Christian manner.

He fears the liberal-conservative division might endanger what he sees as a valuable aspect of Church. "The beauty of the Church is that I am thrown in together with people who really are very different from myself," he commented. "One of the ways in which one grows as a Christian is to be thrown in with people with whom one otherwise would not be congenial."

"That's actually that vision of Paul's" in first Corinthians, he said, when Paul talks of love and charity. Stendahl noted that "all like-minded

people feel warmly toward one another," and love is easily achieved. But love should be "measured by how much elasticity it has, how much tension it can take, not how warm it feels," he said. "I hope we can stick together with this tension."

"If we can't hold that together, all of us are becoming the poorer," he stated.

In 1958 Stendahl presented a paper stating the case for the ordination of women in the Church of Sweden. The brief studied Biblical implications, he said, which for the Lutherans are much stronger than tradition. The decision was to ordain women, he reported.

Ordination of women is "more than allowed," he said, "it is a high item on the agenda of responding to the promptings of the Spirit." Considering Western culture, he noted, not ordaining women "is a discrimination, a question of justice." He also noted the need for men to

listen to women's views on the subject.

It is "quite clear that the basic insight of 'in Christ there is neither male nor female' — that basic theological vision of Paul's — has exerted and will exert its influence," he stated. It can "not be brushed aside by the fact that Paul in his own time did not implement it," he said.

Stendahl further commented that "it should be easier for the Episcopal Church or the Roman Catholic Church to come to a positive decision on ordination of women. Especially in the Roman Catholic Church, where, if I understand it right, this is a matter of order," as celibacy is, "not a matter of doctrine."

Stendahl also commented on an effect of the changes made by Vatican II. He said "I think the Roman Catholic Church has gone overboard in doing away with some of the symbolic acts" that were part of its devotion, such as fasting and abstinence. Also lost, he said, is the "mystery and



REV. STENDAHL

meditative aspect of the old Mass, especially the low Mass." The "spirit of devotion, of meditation" that was part of the Latin Mass "hasn't fared very well" since the translation to the vernacular, he commented.

Stendahl is acquainted with Pope John Paul II. The pope, then Cardinal Wojtyla, spoke at Harvard Divinity School. Afterward, Stendahl had dinner with him and "found him to be a wonderful, healthy, forceful, kind human being, well trained in philosophy," and "well-versed in Marxism, which he really knows philosophically" in addition to knowledge of its

workings in Poland. "One has a feeling of a very genuine human being," he commented.

Popes are able to influence non-Catholics, Stendahl said, but that depends on what they do. If the pope does something people like, "he will be acclaimed by the world," he said, but not if the pope laid claim to world leadership for himself. Non-Catholic Christians take "joy in a strong Christian witness," he said, "and if that comes from Rome, from the pope, we will identify with it, without any major theological clarifications."

Corning Women Focus on Growth In Prayer Service

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Corning — Growth in knowledge, faith, hope and love was the theme of the World Day of Prayer Service March 2; ninety women participated in the service sponsored by the Corning Vicinity Church Women United at the First Congregational Church.

The service was written by students in the Pan-African Leadership Course for Women at the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Kitwe, Zambia, Africa.

The four types of growth were topics in eight Bible study seminars, which preceded a closing prayer service.

One section, Growth in Hope, was led by Sister Mary Kruckow and Linda Havens, representing St. Vincent DePaul Parish. The segment was based on the challenges expressed by Christ as reported in Luke for His followers "to preach good news to the poor; to proclaim liberty to the captives; recovery of sight to the blind; and to set the oppressed free."

The two women explained the section's importance in a conversation, each asking the other to explain a point.

Mrs. Havens noted that the poor were not only those without wealth, but also the poor in spirit.

Sister Mary stated that those with bad habits, including drug addicts and alcohol abusers, are "captives" who need liberty. It is necessary to help them by



Sister Mary and Mrs. Havens.

encouraging them" to have hope in Christ, she said.

Mrs. Havens pointed out the responsibility of Christ's followers to restore sight to those with "spiritual blindness," and to "show them by their example" of a Christian life and by "letting them know that He is our hope, He is our salvation."

When discussing freedom for the oppressed, Sister Mary stated that it is almost impossible for the poor "to break the cycle of poverty," and much needs to be done to help the poverty-stricken. She also cited the migrants in "the northern part of our own county," and the "boat people," the refugees from Vietnam, as being persons who need assistance to escape oppression.

Sister concluded that when the admonitions in Luke are studied, Christians should "reflect just for a few minutes on what our obligations are" to follow the instructions in their daily lives.

Elmira DCG Plans Supper

Elmira — The Elmira Divorced Catholic Group, will sponsor a dish-to-pass supper Sunday, March 18, at 5 p.m. in St. Patrick's Rectory. Members, their families, friends, and children are invited, and asked to bring a dish to pass and their own table setting.

Future programs include an April 22 meeting dealing with preventive car maintenance, and on May 20, Father Robert O'Neil of the diocesan tribunal is scheduled to speak on annulments.

St. Patrick's Dance March 16

Corning — St. Patrick's Parish is sponsoring a round and square dance Friday, March 16, to mark its patronal feast. The Twig Terwilliger Trio will supply music from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the parish hall; beverages and refreshments will be included in the \$5 per person price. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

Card Party

Elmira — St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association is sponsoring a card party Tuesday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Dunn Memorial. There will be a \$1 donation; refreshments will be provided.

Correction

In the Feb. 28 article "FLHSA Sex Education Plan Watered Down after Hearing," which described Professor Richard Baer's remarks on values clarification, the quotation "all values are matters of preference and taste" should have been described as his analysis of the position taken by values clarification proponents, and not his own position.



The first annual Sons of Italy Carnevale took place at St. Francis of Assisi's school hall, Auburn, recently. The Carnevale is an old Italian custom held prior to the beginning of Lent. Participants joined in sampling Italian delicacies, music, comic skits and old Italian games like the one shown above.

Carnevale!

Intimacy of God to Be Topic

Horseheads — "The Intimacy of God with Humankind" is the topic for a workshop that will be presented by Joseph Kelly, continuing education director at St. Bernard's Seminary, at St. Mary Our Mother Church March 30-31.

Sponsored by the Chemung-Schuyler Adult Education Committee, the program is open to the public without charge. Friday evening's session will be from 7:30 to 10 p.m., and will conclude with the Evening Prayer from the daily office.

Saturday's session will begin at 9:30 a.m., with the

Morning Prayer, and will conclude at 3 p.m., after a Mass celebrated by Father Kevin Murphy, regional coordinator.

Kelly's presentation is in four parts: Intimacy, God as our Partner, God as Lover, and God as Adversary.

For the last three, specific books of the Old Testament will be discussed. Hosea will be the concern of the God as our Partner section; Song of Songs for God as Lover; and the Book of Job for God as Adversary.

Participants are asked to bring their lunch on Saturday; beverages will be provided.

Further information can be obtained from Joette Knott, 739-5341; Sally Ryan, 793-5514; Hilda Stebbins, 739-5292; or Sister Bernarde, 734-6934 or 732-6295.

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