

Disparate speakers explore common spiritual ground

An Anglican author from Canada and a Chilean pastoral theologian explored spiritual common ground last week at an ecumenical Spirituality Institute offered at Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

Together, Father Segundo Galilea of the Northeast Pastoral Center for Hispanics, and Marcia Hollis, the wife of the Anglican bishop of Montreal, provided a wealth of perspectives on contemporary spirituality — from North and South, male and female, clerical and lay, Roman and Reformed viewpoints.

Yet each conveyed a sense of unity across religious and national boundaries.

From his base in the Archdiocese of Santiago, Chile, Father Galilea has traveled throughout Europe and the Far East as well as North and South America, offering retreats and programs on spirituality. He finds that while language and culture may vary, faith-filled people everywhere face the same basic challenges.

"In today's world, politics, history, economics, everything is very interconnected," he said. "One of the very basic Christian and human problems is how to put together prayer and commitment. Everywhere you find two extremes — those who see Christianity as only a religious experience, who are not sensitive to social issues . . . and those Christians who are very militant in social issues, but who don't find much sense to the religious aspect."

Situations in which social action is based on

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Father Segundo Galilea

spirituality have produced some of history's most powerful movements for social reform, from the abolition of slavery to civil rights to liberation theology, Hollis pointed out.

Liberation theology is Latin America's attempt to integrate the two extremes into a workable solution for oppression and poverty. Father Galilea acknowledged that the theology of liberation is most relevant to the Third World, particularly Latin America. Neverthe-



less, it should not be ignored by North America or by any of the "First World" countries, he said.

"There should be a concern here because of the justice issues involved," he explained. "There is also another idea of liberation as a Christian goal relevant in the U.S. on its own terms . . . Local churches should look into what in this country needs liberation."

But both Father Galilea and Hollis agreed that liberation begins within individuals.

The Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC), for instance, has been struggling to overcome theological obstacles to unity between the two churches for

years. Experts are not optimistic about their chances for agreement.

But on a personal level, Hollis believes that Protestant and Catholic churches are "much closer together than we are apart."

All Protestant denominations, she said, are placing greater emphasis on the sacraments. Meanwhile, Catholics worldwide are benefiting from several scripture-based renewal movements. "There's a growing together in this, which is a wonderful thing to happen," she said.

On a personal level, Christian spirituality also offers release from bitterness and despair at the violence of the world today, Hollis said. "Hatred and bitterness destroy us. Our whole body rebels when we carry a longstanding grudge against someone."

"The solution which Jesus offers is radical in the extreme. There is no question of revenge, or even of fair restitution," she said. "He asks us to act as agents of His forgiveness in this fallen world."

Sponsored by Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, the Catholic Diocesan Office of Continuing Education, St. Bernard's Institute and the Office of the Vicar for Religious, the Spirituality Institute was a new venture in ecumenism.

"We saw the need to offer something that met the needs of another clientele," explained Professor Marvin Mich of St. Bernard's. "It's not quite as academically oriented as summer school, but you can receive academic credit."

Organizers were pleased with the results and are already planning to offer the program again next year. "It had something for everyone," Mich said.

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Marcia Hollis

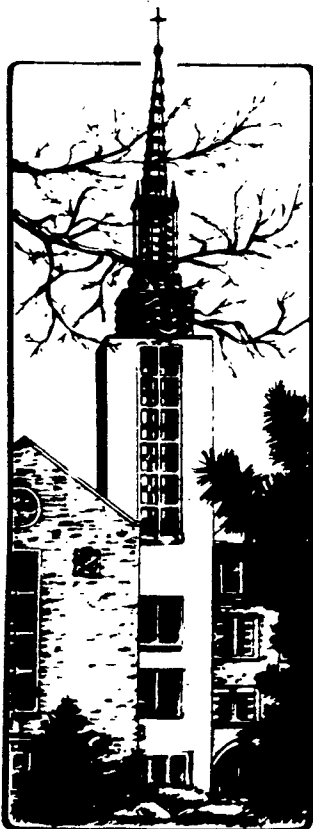


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Protestants battle police in Northern Ireland

Portadown, Northern Ireland (NC) — Protestant marchers angry about being banned from Catholic neighborhoods, attacked police riot squads July 14 in the Northern Ireland town of Portadown.

The Protestants fought running battles with police riot squads guarding a fence erected to keep the Protestant and Catholic communities apart.

The violence followed a weekend of clashes between members of the British province's Protestant majority and the mostly Protestant-manned police force, the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

By July 15, 18 police officers and three civilians were reported injured.

Protestants have generally marked July 12 — the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne — with marches through Catholic neighborhoods. The day marks the 1690 victory of Protestant William of Orange over Catholic King James II at the Boyne River. Protestants consider the victory to have been the turning point in their early struggles to control the northern part of Ireland.

This year and last, the British government banned marches through the Catholic areas

but allowed for them to be rerouted through Protestant sections. The order precipitated the clashes between militants and the constabulary, which has frequently been accused of bias against Catholics.

During the weekend violence, gunmen kidnapped a Catholic man from his doorstep in Ligonell, shot him in the head and left him for dead nearby, authorities said. Police blamed Protestant extremists for the act.

In one district near Belfast, several Catholic families fled their homes during nighttime attacks by Protestant mobs. In Rasharkin, 40 miles north of Belfast, Protestants attacked and burned several Catholic homes.

In a section of Portadown, two Protestant homes were firebombed. Police speculated that the bombings were retaliation for earlier attacks on five Catholic homes in the neighborhood.

Hardline Protestant leaders are angry with last November's Anglo-Irish agreement, which gives predominantly Catholic Ireland and a say in the affairs of predominantly Protestant Northern Ireland.

Annual Summerfest on tap at Monroe Developmental Center

Individuals and groups of volunteers are needed for the sixth-annual Summerfest at Monroe Developmental Center on Sunday afternoon, August 3, from 1-4 p.m.

Summerfest is an annual celebration held on the center's grounds, 620 Westfall Road, for the more than 400 center residents whose developmental disabilities restrict their ability to attend other summer events. Each client is matched with a volunteer escort for an afternoon of games, music, refreshments, friendship and fun.

The theme of Summerfest '86 is "Back to the Fifties!" Entertainment will include a sock hop, pony rides and the Hochstein Commu-

nity Band. T-shirts will be on sale for volunteers. The dress for the day is T-shirts and sunglasses; bobby sox are optional.

More than 50 community organizations including church, civic and fraternal, will help in sponsoring Summerfest by running game booths, donating materials and funds, and recruiting escorts and other volunteers.

Individuals and groups are still needed for a variety of tasks, including serving as escorts, running game booths, setting up, cleaning up and more. For brochures or information, call Monroe Developmental Center at (716) 461-2800 and ask for Bill Gaventa or Meribeth Schnell.