

DEMONOLOGY LECTURES

From Page 1

Although the need for exorcism is very rare. Solari said, Christ gave his apostles the power to cast out evil spirits as He had done.

He concluded by saying that Christians should not live in fear of the devil, but should nevertheless have a "healthy respect for his power."

Fr. Lawrence Willis, O.S.B., lectured on the history of Satan worship, beginning with crude cave drawings in the Stone Age. Primitive gods of the Stone Age, he said, often manifested in a mother goddess of fertility and a horned god, survived through the ages as races were conquered and civilization developed.

The conquering race could never quite eradicate the religion of the people it had conquered, Willis said, and strains of the "horned God" religion continued to survive, though often driven underground.

Because most of the men of each conquered civilization were killed or deported, Willis explained, it was the women who kept alive the "old gods." Thus the belief in witches began, he said. The broom, associated

with woman's work, became a witch symbol.

As civilization advanced, the "old gods" were identified more with evil. When Christianity developed and especially when the Reformation began, Willis said, fear and hatred of Satan and those who were thought to worship him led to the Inquisition and other persecutions.

This culminated in the witch hunts of England during the reign of James I and the Salem, Mass., witch trials of 1662, when accusations by children led to the hanging of more than two dozen women.

Satan worship has existed throughout history, Willis said, evidenced in fashion as well as religious practice. In the later Middle Ages, he said, cloven-toed shoes were in style among the upper classes.

Willis then described the religious ritual of Satan worship, emphasizing its parody of Christianity.

"Satan worship has always been an escape for neurotic or maladjusted people whose physical or emotional needs weren't being satisfied by their religion," he concluded.

The concluding lectures of the series were presented by Fr. Jerome Dollard, O.S.B., a teacher of theology, and Dr. Paul Bumgardner, an English



Father Lawrence Willis O.S.B.

professor who has taught at Notre Dame University and State University of New York.

Fr. Jerome repeated what the previous lecturers had emphasized, that demonic possession is extremely uncommon. Only two exorcisms, he reported, have been performed in this country in the 20th century.

He remarked that in the book and film, "The Exorcist," the descriptions are not entirely

based on fact. "Regan (the possessed girl) is a character of Blatty's (the author's) imagination," he said, although he conceded that many of the tortures the girl endures are symptomatic of actual possession.

"The reality of demonic possession is possible," Dollard said, but one must first "look at all other explanations." He discussed at length the phenomena of parapsychology, including mental telepathy, clairvoyance and precognition, which might be examined as possible causes of "possession" before an exorcism is warranted.

Satan is no "equal force" at war with God, Dollard stressed. "There is no spiritual arms-building race between them."

Rather than fearing the devil, Dollard said, people should "be concerned with the capacity for evil that is within us, both as individuals and as societies.

"Evil is linked to the reality of sin," he said. "It is a personal, moral decision that breaks the relationship between God and man."

Dr. Bumgardner followed Fr. Jerome and presented a lecture on the demonic in literature. He proceeded to open and shut literary doors quickly, revealing the devil in many different appearances and degrees of strength as seen by the world's great writers.

From Dante's devil, upside down in rock and ice at the hollow center of the earth, eternally munching on the remains of Brutus, Cassius and Judas, to the great white whale Moby Dick, to Baudelaire's "Fleurs du Mal," through miracle plays and the works of Lord Byron, Milton, Mark Twain and Balzac, Bumgardner explained the different treatments the devil has gotten in literature through the ages.

"The devil can be whatever evil the writer thinks is most important," Bumgardner said. He added that the writer must "know absolute evil" to write about it. "The artist, poet, and writer, in short, is a devil," he said.

Credit: Bill Henry,
Gastonia Gazette
Staff Reporter

Credit: Higher Education and National Affairs, VXXIII, No. 15, April 12, 1974.

College Graduate's Lifetime Income Said To Be \$758,000

Men with college degrees, on the average, can expect to receive \$758,000 in their lifetimes, according to a report issued recently by the Bureau of the Census. The bureau said the estimated income, as of 1972,

was for men between the ages of 18 and death who completed four or more years of college. The bureau said this was \$279,000 higher than those who were high school graduates. Men who finished high school only can

expect lifetime earnings of about \$479,000 or \$135,000 more than men who only finished elementary school.

Between 1967 and 1972, the bureau said, the estimated lifetime income in terms of constant 1972 dollars of all men from age 25 to death increased from \$385,000 to \$448,000, a 16 percent gain. For male year-round full-time workers, the estimated lifetime income was \$542,000 in 1972, or a 19 percent increase over the five-year period.

The estimates are included in the report, Annual Mean Income, Lifetime Income and Educational Attainment of Men in the United States, for Selected Years, 1956 to 1972, P-60, No. 92, \$2.10 from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

What's New With You?

Please keep in touch. If you have moved, changed jobs, or recently completed a phase of graduate school work, help keep us up to date.

Last	First	Middle
New Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Name of Grad Sch	Yrs of Study	Rec Masters? Y N
Grad Field of Study	Academic Credits Beyond Masters? Y N	
Rec Ph.D.? Y N	Professional Cert? (C.P.A., M.D., etc) specify	
New Occupation	Employer	