

Tar on my Heels. . . by Dale Francis Priests in the Modern World

Let me end my discussion of the role of priests in social and political problems with some quotations from a priest who has perhaps the best qualifications for the discussion of any priest in the nation.

He is Father Vincent J. Giese. Father Giese has unique qualifications because he once was one of the nation's outstanding lay leaders. Nearly twenty years ago we were classmates and friends at the University of Notre Dame. He was then active in the Christian Student Movement. He later became editorial director of Fides Press, wrote two important books of the work of the layman in the Church. He worked in the lay apostolate in Chicago.

A FEW YEARS ago he recognized there was an extension of his apostolate to the priesthood and he went to Rome to prepare for the priesthood at Bea College. He is today a priest in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

He gave a talk before a Serra group in Chicago recently and what he said coincides with what I've been trying to say in the columns I've written. What follows are quotations from Father Giese:

"We must avoid conceiving the lay apostolate as a competitor with the priesthood or religious life. We are all members of the People of God; it is a question of discovering the different functions of the members.

"There has been a tendency in some quarters for priests to react against the rise of the layman in the Church, to roar back in a kind of 'me tooism' that the priest can do everything the layman can do in the Church.

"In my mind, this defensive attitude will only generate a new clericalism and an unhealthy competition. Rather we must search out the exact role of the priest in the Church, especially his role in the formation of the laity.

"The priesthood is not the lay apostolate. It is not the Peace Corps or the Papal Volunteers; it is not the lay missionary work, or community organization work in the inner city, or a human relations organization, social work, or the civil rights movement.

"PRIESTS have a relationship to all this kind of activity; they have a role in the apostolic formation of the leaders of all these movements. At times a priest may be called upon to give a personal witness in all this, in protest against injustice, and to be deeply involved in the aspirations and work of these movements.

"But never can one or the other of these become co-extensive with his priesthood. The priest, as Prophet, Mediator, Minister of the Word, as a representative of the Church, has an altogether unique function in the People of God.

"In the Old Testament sense, the priest is a Prophet; he reminds people of God's plan for the world; he must provide the laity with an appropriate doctrine and spirituality which will guide them in responding to the needs of the Church.

"At times this will demand that he stand in opposition to the social injustices of our age, testify against them by word and example, as for example the priests and religious who participated in the march of Selma.

"As Mediator, the Priest represents Christ the High Priest in a very special way. He has the power to perform the acts of Christ in the very name of Christ. When he absolves it is Christ who absolves. When he consecrates the bread and wine, it is Christ who speaks, 'This is My Body, this is My Blood.'

"With the recent renewal of the sacred liturgy, the priest now truly becomes the President of the People at worship. He presides over the community of the faithful. The new liturgical changes present a new challenge to priests and make the role of Mediator much more meaningful.

"FINALLY, the priest is the Minister of the Word. It is his function to proclaim the Word of God to the People of God, to celebrate the liturgy of the Word. He himself must be the living embodiment of the Word. This role of the priest has taken on renewed meaning as a result of the Council, with a whole new emphasis on biblical homilies, bible vigils, biblical institutes for priests.

"These are just a few aspects of priestly life that gives us a basis for reflection on the vocation of the priest in the modern world. They open up rich potentialities of the priestly life, neither inferior or superior to a fully dedicated life, but altogether unique and indispensable in the life and growth of the Church.

"Let us never forget that men need priests, and our lay movements above all need dedicated priests; without priests there can be no lay apostolate. A famous dictum comes to mind here, 'Everything by themselves; nothing without the priest.'"

Week of Renewal Slated by Parish In Chapel Hill

CHAPEL HILL — Next Sunday the Rev. Carl Bufalini, of the Holy Cross Fathers of Notre Dame, will conduct a Week of Renewal at St. Thomas More Church.

The opening will be at 5 p.m. Sunday and will include a Bible Vigil Service lasting until 6 p.m.

During the rest of the week to Friday inclusive the service will last an hour. The same program will be followed at noon and at 5:30 p.m. each day, with Masses at 12 Noon and 6 p.m., in order to afford a greater opportunity for everyone to attend. A nursery service will be provided at Noon.

Father Bufalini will be available for personal conferences by appointment through the Rectory—942-1129.

The preacher was born in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania in 1939. He was chosen for theological studies at the Gregorian University in Rome, obtaining his degree there in July, 1964. For two years he served as chaplain to students at the University of Rome. He spent the summer of 1963 and 1964 on the French Riviera working with French University students on a project known as "Camp Mission"—bringing Christ to the beach.

Father Murphy, pastor of St. Thomas More Church, has announced that a cordial welcome is extended to everyone to attend.

Smithfield Plans Spaghetti Supper

St. Ann's Parish, Smithfield, will serve a spaghetti supper in the educational building Shrove Tuesday, February 22, from 5:00 to 7:00 in the evening.

Tickets can be obtained at the door: \$1.25 for adults, and 75c for children. Proceeds will be used to obtain new hymnals for the parish.

First Communion was received last Sunday by Evelyn Jones, Theresa Sanders, Bobby Brown and Steven Adreus, and a breakfast followed the Mass. Confirmation will be administered on March 23 by Bishop Vincent S. Waters.

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