

The Reader Interviews

Father William Richardson

By Diane Lewis

The Catholic Church is a sometimes mysterious often controversial subject. Catholic and non-Catholics alike are curious about the Church and its stand on present day issues.

This week I talked to Father William Richardson, chaplain to the Catholic Campus Ministry at Capitol Campus, about Catholicism today.



Born in Shamokin, Father Richardson studied at Mount St. Mary's College and Seminary. He was ordained in 1972.

He served as associate pastor of St. Teresa's New Cumberland, and later as Chaplain to Bloomsburg State College before coming to Capitol to fill the vacancy left by Father Jafola's death last year.

In addition to his duties here Father Richardson is Diocesan Director of Pastoral Planning. His job is to oversee the Church's move to collegiality or shared responsibility with one person ultimately responsible. Each parish has a planning board which gathers laity, priests and religious together to set goals and objectives for the parish.

I asked Father Richardson about the woman's role in the church today. He said the Canon Law Society has recently set goals to increase women's participation in all areas of ministry except the priesthood. For now women priests are not likely because a move in that direction would probably hinder rather than help the Church. If there will ever be women in the priesthood, Father Richardson said, depends on cultural acceptance.

Talking about the Catholic Church today, Father Richardson explained that the changes brought about by Vatican II created problems not of themselves, but because many Catholics were too immature to handle the freedom the changes gave them.

The changes were not meant to be license to do what you wanted, but rather they were designed to allow for consideration of the grey areas that the previous 400 year old mind set of the church ignored.

Before Vatican II there was only black or white, good or evil there was nothing in between.

"Religion stresses the ideal. To live a religious life is

demanding." Father Richardson said, "In striving for ideals the truly committed Christian is harder on himself than the laws of the Church require."

When the Church stopped talking in edicts and began talking about freedom of conscience many people thought that to mean there were no limits, no ideals.

The Church is now compelled to make formal statements that spell out its teachings on certain issues. The Vatican Declaration on Sexual Ethics issued last year is an example.

Father Richardson said the declaration has had a negative effect on young Catholics mainly because it has been misinterpreted. To really understand, it is necessary to discuss it on an individual or small group basis so there can be some feedback. Reading about it or having it read at Mass on Sunday confuses the issues.

Father Richardson feels this is a problem for the Church today. "Catholics who went to Catholic school thought they had it all. They don't want to continue to study their religion, to find out what is going on now."

"Young people are moving back to organized religion," Father Richardson said. He is pleased to see an increasing number of students here are attending the Sunday evening liturgies and informal "fireside" chats. He says that many people today are looking for more direction in their lives and religion is where they are finding it.

Talking about his vocation Father Richardson said, "I became a priest because of my personal experiences. I found peace in Christ through the efforts of other people, as a priest I can share that experience with others." He decided to become a priest after high school. He said he dated in high school and college but found that for him it was difficult to love one person exclusively.

He uses this exclusivity of love to explain his feelings on celibacy. He said, "Celibacy has nothing to do with sexuality as much as a way of loving."

"In marriage you love one primarily. The celibate can't zero in on one person but loves the many. There are different ways of loving. But for both the celibate and the married person there is an amount of sacrifice."

"The celibate sacrifices the security of wife and family and abstains from the physical expression of love. The married person sacrifices his freedom of individuality and promises to remain faithful to one person."

As chaplain, Father Richardson sees himself as a servant-helping people to grow spiritually not just Catholics but all members of the college community.

So if you want "to get counselled, consoled, or just converse, make contact with Father Richardson by checking out "Vendorville" on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. He's usually there."

Security Officers Move On

By Tim Adams

How much is security worth? Apparently the University is not concerned enough about it to pay the kind of wages that attracts and retains qualified security officers.

In the past several weeks two newly hired officers, Bruce Hill and Debbie Schwartz, quit their jobs to take better paying positions elsewhere.

In an interview with Chief Paul, he described the rigorous process an applicant must go through in order to be hired. There are preliminary interviews, screening committees, background checks, and if hired, a three-month training program at the Chambersburg Law Enforcement Academy.

Young Demos Survey

Recently, the Young Democrats conducted a Voter Registration Drive here at Capitol Campus. Surprisingly enough, in light of the notorious "apathetic attitude" that is said to exist at this campus, the turn out was quite good.

For those of you who are interested, there follows this article a breakdown of the numbers of persons who registered during this particular drive, which was conducted September 22 through October 4.

Now, we come to the major point of this article. If you, the Penn State student and faculty member, can come out and register to vote in numbers much greater than had been anticipated, then surely, it is not asking too much of you to ask that you go one step further and vote.

Voting is not something that you should do because you have to do it. There are no laws that say the American people must cast a ballot. This article is not demanding that you vote because it is a duty. It is not. It

Returning Women

Don't be surprised to flip through a copy of *Time* or *Newsweek* and find an article about a unique organization, the newly-formed Returning Women's Organization on Capitol Campus! Returning Women at Capitol is a bona fide organization, approved by the Student Government Association (October 20, 1976) and with a legal constitution. The constitution states:

The purpose of the returning Women's Organization is to provide for the special needs, interests and demands of the nontraditional student.

Membership is open to all full-time and part-time undergraduate and graduate students who support the stated purpose of the organization. Voting membership is limited to all dues-paying members of the Returning Women's Organization.

Capitol Campus boasts

The officers then control a community that during the day numbers about 2700 people.

According to Chief Paul, security has authority to investigate all violations of University rules and policies. Students who violate civil law are prosecuted by local authorities. However, security will try to get those cases turned over to campus jurisdiction so that students can get control of their criminal record upon graduation.

The question then is do security officers need to be that well trained for this particular job, and if they do why aren't they being paid a salary that is commensurate with their abilities?

is something you should do because you want to do it, because you feel that it is important. You should vote because you know and feel yourself to be a necessary part of the functions of your government.

It has been said that intelligent, concerned and caring individuals do not exist at this campus, or in this country. This cannot be true. Intelligent, concerned people do exist, and we are hoping that you will recognize yourself and show your concern for yourselves, as well as your country, by coming out to the polls on November 2. Show this country that you care.

But please. Don't vote just because you feel it is a duty. Don't do it because you have always done it, or because you have never done it, or even because your next door neighbor is doing it. These are not legitimate reasons for casting a ballot. With voting, as with any major decision of your life, do it because you care. Vote as a well-informed, intelligent, free human being. Vote as an American.

Heavy Industry

Mr. John Frey, Coordinator of College Relations for the Eastern Area of U.S. Steel, is presently acting as a consultant to the Placement Office at Capitol Campus.

Mr. Frey is working with Penn State-Capitol Campus as an adjunct member of the Student Affairs staff. His appointment runs through November 24.

A registered professional engineer, Mr. Frey received his B.A. in Metallurgy from Lehigh University and attended the School of Industrial Management at Worcester Polytechnical Institute. He also served as a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy Reserve.

While at Capitol, Mr. Frey will meet with faculty and students to explain job possibilities in heavy industry and to bring in qualified specialists in various fields to lecture in their specific areas.

According to Ms. Peggy O'Hara, Coordinator of Placement and Career Planning, Mr. Frey will act as a liaison person between Capitol Campus and heavy industry.

New Education Prof.

Provost McDermott announces that Ms. Mary Ellen Mumma has joined the staff at Capitol Campus as an instructor in the education department.

Ms. Mumma earned her B.A. in psychology from Pennsylvania State University and obtained her M.Ed. degree in early childhood education from Temple University.

Prior to joining Penn State's faculty, Ms. Mumma held a position as administration/education director at Rutgers Camden Day Care Center, Camden, N.J. She also worked as a child development specialist in the Community Coordinated Child Care Council in Camden and has taught in various pre-school programs in the Philadelphia area.

While attending college, Ms. Mumma was a member of the Psi Chi Honorary Psychology and is currently a member of the National Association for Education of Young Children.

Reading Clinic

A reading clinic will be held here for pupils in grades 2 through 12 who attend schools in the surrounding area, according to Dr. Joanna Sullivan, reading expert at the campus.

The purpose of the clinic is to offer reading help and remedial reading to pupils who have reading difficulties. Those who attend will be diagnosed for their particular difficulties and treated accordingly by experienced teachers.

The clinic will be held from Ja. 12 through March 2 on Mon. and Wed. evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Initial screening will be held Mon. Nov. 22. The number of pupils accepted will be limited.

There will be no charge for the reading instruction, however, there is a \$15 testing fee. For more information call 787-7717 or write Dr. Joanna Sullivan, Penn State-Capitol Campus, Middletown, Pa. 17057.