

Epiphany

January 2010

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ALL ARE CALLED

The Epiphany Group
Celebrates the
Year of the Priest
By Presenting

Father Roy Bourgeois, MM

Sunday March 7, 2010 at 2:00 P.M.

Hardesty Regional Library

8316 E. 93rd St., Tulsa, OK

Admission is free and open to the public

Fr. Bourgeois will speak on "A New Model of Being Church".

The talk is part of the "Shatter the Stained Glass Ceiling Tour"
sponsored by Call to Action and the Women's Ordination Conference.

Fr. Bourgeois is a Maryknoll priest, human rights activist and outspoken advocate for women's ordination. In recent years, he is one of the few priests willing to speak publicly about women's ordination, and taking part in a woman's ordination in 2008.

Fr. Bourgeois is also a human rights activist, fighting for two decades to close the U.S. Army School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia, which trains Latin America soldiers. Many of these soldiers have committed human rights abuses in their home countries. Bourgeois leads an annual vigil outside Fort Benning that attracts thousands who want to see the operation shut down.

The Vatican proclaimed 2009-10 as The Year of the Priest. In recognition of this, The Epiphany Group is also presenting two workshops, free and open to the public, leading up to Fr. Roy's lecture on women's ordination. Both workshops will be at the Hardesty Library.



Image and Word: Women Leaders of the Early Church **Sunday, January 17, 2010, 2:00 P.M.**

A slide presentation of art from catacomb frescos, paintings, and mosaics which depict the role of women in early church leadership. The presentation is researched and designed by Sister Christina Schenk CSJ and is provided by FutureChurch. Susan Murphy of the Epiphany Group will lead the discussion.

All Are Called: The Feminine Priesthood **Sunday, February 7, 2010, 2:00 P.M.**

Mother Andrea Jones, an Episcopal priest, will speak on her experiences as an ordained woman in a traditionally male-dominated clergy. Ordained in 2000, she currently is Assistant to the Rector at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. She previously served as a priest in parishes in Fremont, Nebraska, Sand Springs, and Miami, Oklahoma. As part of her presentation, Mthr. Jones will be open to questions from the audience.

Listen to Me Under My Words by Ted Loder

O God,
I come to you now
as a child to my Mother,
out of the cold which numbs
into the warm who cares.

Listen to me inside,
under my words
where the shivering is,
in the fears
which freeze my living,
in the angers,
which chafe my attending,
in the doubts
which chill my hoping,
in the events
which shrivel my thanking,
in the pretenses
which stiffen my loving.

Listen to me, Lord,
as a Mother,
and hold me warm,
and forgive me.
Soften my experiences
into wisdom,
my pride
into acceptance,
my longing
into trust,
and soften me
into love
and to others
and to you.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*IMAGE AND WORD:
WOMEN LEADERS OF THE
EARLY CHURCH
SUSAN MURPHY
SUNDAY, JANUARY 17
2:00 P.M., HARDESTY LIBRARY*

*ALL ARE CALLED:
THE FEMININE PRIESTHOOD
MOTHER ANDREA JONES
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7
2:00 P.M., HARDESTY LIBRARY*

*A NEW MODEL OF
BEING CHURCH
FATHER ROY BOURGEOIS
SUNDAY, MARCH 7
2:00 P.M., HARDESTY LIBRARY*

Come join us!

Poverty is not a virtue. It is, rather, the underside of a virtue. It is not a good, but an absence of good. It is removal of baggage which is holding us at the border when we are going to our heavenly home, to God. We are citizens of heaven. All scripture shows God's Providence. In the Book of Job, we have the problem of evil, evil as the absence of good. Job was stripped of everything, family, material goods, health, but he never denied God. Job comforters tried to make him think his troubles were because of his sins, rather than the permissive will of God. "Do all you can," God said to Satan, "but you cannot get into his will." And Job's Theophany came out of this trial. In the book of Tobias, "Because he was acceptable to God, it was necessary that temptation prove him." St. Teresa said, "Let nothing frighten you." St. John of the Cross said, "even if the world is crumbling under your feet." Fr. Casey added, "even if hydrogen bombs are falling around you." "You are Christ's and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

— Dorothy Day

Women Religious Not Complying with Vatican Study

by Tom Fox from "The National Catholic Reporter"

The vast majority of U.S. women religious are not complying with a Vatican request to answer questions in a document of inquiry that is part of a 3-year study of the congregations. Leaders of congregations, instead, are leaving questions unanswered or sending in letters or copies of their communities' constitutions.

"There's been almost universal resistance," said one woman religious familiar with the responses compiled by the congregations leads. "We are saying 'enough!' - in my 40 years in religious life I have never seen such unanimity."

The deadline for the questionnaires to be filled out and returned to the Vatican-appointed apostolic visitor, superior general of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mother Mary Clare Millea, was November 20. Many women, instead of filling out the forms, replied by sending in copies of their Vatican-approved orders' religious constitutions.

The Vatican initiated the study one year ago, saying its purpose is to determine the quality of life in religious communities, given the decline in vocations in recent decades. From the outset, the women have complained they were never consulted before Vatican officials announced the investigations and there is no transparency in the process. Some have called the effort demeaning and intrusive.

The decisions by congregation leaders not to comply follow nearly two months of intensive discussions both inside and across religious congregations. They follow consultations with civil and canon lawyers, and come in the wake of what some women religious see as widespread support by the laity for their church missions.

With about half of the responses from the nation's 59,000 women religious

accounted for, only about 1 percent answered. By contrast, congregations representing by far the greater majority of women religious decided not to comply and answered only a few, or none, of the questions.

One religious said "this was a grassroots response; it was not organized. It came out of a widespread sense that the Vatican action was an unjust affront to women religious."

"...We are saying 'enough!'. In my 40 years in religious life I have never seen such unanimity."

The Vatican study is being carried out by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. The action was initiated by the congregation's prefect, Cardinal Franc Rode, who received authority for it from Pope Benedict late last year.

The Vatican has placed the cost of the study at \$1.1 million and has asked U.S. bishops to help raise the money.

Several women religious said that they have been virtually unanimous in spirit that they have been living out their mission as directed by the gospels and by the Second Vatican Council, which called upon religious communities to go out in the world to work among the poor and to build more just and peaceful structures.

They explained, that in the process, church prelates lost the control over women religious congregations they once had. Many women religious believe the investigation is part of an effort to regain that control.

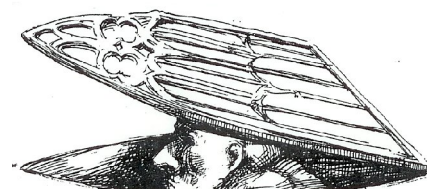
At issue is the role women religious are to play in the world today. As much as any other element in the church, women religious claim Vatican II's documents as a call to go out in the world, loved and blessed by God, and to serve within it.

During the pontificates of Pope John Paul II and Benedict XVI the hierarchy, many church observers say, has pulled back from these directives, seeing the world as a more hostile environment. They view the church as a bastion of light and life within this world and want the women religious to work more directly from within church structures..

For example, Cardinal Rode believes that Vatican II, while designed to generate a moderate reform, instead triggered "the greatest crisis in church history. In the 16th century, during the Reformation, many religious left the church and many convents were closed . . . The crisis after the Second Vatican Council, however, was the first truly global crisis."

Late last year, after many complaints from women religious, the Vatican withdrew several questions involving the individual ages of the women, assets belonging to the congregations, and recent financial statements.

The investigations continue.



Prayer to the Holy Spirit for an Inclusive Priesthood

O Holy Spirit, may the fire of your love renew priests all over the World in love and service to the People of God.

O Holy Spirit, let our Church celebrate the gift of celibacy as a powerful grace and yet recognize that it is not given to all called to the ministerial priesthood. We pray for the day that both celibate and married priests serve you through the sacrament of Holy Orders.

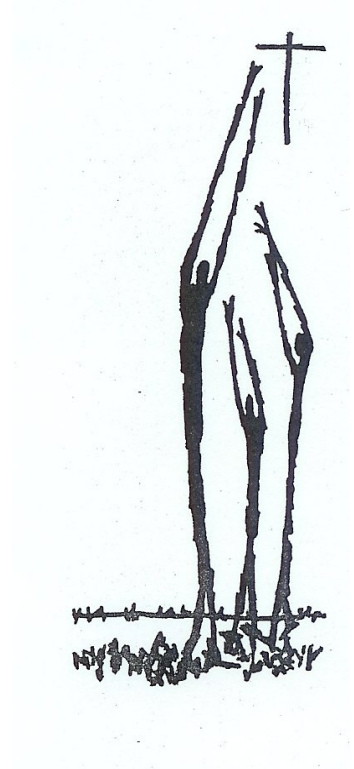
O Holy Spirit, let our Church celebrate the powerful expression of love and commitment that is the gift of marriage, a gift that can only enhance the ministerial priesthood for those so called.

O Holy Spirit, continue gifting Catholic women with love, service and trust that their faithful perseverance will one day lead to structures that mirror their full baptismal equality in the Catholic Church.

O Holy Spirit, open the hearts and ears of our bishops and our Pope to support and encourage the diaconal and presbyteral calls of both married and celibate Catholics.

O Holy Spirit, we bring to you our love and concern for the worldwide Church and ask for your guidance as we move ever closer to the reign of God where we all have a place at the table of God.

Amen.



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