



DIGNITY



A Monthly Newsletter for Catholic Homophiles and Concerned Heterophiles

November 5, 1971

Vol. II, No. 9

Address all mail concerning Newsletter to Bob Fournier, Editor, 2040 Vista del Mar, Apt. 8, Los Angeles, Ca. 90068. Address all mail concerning DIGNITY to Joe Gilgamesh, P.O. Box 6161, Los Angeles, Ca. 90055.

PERSONAL INTEGRITY: AN EDITORIAL

Many gay Catholics have violated their personal integrity by not accepting themselves as they fully are -- homophile members of the Church and society. They try to reject their sexual orientation; they take too seriously the Church's socio-historic view of homosexuality; they become bitter.

No church can change the circumstances of my life. God decided who my parents would be, my color, my sex and its direction. None of these things can, therefore, be intrinsically evil. As a white and as a homophile I must love God and my fellow man. No hierarchic voice can tell me to love in a way for which I was not equipped. Were I to reject the mode of love for which I have been structured, I would violate my own integrity and threaten my mental health.

I have been so oriented sexually that I naturally love another man. This mode of human love is the vehicle designed by God in which I am to find my way back to him. It is this very personal gift that I must guard and bear witness to. Others will shout that the way to love God is this way or that way, the way to love other people is this way or that. But my conscience stands guard over the unique gift God gave to me. And to this I must bear witness or violate my integrity. If God designed and built the temple of my self, if he chose to dwell there, why should I be ashamed of its design and function, try to alter it, try to conceal it?

To be true to myself, to safeguard my personal integrity demands sacrifice. It means feeling the loneliness, the rejection, the anxiety, the doubts that all the prophets have felt -- those who gave witness to an opposing world of the peculiar gift God had given each. I, too, have a personal gift from God. I, too, have to display it to an opposing world as another facet of the infinite love of God. I have to use it with wisdom, with a sense of the sacred. For this love I bear another man must bring me to God ultimately. And were I to become captivated by the mechanics or fall in love with the vehicle, then the meaning of the gift is lost, and my witnessing has become ineffective.

I have been pointed toward God by God through my love for another man. When I fully accept this, I preserve my integrity. I have been faithful to my conscience.

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Love is -- thinking of two instead of one.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I really must congratulate you guys for a nicely prepared copy [Aug. issue]. I especially enjoyed the "A Modern Parable" and "Love: An Editorial." They both seemed like outstanding articles.

Denver, Colorado

The editorial in the current issue of October 5, Vol. II, No. 8 entitled "GAY FREEDOM: AN EDITORIAL" is terrific -- one of the best I've ever read covering the entire subject. Congratulations to whoever was responsible for it. I only wish we could see similar editorials appearing in such publications as "The Advocate" and other widely read Gay news-media. What a different impression it would give the straight world regarding gays as a whole and what a boon to the furthering of our rights to freedom! Under those conditions, perhaps the bigots and hypocrites who have again defeated Bill 437 would not have had such an easy go of spreading prejudice and obtaining the necessary balance of votes they needed to perpetuate the penal codes of the Dark Ages.

San Francisco, California

The priest's comment [on hustling, Sept. issue] seems a little analogous to the comments of former Governor of Maryland Spiro Agnew some years back, when he, after the riots following on Dr. Martin Luther King's death, called in Black leaders in the city and berated them for not having prevented the riots.

The Christian homophile certainly will be concerned about sex exploitation; he will be concerned with impersonal sex divorced from love that is responsible, respectful of the individual, caring of the other. That one is gay does not mean that he can love only, or usually, in depersonalizing another. To even risk the identification is very much like equating Blacks with looting -- or, in a different vein, to equate heterosexuality with whoring.

The priest-correspondent who wrote might ask himself if the Church, in her older and quite simplistic blanket condemnation of all homosexual expression -- did not remotely abet, at least, the "hustler personality." My own experience is that hustlers very often suffer from severe self-hatred which they project outwardly; a teenager, struggling with his incipient encounter of himself as gay and "un-worthy," may be nourishing dangerous seeds of self-hatred which will finally fructify in bizarre behavior. Probably, too, many a youngster, discovering himself as gay and seeing himself as (traditionally) "shameful," has developed a kind of "why-the-hell-should-I-care-I'm-damned-anyway" attitude which finally emerges in a defensive bizarre behavior. ("I can't get much lower; I may as well play it to the hilt.") Whether the behavior of the hustler is a defense mechanism born of hatred of self and of despair or not could be questioned and debated. One thing is, I take it, reasonably clear: THE gay community (whatever that is and whoever its spokesmen or leaders may be) has, as such, little or no power to control hustlers or their behavior.

What we as gay Catholics can witness to, however, can be that we can love; we can be a witness that homophile love may be (as Erich Fromm suggests in a powerful essay) responsible, caring, respectful, and can stem from a really human and interested knowledge of another. Hustling and exhibitionism, I think, will be shown up as the burlesque of the real thing in such a light. The contrast will be clear, I suspect,

if we live and act as if our love, in its context and for us, can provide a theosis, a divinization or deification, and, thus, a share in the redemption of the world.

Princess Anne, Maryland

Hustling, at least in as blatant a form as Father describes, is not known in this country; but my thought is that Father is equating so-called "decency" (i.e., according to the W.A.S.P. interpretation) as something sacred. I'm sorry, but I can't find this in the teaching of Our Lord. Hollywood Father has to learn the difference between the shock of the unexpected and what Our Lord had to say while He was here. We (the Church) were only too happy to nail Him -- because He didn't do all the "nice" things we expected. I can't quite imagine Jesus flashing his cock ("openly manipulating himself"??) but I feel there are occasions in this modern world when He would maybe do just that -- even if only to show us Christians that we don't have a monopoly of the Love of God.

Australia

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QUICKIES

If you don't feel close to God, guess who moved.

32 were present at the October meeting of DIGNITY.

VOTE Nov. 16 for Richard Alatorre

(Dem.) for California State Assembly, 48th District. Want to express your views? Write a letter to the editor, pro or con. (No names will be published unless requested.) Want to submit a poem or short article? Send it to the editor. We reserve the right to determine whether or not it will be published in the Newsletter. Start a DIGNITY Chapter in your area. Write Joe Gilgamesh for particulars. We need you to promote the cause of the Catholic homophile and all gays. House of Hospitality (a Catholic Worker community) in Los Angeles serves free hot meals daily on skid row, is in front of Central Jail daily (a.m.) to serve coffee, donuts and assistance in getting home for those released. They need clothing for the released prisoners. Bring your discards to the monthly meeting. Gay Liberation-Long Beach meets every Tue., 7:30 p.m., at Peace and Freedom headquarters, 1263 Pine Ave., Long Beach. (Tel. 213/434-8776) Meetings begin with discussion. For further information, call Peter Lamerdin (213/541-2127).

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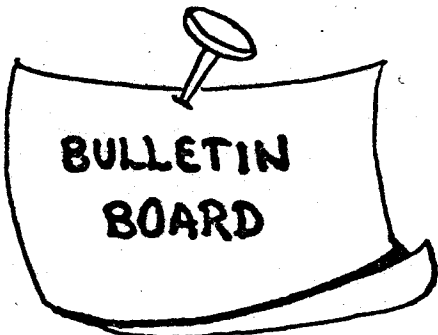
I simply argue that the cross be raised again at the center of the marketplace as well as on the steeple of the church. I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves; on the town garbage heap; at a crossroad so cosmopolitan that they had to write his title in Hebrew and in Latin and in Greek; ... at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble. Because that is where he died. And that is what he died about. And that is where churchmen ought to be, and what churchmen should be about. (George MacLeod)

IN THE NEWS



The Oct. 12 lecture on homosexuality in UCLA series, "Morality: Twilight Zone of the Law" was a great success. Capacity crowd of 200 was anticipated. Location had to be changed to accomodate over 1,000! A scientific team of British Medical Research Council has preliminary findings that suggest homosexuality in men and women may be the result of hormonal imbalance. Injections to offset imbalance have proved ineffective. Homosexuality may be "created in the womb" and stamped for life. If homosexuality is a physical matter, society should reshape its attitudes accordingly, and take a much more dispassionate, or indeed charitable, view, Dr. Loraine (Director of the Council) feels. These California Assemblymen voted against the Brown Bill on sex law reform. Remember them at the polls. DEMOCRATS: Bee, Chacon, Davis, Deddeh, Fenton, Gonsalves, Keysor, LaCoste, McAlister, Porter, Powers, Thomas. (Total: 12). REPUBLICANS: Arnett, Badham, Farnes, Biddle, Briggs, Burke, Campbell, Charpie, Cline, Collier, Dent, Duffy, Hayden, Hayes, R. Johnson, Ketchum, Lanterman, Lewis, MacGillivray, Mobley, Monagan, Moorhead, Murphy, Priolo, Russell, Schabarum, Seeley, Stull, Wood. (Total: 29). 23 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted for the Bill.

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ANTIQUES FOR SALE. Jewell Eisenhower Van Winkle, 1436 North Formosa Avenue, Los Angeles, Ca. 90046. Tel.: 213/874-6259.

WANTED TO RENT. 2-bedroom apt. in Spanish-style building. Rent not to exceed \$150. Call 213/469-3898.

WANTED TO BUY. used refrigerator - \$55. 213/663-6158.

WANTED TO RENT. 2 bedroom house in Eagle Rock. Call 213/664-3012.

WANTED TO BUY. used 10-speed bike. Call 213/663-6158.

The "Bulletin Board" is for your use, members and non-members, no charge. Have items in hands of editor no later than 20th of each month. May be used for any type of a personal notice.

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After Pope Paul's encyclical Humanae Vitae, the Dutch bishops informed their people that in addition to the Pope's teaching, Catholics should be guided by mutual love and their social circumstances. Think about it!

THE STORM

Far deep in the whirling depths of my soul
Like angry thunder doubt and fear roll.
And my heart rides rough on the sea.

Wild crying, the winds of hate and despair,
Like tempting devils, tempt the black air
To emit its venomous rain.

O God! The suspense that strains at the roots.
My hope and love as suckling green shoots
Were compelled to breathe out their life.

And now am I lost; all seems to be gone.
Where life had grazed on love as a fawn,
A dead death now charges unbridled.

But suddenly deep through black pregnant clouds
A jagged tongue licks avidly shrouds
That encircle love in my heart.

I see it; I hear it: life stealing in.
A thread of life yet ever so thin
Searches out the needle of love.

And piercing the heart, it fires the blood.
The flame burns bright and pours forth its flood
To dispel the wrath of the storm.

Proud-arched in the clear a rainbow of love
Vaunts. Grace puts forth her wing like a dove
And enflames the heart in its raging.

The prologue of life has begun

John-Mark

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NOVEMBER PRAYER INTENTION

involvement of gay Catholic
women in DIGNITY

THE FUTURE DOES NOT BELONG TO THOSE
WHO ARE CONTENT WITH TODAY. RATHER
IT WILL BELONG TO THOSE WHO CAN
BLEND VISION, REASON, AND COURAGE
IN A PERSONAL COMMITMENT.

R. F. K.

some see things that are and say why i see things that never were and say
why not r f k

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- November 7 Sun. ... 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Development Committee at apt. of Richard V.
- 7 Sun. ... 8:00 p.m. Society of David recital (\$3.00) at 869 Terrace 49, Highland Park, Ca. William Neil Roberts, harpsichord; Anthony Brazier, flute.
- 10 Wed. ... 7:30 p.m. DIGNITY Board meeting, open this month to all members - Loyola University. Meet in front of chapel.
- 14 Sun. ... 7:00 p.m. DIGNITY Board meeting at Joe Gilgamesh's.
- 20 Sat. ... 7:30 p.m. DIGNITY monthly meeting at ONE, Inc. (2256 Venice Bl., 2nd floor). Guests welcome. Attorney Herbert E. Selwyn to speak on social injustices gays suffer and laws that nourish them.
- 21 Sun. ... Mission tour. 1st group leaves from Gabe's at 7:30 a.m. for Santa Barbara. 2nd group leaves from Maurice's at 9:00 a.m.
- 25 Thurs. . (See below)
- 27 Sat. ... 7:30 p.m. Classical Music Night: Gustav Mahler. Music and discussion at John & Jerry's.
- 28 Sun. ... 7:30 p.m. Prayer Devotions at John & Jerry's.
- December 4 Sat. ... Day of Recollection at Loyola. Details later.
- 5 Sun. ... Spiritual Development Committee Meeting.

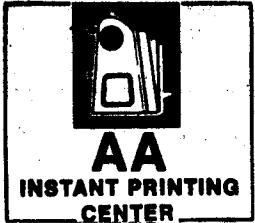
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THANKSGIVING PROGRESSIVE DINNER, Nov. 25.

For members and friends. A chance to join one another in sharing those things for which we are thankful. If you cannot make each stop, try to make at least one or two. Please call the host at each place you plan to visit no later than Nov. 20.

- 12:00 noon ... hors d'oeuvres & drinks at Gabe's (651-4684)
- 2:00 p.m. ... soup & nuts at Paul's (747-1667)
- 3:00 p.m. ... salad at Maurice's (665-3825)
- 4:00 p.m. ... turkey (main course) at John & Jerry's (664-3012)

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