

850 Bathurst Street,
Toronto 4, Ontario



September 30th, 1963

Dear Each and Everyone,

I want to write to all of you who have expressed an interest in our discussions of the single woman to let you know what happened when some of us got together during the retreat of August 31 - September 7.

The week, by the way, turned out to be a reunion time for many of us. Over sixty people came in from all over the country and we had a chance to catch up on news of Africa and Asia from Jessica Stuber, Alice Dugan, Esther Johns and Virginia Mohr, all home on leave. The presentations on Prayer by Father Cantius Matura (ofm) were deep and full and will be with us for a life time, I'm sure. The high point of the week was an early morning Vigil prepared by Father Cantius. It took place just before sunrise and lead into a Mass that began as the dawn broke.

In the afternoon sessions we discussed the Single Vocation in terms of what it might mean in the Church (since very little has been written or said about it up until this time) and what our present day world is thinking about the single woman according to popular books, magazines etc. Wynd Kelly had done a research paper on this topic for a course at Monteith College and others especially in Detroit and Toronto have been trying through reading and discussion with friends to discover more about: How Society Sees the Single Woman and How the Single Woman Sees Herself. ?

During the course of the week we played a tape of a talk given by Father Walsh, C.SP., Chaplain of the Newman Club at Wayne University in Detroit on The Church in the World. The things that Father said were very much to the point of the meaning of our vocation. He made the Church, the World, US, completely related and dependent on each other in revealing the full plan of God for redemption. He gave such a positive value to the world that we couldn't help but respect its growth and development and the part we might play in it.

As part of our discussion on the World we referred to Pacem in Terris and a book by Reverend F.X. Durrwell, C.S.S.R., In The Redeeming Christ and we are enclosing selections from both. From Father Durrwell we see that our vocation is to redeem the world which we can do only through our personal identification with the redeeming action of Christ, His death - resurrection.



How are we going to go on exchanging with each other on this? First of all we thought we should go on with a simple exchange of articles and information on this subject of Woman, Work, World (This is the name we decided to give our "area of concern"). We agreed to send articles, excerpts from books or our own opinions on the subject, not to exceed two typewritten pages, to Frances McLaughlin at Grailville who will mimeograph and distribute them to each of us. We won't send out more than one article a month but we hope that everyone will send things in freely. Whatever is received will go to make up our national file and we'll try to contribute our observations to the thinking on woman that Janet Kalvin is doing and to the new international research which Maria de Lourdes in Portugal is working on.

Frances Hebert of Louisiana is going to contact some people in France and Germany for articles and Glenna Graham of Toronto will try to find out more about the experience of the single woman in some Asian countries.

What will be most valuable in all of this is our own thinking and observations, which hopefully we will exchange as freely as those of other people. Perhaps eventually we will get an article ready for publication. Very little has been said by Christian writers on Woman, Work or World in a way that relates these three or seems to fit to our time and experience, so the field is wide open for what we might have to contribute. U

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

With hopes of hearing from you all during the coming months.

Yours in Christ,

Dorothy Rasenberger
Dorothy Rasenberger.

P.S. For the overall cost of mailing in the coming year may we ask you to send \$2.00 to Frances.



The sanctification of the Church is the redemption of the world

Excerpt from IN THE REDEEMING CHRIST

by F. X. Durrwell, C.S.S.R.

Christ prayed "that they also may be sanctified in truth." Strictly personal, yet infinitely open, Christ's sanctification possesses the power to redeem all things.

When the Church sanctifies herself in her individual members, she is, in her turn, cooperating in the redemption of the world. For she unites herself to the body of Christ, is transformed into him, and communicates in her saviour's own death and resurrection. The body she becomes is indeed Christ's, and the death and resurrection in which she dies and rises again are his. And the body, the death and the resurrection are directed towards the salvation of the whole world. Every believer who sanctifies himself takes part in the mystery of universal redemption. It is his privilege that he cannot save himself alone; his personal sanctification is also an apostolate, a work of redemption in Christ.

In the same way, there can be no true apostolate without personal sanctification. There are not two redemptions, one effected by Christ, the other by his apostles. There is only one, strictly personal to Christ, effected in his death and resurrection. The apostle can place it at the disposal of the world by realizing it in himself. The apostle is not above his master, and, by the grace of his master, he is not below him either. The work of redemption is not something exterior to him, an alien grace merited by Christ and which the apostle simply passes on like a worker on an assembly line. For him as for his master, redemption is a living work which is accomplished in a personal sanctification, in a death to self and a resurrection in God. Thus Christ exalts the person of the apostle and magnifies him in proportion as he demands that the apostle die to himself, for it is in the apostle's own person that the salvation of others is worked out.

Christ alone is the Redeemer, his death and resurrection alone are redemptive. But he is only present in the world through his Church, which is his body still present in the world; his death and resurrection only reach the world in as much as they are realized in the Church. The apostle, the Church's representative in her essential and unique role as redeemer, must be the presence of Christ among men, must make present his mystery of death and resurrection "that they also may be sanctified in truth." The Christian's salvation lies in his personal sanctification. There too begins the salvation of others.

Excerpts from Encyclical Letter of Pope John XXIII

PACEM IN TERRIS

PEACE ON EARTH

Since our present age is one of outstanding scientific and technical progress, one cannot enter these organizations and work effectively from within unless he is scientifically competent, technically capable and skilled in the practice of his own profession. But we desire to call attention to the fact that scientific competence, technical capacity and professional experience, although necessary, are not of themselves sufficient to elevate the relationships of society to an order that is genuinely human, that is, to an order whose foundation is truth, whose measure and objective is justice, whose driving force is love, and whose method of attainment is freedom. For this end it is necessary that human beings, in the intimacy of their own consciences, should so live and act in their temporal lives as to create a synthesis between scientific, technical and professional elements on the one hand, and spiritual values on the other.

There is an immense task incumbent on all men of good will, namely, the task of restoring the relations of the human family in truth, in justice, in love and in freedom--the relations between individual human beings; between citizens and their respective political communities; between political communities themselves; between individuals, families, intermediate associations and political communities on the one hand, and the world community on the other. This is a most exalted task, all will agree, for it is the task of bringing about true peace in the order established by God.

Admittedly, those who are endeavoring to restore the relations of social life according to the criteria mentioned above are not many. To them We express Our paternal appreciation, and We earnestly invite them to persevere in their work with ever greater zeal. At the same time We are comforted by the hope that their number will be increased, especially by those who believe. For it is an imperative of duty; it is a requirement of love.

Every believer in this world of ours must be a spark of light, a center of love, a vivifying leaven amidst his fellow men. And he will be this all the more perfectly, the more closely he lives in communion with God in the intimacy of his own soul. In fact, there can be no peace between men unless there is peace within each one of them, unless, that is, each one builds up within himself the order wished by God.

JOHN XXIII

