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CORPUS REPORTS is a quarterly
journal of CORPUS.

CORPUS
is a national association
advocating both a married and
celibate priesthood in the
Roman Catholic Church.

*In the spirit of Vatican II and
rooted in a strong
Eucharistic commitment,
we believe that priesthood
should be open to all
whom God calls
regardless of gender,
marital status or
sexual orientation.*

CORPUS REPORTS
does not pay for contributions,
but wishes to be a forum for
the exchange of pertinent ideas,
opinions, information and insight.

We welcome your contributions.

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*Published articles may not
necessarily reflect official position of
the Executive Council of CORPUS.*

CORPUS Reports

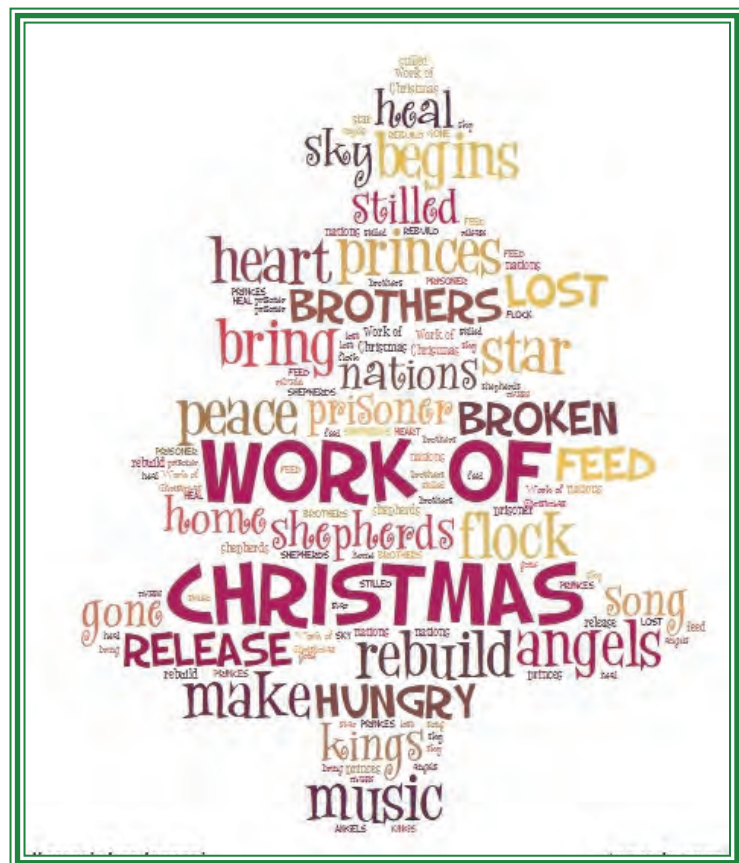
FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Work of Christmas

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:*

*To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman



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Looking Back....Moving Forward



The mission of CORPUS is to advocate for a Roman Catholic priesthood that is inclusive of both married and celibate men, believing that the priesthood should be open to all whom God calls, regardless of marital status. We work towards a Church that embraces a diverse and inclusive priestly ministry, rooted in the spirit of Vatican II and a strong commitment to the Eucharist.

Linda and Ralph have been a presence in CORPUS since 1988.

Linda served on the Board ever since in a number of journeys and capacities!

History is replete with stories of persistence and perseverance in the face of insurmountable odds.

Moses and the Israelites, the Maccabees, the Woman at the Well, the feeding of the 5,000....Jesus' own death and resurrection.

Modern day examples mirror this gospel call. Mahatma Gandhi's walk to the sea to make salt. His legacy led to independence. Martin Luther King wrote a letter from the Birmingham Jail. His continued persistence led to legislation protecting civil rights for all. Nelson Mandela's quiet acceptance of a repressive sentencing at the Island eventually helped overturn apartheid. The lone individual facing the tanks at Tiananmen Square standing firm for democratic reform was an inspiration to us all.

CORPUS celebrates its 50th anniversary on Christmas Eve 2024. A group of "anawim" catholic priests who chose love over law gathered and celebrated their marriage and commitment to continued priestly ministry.

These pages hold our message which was from the beginning spot on! Unfortunately, no matter how many ways we adapted to the every conservative hierarchy, it fell on deaf ears.

As we finish our public presence, let us never relinquish our heritage. We are "CORPUS" and our call to gospel compassion, inclusivity, service and justice is in our DNA. It is our call to holiness and wholeness.

We have started this final issue many times over the past few months. With each passing, we realized how inadequate it is. The fifty years of CORPUS' witness speak for itself. Our small communities, our newsletter, our conferences, our public prayer protests, our families, ourselves. How do you ever capture that grace and spirit in print?

In closing, thank you for all you are and all you have done to make CORPUS, the National Association for an Inclusive Priesthood a reflection of the face of God.

We present some reflections and memories of CORPUS to honor you all!

Linda and Ralph



Icon by Eileen and Tom McCabe

Early Reflection:

As has been written before, the history of CORPUS began in the brewing of canonical priests who had the courage to choose to marry but still longed for active priestly ministry.

Gathering after gathering convinced these couples that God had shown them a path and they made the courageous choice to follow.

Between 1974 and 1988, connections were made with like-minded married priest couples and gathering grew beyond the Chicago birthplace to every corner of the United States.

This creative grace experience the “big bang” at our first national gathering, June 1988, in Washington D.C. For those of us who were blessed by this experience, it became the impotence for our new vocation....a call to holiness and wholeness.

Our marriages were consecrated and we were sent once again into the vineyard to proclaim the good news of Jesus!

The presentations and workshops show the breath and depth of why a married priesthood was good for the church. It is stunning to see how prophetic our vision and mission was. The follow-up discussions leading to our first proclaimed resolutions (see page 6) laid the path for our future movement.

We remain grateful for our founders (Frank and Janet Bonnike; Frank and Sue McGrath; Bill and Teddi Nemmers; Jim and Joan Wilbur) for their wisdom and guidance. We cherish the gift of Terry and Millie Dosh who established a national network of “area representatives” to help and support our movement.

Ultimately, we are grateful for the men and women who served in the Board of CORPUS over the next 35 years responding to the Spirit as she called.



L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO LIRE 80[illegible]

GIORNALE QUOTIDIANO  POLITICO RELIGIOSO
UNICUIQUE SUUM  NON PRAEVALEBUNT

ABBONAMENTI	Anno	Semestre	Trimestre
CITTA' DEL VATICANO - ITALIA L.	8.000	4.200	1.300
ESTERO L.	12.500	6.500	—

Prestito di una copia arretrata il doppio
 CONTO CORRENTE POSTALE 1-10751
 SPEDIZIONE IN ABB. POSTALE (GRUPPO 1)

Anno CII - N. 233 (31.107)

CITTA' DEL VATICANO

Giovedì 11 Ottobre 1962

Il Concilio Ecumenico Vaticano II



Euchesia Christi-lumen gentium

Joannes XXIII

11-X-1962



Miniatura della Bolla «*Humanae salutis*» che indice il Concilio Ecumenico Vaticano II

La miniatura, eseguita presso la Cancelleria Apostolica, che adorna la Bolla «*Humanae salutis*», è stata concepita come un arioso vestibolo artistico che introduce alla lettura dello storico documento.

I simboli degli Evangelisti inquadrano come solidi pilastri e legano la decorazione. Le idee che costituiscono l'ossatura della Bolla (cioè l'unità della Chiesa, l'analisi così sobria ma così viva del mondo moderno, la necessità imperiosa di ricorrere al solo messaggio che può dare luce di speranza) hanno ispirato i motivi di decorazione, che richiamano il valore del messaggio evangelico. In ampie volute l'olivo, simbolo della pacifica giovinezza della Chiesa, nonché dei suoi trionfi non ostacolati dalle apparenti sconfitte, è intrecciato con i tralci rigogliosi della vite: *Ego sum vitis, vos palmis* (Jo. 15, 5); Le spighe di grano, inoltre, accostate alle foglie dell'olivo, richiamano altri due pensieri, ricorrenti nella Bolla: l'olivo, simbolo della pace ripetutamente invocata dagli uomini, ma umanamente irraggiungibile, che potrà essere una felice conquista in un mondo rinnovato e permeato dal Cristianesimo; le spighe di grano, che nel loro significato si rifanno alle parole della Didachè: *Quoniam ad modum fuit hoc militum far disperitum supra mactes, deinde collectum in unam coaluit, ita valeat Ecclesia tua ab extremis terris in regnum tuum; quia tu es gloria et potestas per Jesum Christum in sacris* (Did. 9, 4; de Eucharistia).

La composizione artistica ha al centro lo stemma del Pontefice gloriosamente regnante che, altissimo e ispirato strumento della divina Provvidenza, ha indetto il Concilio e ne è la guida illuminata e infallibile.

Inquadra la composizione medesima un motivo ornamentale, tratto dai nomi dei venti Concili Ecumenici, che fanno convergere la loro luce nel nuovo Concilio.

First National Conference on a Married Priesthood

Mandatory Celibacy IS STARVING THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY!

American University, Washington D.C., June 17-19, 1988

WELCOME!



Frank Bonnike speaks
from Chicago
for the
CORPUS Facilitators
and Executive Committee:
*"CORPUS is in its fourteenth year. The
issue of a renewed married priesthood to
co-exist with a celibate priesthood never
was more alive!"*
"Amen to that!",
say Chicago facilitators Frank
McGrath and William Nemmers.

Corpus

has been the visible, organizational voice of the movement for change, although we are only trying to articulate what most people are thinking:

- How do we strategize to effect change?
- What are the problems a married priesthood might face?
- What are the effects for the Catholic community?
- What would be the spirituality of a married priesthood?
- Can we finance a married priesthood?

Goals of the Conference

- to gather men and women whose experience and status speaks to the issue;
- to assess the loss which the Church suffers through mandatory celibacy;
- to facilitate the reconciliation of celibate and married priests;
- to publicize findings and recommendations of the Conference;
- to formulate methods to effect the needed changes within the Church.

Moreover, through our networking and conferencing, we hope to foster optional celibacy within the Latin Rite Catholic priesthood; to study the 'mysterious' model of marriage as applied to Christ and the Church; to involve resigned priests more and more in the work of the Church; to evidence the compatibility of marriage and the priesthood; and to affirm the authentic charism of celibacy as an option in ministry.

Dynamic Work of the Conference

The centerpiece of the First National Conference on a Married Priesthood will be the conclusions reached in small groups workshops. Three sessions of workshops on the DIALOGUE TOPICS will address the same ten topics on Friday, June 17th. The workshops, led by teams of three co-leaders, will guide each of the ten small group workshops to:

- interpret the topic;
- define problems they foresee in such an interpretation;
- evaluate possible solutions;
- outline the material covered and draw conclusions;
- complete a position paper on the topic, suggesting resolutions.

All are encouraged to attend the workshops of their choice during the three sessions.

Terry Dosh, editor of CORPUS REPORTS, is inviting participants to give eight minute presentations on one of the Dialogue topics and to act as co-leaders of that workshop. If interested, please contact him at Conference Headquarters or CORPUS REPORTS for details.

Conclusions and position papers will be presented at the general sessions on Saturday, June 18, for discussion and comment. Resolutions and calls to action will follow on Sunday, June 19th.

Dialogue Topics

1. A Married Priesthood: Benefits for the Catholic Community
2. Women and their Priest-Husbands
3. The Spirituality of a Married Priesthood
4. Strategies for Introducing Married Male Priests
5. Financing a Married Priesthood
6. Assisting Priests in Transition
7. Strategies for Introducing Female Priests
8. Order, Authority (local ordinary, canon law) and Married Priests
9. Celibate and Married Priesthood Working Together
10. Married Priests, Young People and the Small Christian Community Today.

Corps of Reserve Priests United for Service
Resolutions
June 19, 1988

Be it Resolved: Since mandatory celibacy is starving the Catholic Community of sufficient ordained priests, we encourage and affirm:

1. That the Church in the United States initiate a widespread program of identification and reconciliation with inactive priests, and that an expedited program of pastoral research and needs assessment be undertaken in order to identify areas of priestly collaboration and service for these brothers in Christ.
2. That in the light of the fact that 43% of the parishes worldwide and 10% currently in the U.S. are pastorless, while at the same time there are over 5,000 resigned and married priests in the U.S. prepared to render sacramental service, CORPUS urges Church leaders to affirm publicly the perduring nature of the priesthood and its powers, which always can be validly expressed and exercised especially in times of critical shortage.
3. That women's presence be more explicit in CORPUS.
4. That CORPUS be helpful in expressing an enriched theology of marriage.
5. That CORPUS be a model in respecting women by promulgating women's concerns and perspective in the continuing dialogue for married priest's' ministry.
6. That there be more financial responsibility and accountability on the part of CORPUS' members.
7. That CORPUS help facilitate reconciliation between the institutional church and its wounded priests and their wives.
8. That CORPUS model equality between men and women in marriage and ministry.
9. That CORPUS make available wider access to its resources including the wealth of its lived experience by:
 - Telling the stories of its members' spiritual journey
 - Developing spiritual communities
 - Encouraging one another to do ministry as married priests
 - Relating in a caring way to celibate priests and religious especially by maintaining friendships
 - Funding the development of a theology of sexuality and marriage
10. That CORPUS consider the establishment of a broader lay organization to enlist the support of the larger church.
11. That CORPUS approach the Priestly Life and Ministry Committee of the NCCB to establish a pastoral provision for the good of the faithful to utilize willing, resigned in the presbyteral service of the church similar perhaps to the pastoral provision used for the convert clergy.
12. That CORPUS area representatives prepare a list of resigned priests available in the local dioceses for presbyteral service, especially in emergencies.

13. That married priests in active part-time or full-time ministry deserve adequate financial support, and the Catholic community has both the will and the resources to provide that funding. Another options for renewed service are the self-supporting married priests.

14. That the dioceses and orders provide for transitional services to their former clergy: counseling, out-placement, health insurance, pension, job listing, and small business loans. Further, all punitive exclusion from employment or service in church is abolished, including all liturgy, social action, and education that is open to lay people.

15. In the light of the wisdom of Jesus who chose both married and unmarried person to be his disciples and collaborators, and reflecting on the honored place of a married priesthood through many centuries of the church's history, and the reception of married Episcopal priests into the Latin Rite, CORPUS proclaims that a multifaceted expression of priesthood, including a married and unmarried priesthood, is fully reflective of the will of Christ, is in the best interest of the People of God, and will enhance the authentic life and order of the church.

16. In the light the following biblical truth:

- That women and men are created in the very image of God;
- That Mary's fiat to the Spirit bore and nurtured the body and blood of Jesus
- That Jesus said, "My mother and brothers and sisters are those who hear the word of God and keep it."
- That women proclaimed the resurrection to the apostles

17. And in the light of the sacramental truth that in virtue of baptism all Christians male and female are called to witness their faith...

- The exclusion of women from the priesthood on the basis of gender alone is contrary to nature and to the Spirit of Christ.
- CORPUS, therefore, affirms the right and aspiration of women to full participation in all ministries of the church and asserts solidarity with those who are moving to open these ministries to women.

18. Effective sharing of ministry between celibate and married priests requires clear and open communication between married priests, celibate priests and the hierarchy. CORPUS can be seen as the conduit for the sharing of information and the promoting of cooperative ministry. As a first step CORPUS encourages the U.S bishops to recognize the service and affirm the personhood of men and women, priests and religious whose choices involve a departure from canonical ministry.

19. CORPUS urges the founding and proliferation of small faith communities as providing an ideal setting for married priests to minister to the faithful. Such ministry recognizes and calls forth the priesthood of the laity which they share by reason of their baptism. Because of their familial nature these small faith communities also provide a nurturing environment for our young people while the example of the married priests ministering within them speaks to their hunger for a more authentic priesthood.

20. That the bishops and major superiors within the United States urge the Pope to recognize the mature decision made by thousands of priests and acknowledge their full and dignified status within the church, including all canonical requirement and benefits, even if these have not been sought or denied.

*Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more.
It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity.
It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.
— Melody Beattie*

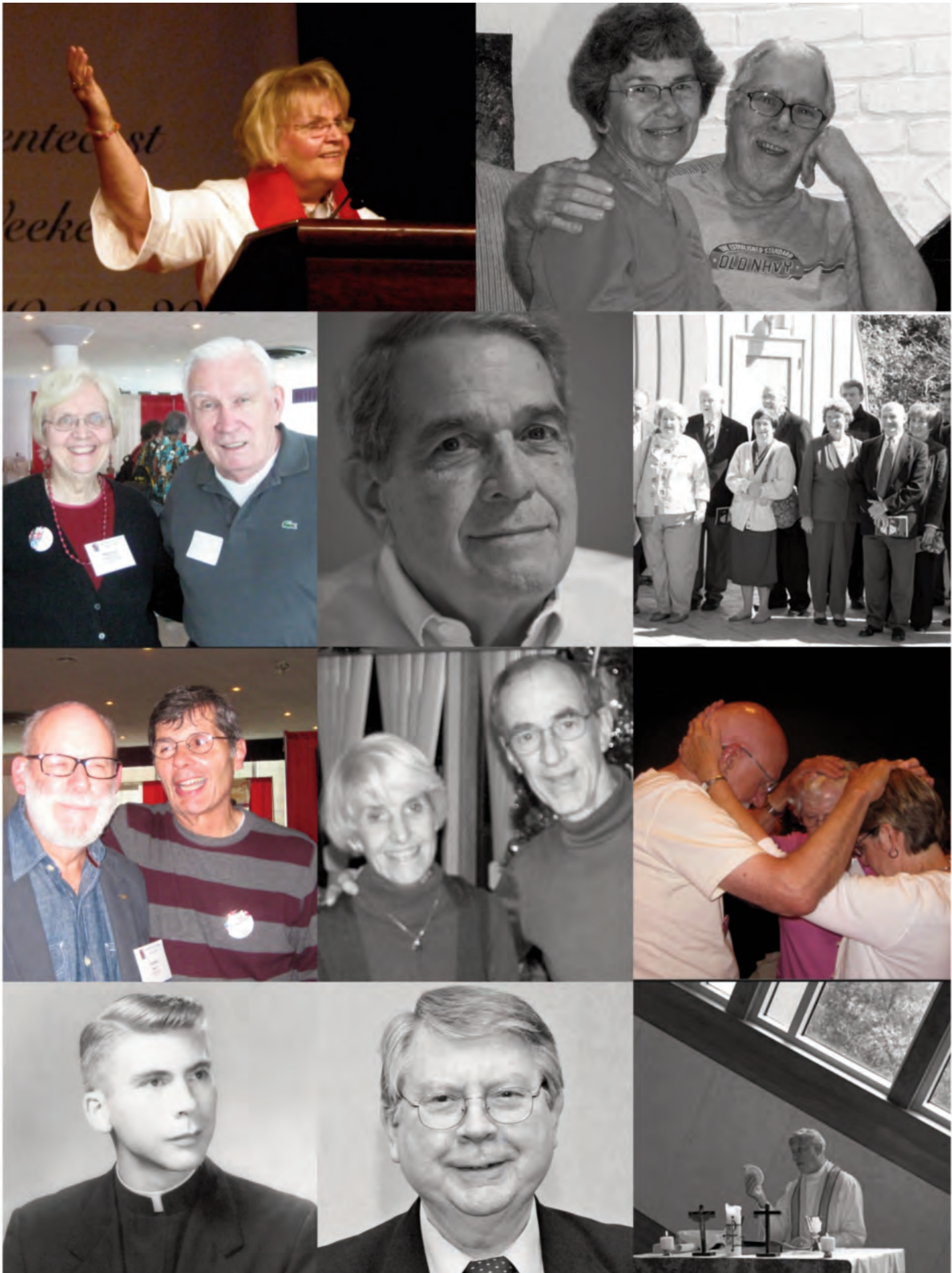
There are no adequate words to thank those members of CORPUS who stepped forward for Board leadership. Their commitment and vision; their ability and willingness to listen attentively yet present alternative positions; their passion for consensus, always focused on Vatican II values is their hallmark of service. We list their names (alphabetically) as gratitude and blessing.

Editor's Note: From experience we know that while one individual was named, CORPUS couples worked as a team. Therefore, we acknowledge spouses.

** Served as President **Couples who were elected for service*

Tom Abel
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Tom (Janice) Bice-Allen
Frank (Janet) Bonnike
Mike Breslin
Carol Ann (Lee) Breyer
Ann (Joe) Bukovich
Paul Bumbar/Gloria Durka**
Pat (Julie Callahan)
Joe (Mary Jane) Cece
Bob (Mary Alice) Charpentier
Mary Grace (Ron) Crowley-Koch
Nick* (Mary) De Los Reyes
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Allen* and Sylvia Moore**
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Stu (Marie) O'Brien
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Linda* (Ralph) Pinto
John Shankey
John* and Maureen* Sheehan
Skip Sikora
Martha Sorohan
Robert (Molly) Walden
William (Pattie) Wisniewski



CORPUS

P.O. BOX 2649 CHICAGO, IL 60690

NEWSLETTER

Number Six

January-February

1976

Corps of Reserve Priests United for Service

Facilitators: Frank J. Bonnke, Thomas S. Hund, Francis Joseph McGrath, William J. Nemmers
All contributions tax-deductibleThe Numbers Game

We do not want to get involved in a numbers game with anyone so we had better clarify our statistics. Originally we thought that if it could be established that at least one hundred resigned priests were willing and able to resume service to the official Church we would have established that "a significant number" were interested -- thus providing a documented response to those who had publicly stated, "The married/resigned priests are no longer interested in serving the Church."

As a matter of fact, by the end of 1975, 563 married/resigned priests had subscribed to the CORPUS statement -- thus indicating willingness to resume active priestly service in the official Church. This 563 came from a list of 1400 names and addresses of married/resigned culled by CORPUS from various sources. Accurate lists of married/resigned priests are very difficult to obtain; there is hardly a more mobile segment of the U.S. population.

Of the 1400 invited to subscribe to the CORPUS statement, 563 responded in the affirmative - better than one-third. Therefore, we argue that at least one-third of the married/resigned priests are ready to be reactivated.

How many U.S. priests have resigned? This is very difficult to determine. Sociologist Richard Schoenherr (who worked on the Bishops' NORC sociological study of the priesthood) has tried to maintain a statistical record of U.S. priests and he claims about ten thousand have resigned. We are inclined to accept his figure. If it is a little high, chances are that by the end of the year it will be found to be a little low - so we accept it as a good working figure.

Further, historian Terry Dosh accepts the ten thousand figure and notes that of these 90% are less than 45 years old and thus he concludes that one-third of all U.S. priests in this age group are now married.

Using the ten thousand figure and projecting our more than one-third response we conservatively project "more than three thousand" married/resigned American priests are available for Church service.

So goes the numbers game !!!!

Please continue to send us names and addresses so that we may reach as many resigned/married priests as possible. However, we do feel the emphasis must shift from collecting names to more direct action - such as establishing models of resigned/married priests actually involved in Church work.

PERMANENT DEACONS ???? - not us

A recent news item reports that "requests of laicized priests who want to be permanent deacons has increased in the last several months but that the Vatican told the committee 'that such requests ought not be taken seriously'". We know of no priests who want to be permanent deacons - we are permanent priests - but there are many priests (resigned and married) who are willing to serve in the diaconal role (as we have done many times in the past at solemn Mass etc.) - especially in the traditional service aspects of that order. More on this in future newsletters.

MERRY CHRISTMAS !thanks

As a Christmas gift to each of our nation's bishops CORPUS mailed a copy of Chicago Studies/NFPC Reconciliation: Pastoral Priorities 1975. Two bishops responded with notes of thanks.

Two of the nine articles in the above book pertain to resigned priests. These have been reprinted and are being distributed as widely as possible.

Year End Report - December 31, 1975

CORPUS Subscribers....	563
Donations received.....	\$ 3,369.50
Expenses (printing, stamps, etc).....	3,345.11
Balance on hand.....	\$ 24.39

UPDATE OF CORPUS STATEMENT

The CORPUS statement has been revised somewhat to keep up with the new year and the theme of freedom and justice. The reservist model has been de-militarized and references to service as a deacon have been eliminated to avoid confusion. Finally, anonymity has been eliminated and emphasis directed to action on the local level. Copies of the revised statement are enclosed. Your reactions are vital.

A WORD OF THANKS (sent for your information.)

On the letterhead of the Presbytery of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and over the signatures of the chairman of the senate, and the names of all the senators, the following letter was sent on May 20, 1974, to the resigned priests of that Archdiocese.

Dear Brother:

On April 25 the Presbytery celebrated the seventh anniversary of the formation of the Senate of Priests. Archbishop Byrne attended, a guest speaker addressed us on the subject of "Reconciliation and the Presbytery in the Early Church", and a special recognition award was presented to Gerry Keefe.

This event presents us with the opportunity to express to you and to many others who have left the active ministry our thanks for the many years of good service you provided the Archdiocese while you were among us.

We have a lot in common. We studied together in the seminary, we were together at ordination, and we shared the same work in the Archdiocese. We want to express to you our sincere gratitude not only for all your contributions to the Archdiocese but also to us personally.

We deeply regret the factors which separate us now. We know that many of you have suffered a lot in reaching the decision that eventually lead to your separation from us.

With this note and sincere expression of thanks for your work and presence among us go our warm wishes for you personally, your present work and family obligations you may have assumed.

On behalf of the Presbytery,
(signed as indicated)

It is a human trait to be encouraged and sometimes influenced by what others have done. We could all use some encouragement and would, therefore, appreciate any additional signs of support you can provide. The preceding letter is a beautiful example.

HERE and THEREA big Kudo to Rev. Walter A. Reinbeau S.S.S. for his thought-provoking article in EMANUEL (Vol.81, No.5 p213-7 -May 1975) "No Man's Land" in which he suggested reconciliation for priests begin with their own resigned/married brothers. Many letters to the editor resulted and were printed in the October issueNew Ministry in Phoenix, local r/m group, "gustimates" 500 m/r live in the area. Many serve as religious educators, lectors, parish councils members etc. PADRES, the Latino priests organization, deals with the utilization of their married members in a recent edition of their newsletter.....

.....Magr. Francis P. Murphy is showing a 20 minute audio visual filmstrip on married priests to various local and national groups. As vicar for personnel in Baltimore he keeps in touch with local married priests.....ACTION ON THE LOCAL Scene is reported or suspected in Colorado, San Francisco, Houston, New Orleans, Boston, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis/St.Paul..... And in CHICAGO, the ACP is holding a townhall directed towards activation of resigned/married priests. Anyone in the Chicago area on Sunday, February 22nd is welcome to attend. More info is on the enclosed yellow sheet.

CORPUS REPORTS

*You are the light of the world.
A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.
Neither do we light a candle and put it
under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and
it gives light to all that are in the house.
Let your light so shine before the world that
they may see your good works and give
glory to God.*

It started as outreach. After drafting a letter inviting resigned priests to sign-on to returning as long as their wives and families were recognized and respected, the follow-up became the CORPUS Newsletter.

It included updates on the early energies of CORPUS as well as happenings in the church which offered a glimmer of hope.

In our households, the CORPUS Newsletter became a beacon of hope. It touched us and began to heal the pain of rejection and separation. It offered a gospel miracle.

We remain grateful for the initial coordinators efforts to keep the light shining as CORPUS grew into a national movement. It became obvious as we entered the decades of the '80's that a more formal and regular notice was essential.

Our founders turned to Terry (and Millie Dosh). Stepped in theology, experienced in community

building and committed to the vision of CORPUS, Terry began the groundwork of coalizing local energies into wider communities. Meetings were held and eventually an "area rep" system was in place.

Throughout it all, CORPUS REPORTS played an absolutely essential role.

After our first national conference, CORPUS leadership transitioned and expanded. Original founders, Frank Bonnike and Frank McGrath, along with Terry Dosh, welcomed ten area reps to meeting and continue to strategize for the acceptance of a married priesthood.

Shortly afterwards, the Board hired Skip Sikora to become a National Coordinator and Editor of CORPUS REPORTS. His professional background brought a new look and new outreach. Years later, enter David Gawlik, magician par excellence! His background in publishing put CORPUS REPORTS on the map! After ten years, he handed off the task to Linda and Ralph Pinto. *

We are eternally grateful to each editor but especially to our members who filled the pages with cutting edge theology, ecclesiology, contemporary movement news and members' happenings. Your wit and wisdom made us shine!

*Gratitude to our eagle eyed proofreaders (Paul Ackerman, Paul Berres, Mary Jane McCool, Stu O'Brien. We also thank Jim Magmer and Jim Ewens for this service as well.







The biggest blessings to come to me through CORPUS are fellowship with other married Roman Catholic priests and their spouses, our shared conviction that God gave us the call to service both in priesthood and in marriage, and the affirmation that we are a prophetic voice within the Church. I am grateful that as a priest my life and ministry were affirmed. My biggest CORPUS regret is that I did not invite my wife to come with me to the first national gathering in 1988. While there, I realized that if not for my wife I would not have been a member of CORPUS. The biggest blessings to come to me through CORPUS are fellowship with other married Roman Catholic priests and their spouses, our shared conviction that God gave us the call to service both in priesthood and in marriage, and the affirmation that we are a prophetic voice within the Church. I am grateful that as a priest my life and ministry are better because I am married. better because I am married.

CORPUS has been a Beacon for me ever since it was started. Having made my decision and moved from the celibate Priesthood in 1968, I was thrilled to follow Anthony Padovano and the team that organized this movement ,

It said the things I also professed. The theology so well expressed by Anthony was so logical and so factual, it made our move so reassuring and hopeful. It clearly was inspired by the Holy Spirit.

And therefore, tho so many of us will have passed on before any real change in the system, we know and are full of Hope that the SPIRIT will continue to guide the Church to a more Human and Renewed Priesthood for the People of God.

Thank you to you and the many others with you who have produced "CORPUS REPORTS", they were filled with many various and important subjects, so useful and supportive of our goals. We will miss them. But we will continue to follow the SPIRIT, as IT guides us and we will continue to pray for one another. Best wishes,

(William) Bill (Florence) McDonough,
Ordained Pgh., Pa Diocese '55.



Linda -

As I read of the probable timely end some thoughts:

Dates to remember -

CORPUS was conceived in November 1973 at a dinner hosted by Barry Rankin (cf obit) at the Beef Steak Inn on Sheridan Road Chicago by Jim Wilbur -ordained 56., Bill Nemmers 57 and myself 57.(and wives) Speaker at that dinner was Frank Bonnike who none of the three of us had ever met before.

Since we were unknown.and Bonnike was well connected we thought of inviting him to join us. Jim Wilbur contacted Bonnike and we met for the first time in Spring of 1974 at the newly married Bonnike home and CORPUS was born. Frank with a military background came up with the "reserve" name and idea.

Thus was CORPUS born. Symbolically we picked Dec.24,1974 when the Holy door of the Holy Year of Reconciliation began as our birthday. What could be more appropriate than the church reconcile with her married priests.

The most important person in the early days was Jim Wilbur, who at that time was editor of the J. S. Paluch Missalette and had the resources (mailing lists etc)of the Paluch organization. HOWEVER since Jim had to see Cardinal Cody to publish every month his name could not be associated with CORPUS even though he did most of the contacts. Thus the name of Jim Wilbur did not appear on any CORPUS material as long as he was with J.S. Paluch.

Another important person was Joe Marto who joined us later and helped to run the first gathering of CORPUS representatives- a list gathered together by Bill Nemmers. It was at this meeting that we met Terry Dosh.



Hope the above is helpful.

Frank McGrath (still alive -at least at this moment)

Recollection of CORPUS by Elaine McGillicuddy

My name is Elaine McGillicuddy, and I live in Portland, Maine. I was an Ursuline nun, and my husband Francis (who died 13 years ago) was a diocesan priest. Each of us had been assigned to Waterville, Maine, in September 1968, Father McGillicuddy as assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Church, and I, Sister Maureen (the name I had chosen as my religious name) as an eighth-grade teacher in the school he would oversee.

Father McGillicuddy's duties and mine overlapped from the beginning, bringing us into frequent contact. Eventually, because we fell in love, I left the convent. And then, after Francis received a "dispensation" from Rome, he left the priesthood. After we were married in 1972, we bought a house and in Portland, Maine.

I can't remember how or when I heard about CORPUS, which stands for **Core of Reserved Priests United for Service**. And when I did (to use a cliché) - it was a "God-send!"

After reading what Linda Pinto wrote about CORPUS REPORTS' ending with their autumn issue Linda emailed me. She asked if I would be willing to write a Recollection of CORPUS. I responded: "Yes I will, Linda, because a project like this will bring back special memories. This project certainly has done that.

During a weekend CORPUS conference in Washington State, Francis and I met Sylvia and Allan Moore. After seeing them at other CORPUS conferences, we became good friends.

After Allan died in July this year, I telephoned Sylvia two or three times.

Then, when a conference was held in Wisconsin, Francis and I met David Gawlik. I remember that when we stepped off the plane, David greeted us by saying something funny, and we all laughed.

After Francis died on January 3, 2010, some years later, I felt drawn to write. After I left the convent, my first job was teaching English composition at Thornton Academy in Saco, Maine (not far from Portland). That experience seemed to me a kind of preparation to be a writer.

Over a period of three years, from 2012 to 2015, I wrote three books: *SING TO ME, AND I WILL HEAR YOU THE POEMS*; *SING TO ME, AND I WILL HEAR YOU A LOVE STORY*, and *SING TO ME AND I WILL HEAR YOU NEW POEMS*.

I can't remember how I learned that David owned a book printing company called "Caritas Communications." In any case, after I wrote the first book, I called David and asked if he would publish my book. When he readily agreed, I was relieved and very grateful.

Four years later, in 2019, I wrote another book: *TO COMMUNE WITH THE ANCESTORS – A WIDOW REFLECTS*.

By this time, David no longer printed books.
self-publish this book. Thank you, David!

But he helped me at every step to

Francis and I also made friends with Marie and Stu O'Brien who live in Massachusetts. We visited them a few times. Then when Marie died in April 2005, we drove from Portland to Raynham, Massachusetts, to be present for her funeral. I still keep in contact with Stu.

Theresa and Anthony Padovano are the last couples with whom Francis and I made friends, thanks to CORPUS Conferences. I remember that we not only visited them where they lived in New Jersey, but years later, Theresa came to our home and stayed overnight. The next day she joined us in our car and drove to Boston. On Sunday, she joined Anthony when we attended mass at St. Cecelia's parish.

Francis and I appreciated Father John's sermons so much that I attend mass online when the weather is not feasible here in Portland.

When I told Linda that writing my "Recollection of CORPUS would surely bring back wonderful memories," it certainly has. This project did more than that. It reconnected me with excellent friends.

Now I'm in contact with Sylvia Moore, David Gawlik, Theresa Padovano, and Stu O'Brien, four members of CORPUS! Praise the Lord!



What a wonderful finale you are preparing to 50 years (1974-2024) of CORPUS!

I left active ministry in 1970, trusting that God would provide and provide God did, in spades, but with vital CORPUS assistance, both moral and corporal.

The contacts and assistance provided by membership in CORPUS helped me to "build a life I could live with"!

Having known nothing but seminary life and ordained existence for 40 years of my life, I came to the realization, thanks to Vatican 2, that such an enforced life of celibacy was not to be for me for the rest of my life.

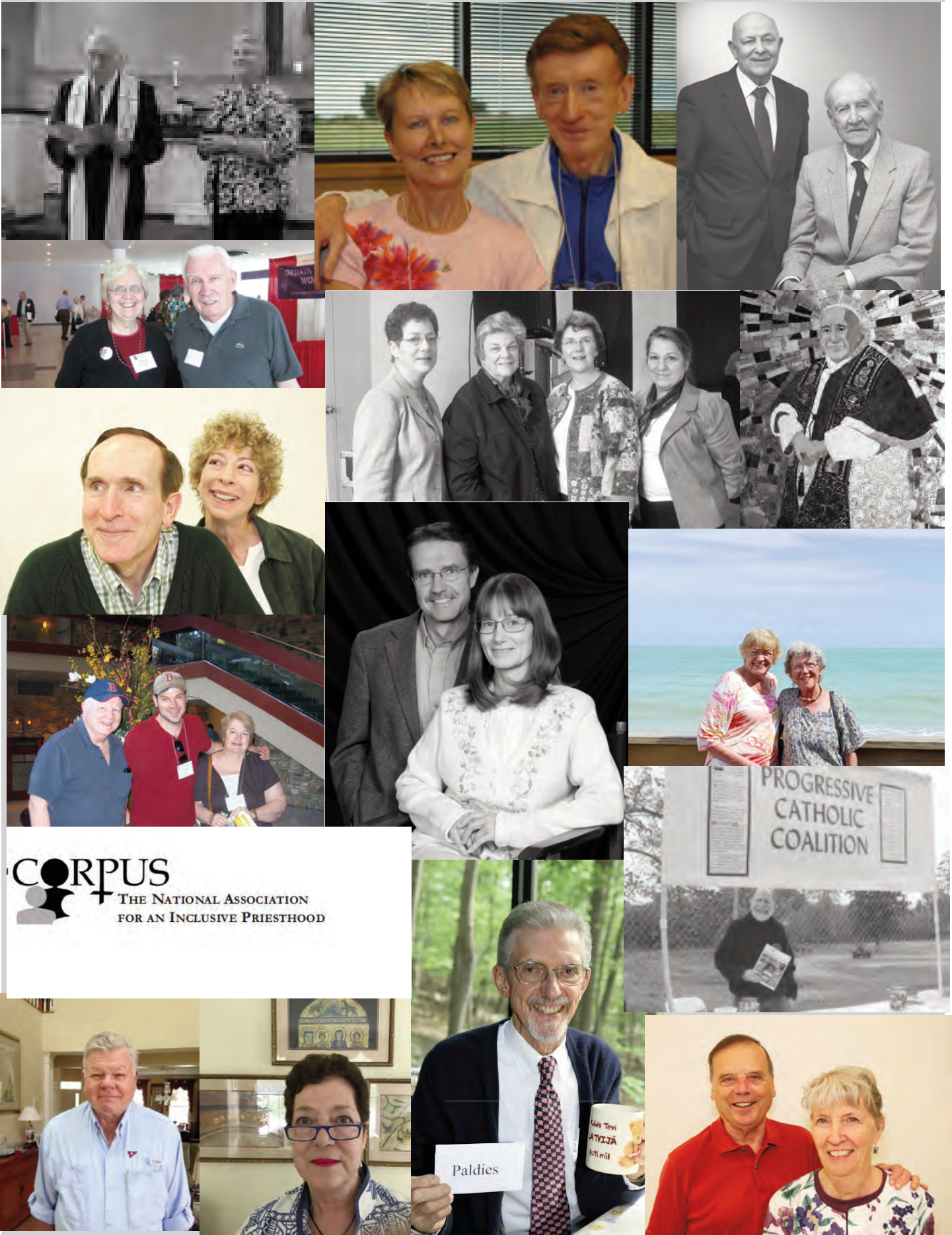
Now, at the age of 91, I look back with gratitude to CORPUS for the leadership and guidance provided me at the pivotal moment of my life, the year I asked for and received laicization.

My life since that event has been very fulfilling (married to my wonderful wife, Eileen; two daughters, 5 granddaughters and two great grandchildren), a professional career as an Ex. Dir. of Regional Mental Health Centers in Mississippi and a normal personal private life.

Thank you, CORPUS, for helping me to "build a life I could live with"!

Dr Paul J Ackerman
185 Annandale Dr
Columbus, Ms 39702





CORPUS Conferences

The CORPUS Community celebrated a conference annually from 1988 through 2015.
This listing of themes, topics and speakers reveals the depth and breath of the work and witness of CORPUS!

1988 *Mandatory Celibacy is Starving the Catholic Community!*

(Washington, DC)

Terence Dosh, Ph. D
A. W. Richard Sipe
Anthony T. Padovano
Theresa Kane, RSM, M.P.A.
Gail Fagan, Ph.D/Peter Fagan Ph.D
Frank Bonnike

A Living Tradition Rediscovered
Sexuality and Psyche in Priests
Shaping the Future Priesthood
Toward the 21st Century, Women and Ministry
Sex, Power and Money
Homilist

1989 *Companions on the Journey*

(Columbus, OH)

Donald Moncrieff, Ph.D
Ellen O'Shaughnessy, D.Min.
Lee Piegrass, Ph.D.
Regina Kobak Drew, M. Div.
Roberta Nobleman

Dancing in the Upper Room:
Partners Empowering a Married Priesthood
When the Heart Listens: Three Love Stories

Dagmar Celeste, MA
Allen Moore, Ph.D
Phil and Linda Marcin

All That I Am (historical dramatization of five wives of
Church Leaders
People of God: We Need a Married Priesthood
Bringing the Dream to Life: Necessary Steps on the Way
Homilists

1990 *The Christian Community Needs the Eucharist*

(San Jose, CA)

Tim Unsworth
Ned Reidy, CSC
Colette Fay
Anthony T. Padovano
Jake Empereur, SJ

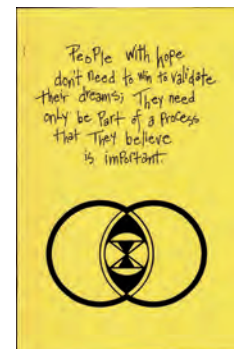
Susan Sikora, Moderator

Ann Boyce Bukovchik
Barbara Barry
Phyllis Soto
Denys Horgan

Preserving Celibacy or the Eucharist?
Call to a Deeper Intimacy

Continuing the Conversation
The Eucharist: We Remember, We
Celebrate, We Believe
Dialoguing about a Married
Priesthood

Panelist
Panelist
Panelist
Homilist: Family Eucharist in Honor of John the Baptizer



1991 *The Church in the Twenty-First Century***(New York, NY)**

Harvey Cox	Change and Reform in Christian History and Life: Tradition and Strategies
Anthony T. Padovano	Alienation and Allegiance: Strategies for Survival and Mission
Jane Blewett	The Cry of the Earth: A Challenge to Catholic Social Teaching
Ruth Fitzpatrick	Women in Ministry
A.W. Richard Sipe	The Church's Sexual/Celibate Agenda
Anthony Stevens-Arroyo	Minorities in the Church
Dean Hoge	Effects of the Priest Shortage on American Catholicism
Linda and Ralph Pinto	Marriage and Ministry: Creative Possibilities for the 1990's
Margaret Steinsfels, M.A.	Talking Responsibility for the Church; How to Think About It and How to Do It

1992 *A Church for Our Children: Nurturing the Eucharistic Community* (Chicago, IL)

Richard McBrien	The Future of the Church: Catholic Faith for a New Century and a New Millennium
Richard Westley	State of the Assembly
Sister Pat and Patty Crowley	Keynote
Joseph F. Grizone	Jesus for our Times

1993 *Nudging the Church Toward the Third Millennium***(San Antonio, TX)**

Megan McKenna	Free Servants Who are Called to Obey
Michael Crosby	Seeds of Hope
Gary MacEoin	Our Destiny, Our Privilege, Our Obligation to Transform the World
Bernard Cooke	The Power of Freedom

1994 *Claim The Future by Owning the Present: Acting to Shape the Church of the Future* (Washington, D.C.)

Thomas Fox	Lessons for CORPUS From the Last Twenty Years
Rosemary Radford Ruether	The Future Church According to the Gospels...How We Get from Here to There?
Frank Bonnike	Partnership in Ministry and the Role of Gender in the Future Church
Rosemary Sullivan	

1995 *Being-Becoming-Belonging***(Kent State, Cleveland OH)**

Joan Chittister

Anthony T. Padovano

Dennis and Sheila Linn

Carolyn Horvath and Tom Leonhardt

(FCM) Panel Presentation on Forms of
Ministry

Louise Haggett and John Schuster

(Celibacy is the Issue)

Chris Schenk

(FutureChurch)

1996 *Stir Up the Grace Within***(San Diego, CA)**

Dr. Florence Fillman

Seeking God in Scripture

Edwina Gateley

Finding God in Action

Dr. Thomas and Bonnie Geary

Relating to God in Each Other

1997 *Pilgrims of Conscience/People of Hope***(Boston, MA)**

Lisa Sowle Cahill

Conscience and Hope: Revisions for the Next
Generation

Francis and Judith McNutt

Partnership in Ministry: A Personal Journey

Eugene C. Bianchi

Trans-Traditional Spirituality:

Minister as Seeker, Guide, Healer

1998 *Wisdom, Community, Equality: Voices that Challenge the Future* (Seattle, WA)

Dick Westley, Ph.D

The Ultimate Challenge: To Lose/Give Up the Faith
in Order to Be Faithful

Rosemary R. Reuther, Ph.D.

Voices That Challenge: Feminist and Ecological
Perspectives

Alberta Canada

1999 *Human Rights in the Church and Reconciliation***(Atlanta, GA)**

Elfriede Harth

Human Rights in the Church

Phillipe De La Chapelle

Human Rights in the Catholic Church Today

Dr. Eugene Bianchi

Celibacy and Gender in the 16th Century Chatrian

Rev. Josh Beozzo

Jubilee and Social Responsibility in the Church

Dr. Paul Collins

A Reforming Church with an Unreformed Leadership:

A Disjunction at the Heart of Catholicism

Dr. Daniel Maguire

Redeeming the Ministry of Reconciliation

Julio Pinillos

Married Priests Perform Liturgical, Sacramental and

Pastoral

Ministry at the Community's Request

Patty Crowley

Commentator

Christine Schenk, CSJ
Maureen Fiedler, SL

Commentator
Homilist

2000 Faith, Hope, Charity

(Milwaukee, WI)

Paul Wilkes
Dick Westley
Rev. Deborah Little

Faith 2000
Hope 2000
Charity 2000

2001 The Church in The 21st Century

(New York, NY)

Edwina Gateley

Robert Blair Kaiser
Daniel Berrigan
Mary Ann Cejka
Marie Dennis

Terry Dosh

Rev. Douglas and Elizabeth Fisher
Rev. Charles and Jeannie Lockner
Jeannine Grammick, SSND
Bill Manseau
Mary Rammerman
A. W. Richard Sipe
Anthony T. Padovano

Women and Men Called to Ministry, Oneness and Holiness
People of God and the Future of the Church
The Peacemaking Christian and the War-making State
Re-imagining Full Humanity
Christian Ministry and Mission in the Context of Globalization
Seeds of Hope: A Generation of Vatican II Reform Movements
A Married Priesthood: How It Works

Silencing in the Church and the Spirit of Vatican II
Pensions for Priests: A Matter of Justice
Is the Church Afraid of Women?
Was Jesus a Sexual Person?
Ministry for Our Time

2002 Hope: Come Apart with Me

(Dallas, TX)

Nick DeLosReyes
Joanna Manning
Pam DiFazio
Carrie Ann Wright & Jackson Henry
Diana Brown Holbert
Kay Mullen & Mary Ann Cejka

Hope and Spirituality
Hope, Spirituality and Leadership
Hallowed Ground
The Taize Way of Prayer
Movement as Prayer
Enhancing our Spiritual Lives: Poetry as Prayer

**2003 Healing: Sexual and Sacramental
Healing: Redefining Our Future**

(Dallas, TX)

Richard Sipe
Michael Morewood
Kathy Coffey
Anthony and Theresa Padovano

Bring Light to the Shadow Church
Reshaping What We Think It's All About
What Does It Mean to be Threshold People?
What is our Legacy?

2004 *Reforming the Church: Renewing the Priesthood***(Lansdowne, VA)**

Eugene Kennedy	Reshaping What We Think It's All About
Phyllis Zagano	The Ecclesial Need for Women Clergy
Joy Barnes	Women's Ordination Movement in the Church Today
Peter Hickman & Allison Sansone	Developing Alternative Faith Communities
Kristi and Scott Jenkins	Diversity of Spirituality Within the Catholic Faith Tradition
Fred Luhmann	Reaffirming Tradition: Sense of the Faithful and Optional Celibacy
Bridget Mary Meehan	Women Priests and Bishops in the Early Christian Community and Now
Elaine and Francis McGillicuddy	Refreshing Your Experience of the Lord's Prayer
David Gibson	The Catholic Church and the Future of Illusion

2005 *A New Church for a New World***(Chaska, MN)**

Tom Fox	Spirit and the New Priesthood:
Thomas Doyle, O.P.	A New Church for a New World
Andrea Johnson	
Linda Pinto	The Beatitudes of CORPUS

2006 *Nourish The Gifts Your Have Been Given: The Many Faces of Ministry***(Newark, DE)**

Peter Manseau	Ministry of Stories
Anthony Padovano	To What Have We've Been Called
Jim Callen	
Mary Ramerman	

2007 *Prophecies, Dreams and Visions***(Providence, RI)**

Jean Marie Marchant	Prophecies, Dreams and Visions
Paul Lakeland	Visions: Keeping Hope Alive
Robert Blair Kaiser	
Daniel McCarthy	
Kristin McCarthy	Young Adults Panel Discussion: Listen to the Millennials
Sean & Meghan Sheehan	
Sarah Pinto	
Dan McCool	



2008 Inclusive Ministry and Renewal in a Complex Age**(Boston, MA)**

Matthew Fox

Jane Via and Jean Marchant

Gerald Grudzen and John Raymaker

Allen Moore

Kathleen Kautzer

Carl Yusavitz & William Manseau

Paul Stubenbort/Joseph McOscar

Marie and Jim David

Aisha Taylor & Kathrine Braggs

Juanita Cordero

Eileen DiFranco

Judy Lee

Bridget Mary Meehan

Tomb to Womb: Birthing New Communities of Faith

Inter-religious Dialogue as a 21st Century Ministry

In Search of a Focus: Priesthood, Ministry or Need?

Ministry in the Margins: Prospects and Possibilities

Thinking of Ministry as a Chaplain?

The Ministry of Pre-Marriage

Evolution for the Journey

Women's Ordination in Transition:

Young Catholics, Diversity, Inclusion and Human Rights

RCWP: At the Grassroots Building Inclusive Faith

Communities

2009 What Now?**(Dallas, TX)**

James Carroll

Bishop Patricia Fresen

Michael Morewood

Jason McCool

Spencer & Andrea Johnson

The Question Facing Most Reform Groups in the Church
Today

God is Everywhere

Winter Rain

Reading the Signs of Our Times

2010 In Search of Freedom**(Dallas, TX)**

Anthony Padovano

Fr. Roy Bourgeois

Jan Phillips

Michaelita & Tom Quinn

Encounter with Freedom

2011 American Catholic Council**(Detroit, MI)**

Dr. Hans Kung

Dr. Jeanette Rodriguez

Anthony T. Padovano

James Carroll

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend

Sr. Joan Chittister

What Gives You Hope As You Stay
Committed to Reform?

A Path To Freedom: Hearing the Voice of the Faithful

Why Am I Catholic?

Why Am I Catholic?

Keynote

2012 *And The Young Shall Dream Dreams...A New Way of Being Church* (Dallas, TX)

Jamie Manson
Rabbi Alicia Negal
Scott Jenkins
Teri Thompson
Janelle Peregoy

2014 *The Way We Were and Are: The Church of the House* (Framingham, MA)

Rev. Dr. Raymond F. Collins
Dr. Anthony Padovano
Linda Pinto

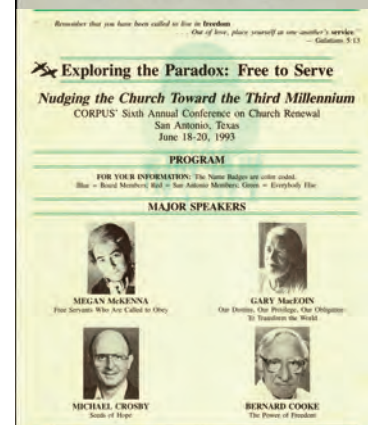
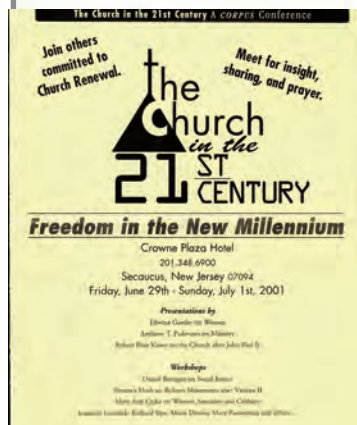
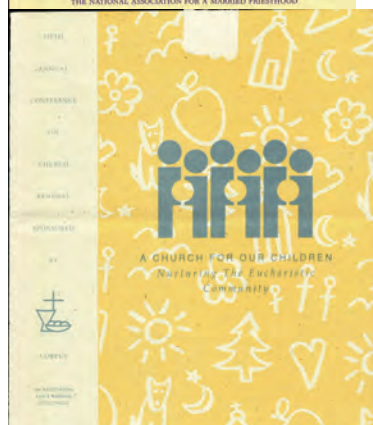
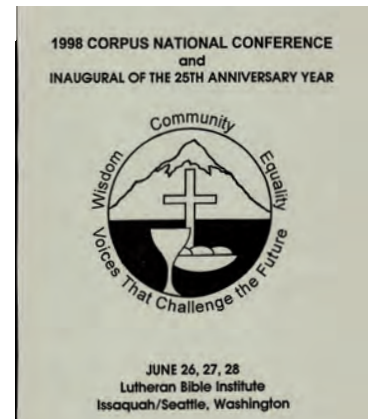
The Many Faces of the Church

CORPUS: Then, Now and into the Future

2015 *Beyond Compassion to Action* (Adamstown, MD)

Tom Roberts
Gabriel Moran
Gina Messina-Dysert

From Certainty to Faith: The Modern Catholic Journey
Principles, Precepts, Permanence: Catholic Church Changes
New Feminist Revolution in Religion
Homilist



With a sense of profound appreciation, Linda and Phil Marcin sent their 1989 homily as a tribute to CORPUS.

COMPANIONS ON A JOURNEY

Sisters and Brothers, Companions on a Journey, Good Morning. We feel so blessed to be part of such a graced gathering. It's really a Communion of Saints - at least saints-in-the-making.

According to Andy Warhol, everyone is famous for at least 15 minutes of their lives. These are probably our 15. We plan to use a little less so we have some time left. Our readings this morning focused on Christ's call to us, our recognition of that call, and our oneness in Him. For a few moments, we who are Companions on a Journey direct our hearts to God's message and our lives.

How do you feel about the times in which we live? Happy, sad, hopeful, depressed, content, angry? Although obstacles to a married priesthood are present, we believe the opportunities are far greater. After all, the Spirit is alive and well, and we are an Easter People.

This past year, our six-year-son, Phillip, came home from our Parish School of Religion with a picture he had drawn. It was a priest celebrating Mass in a church. I said, "Phil, that looks great," and he said, "It should, Dad, you're the priest." Out of the mouths of babes... As I said, the Spirit lives.

We suggest that we are Companions on a Journey in at least four ways: with God, with clerical priests, with the laity, and with one another.

We are Companions with God

Being married to a husband is more significant than being married to a priest. After all, Scripture is emphatic in saying that, "In the beginning, God made them male and female." We leave our parents, cling to our spouse and we become one body. Only later did God give us priests - and much later than that, the Church gave us celibate priests. By God's call, we enflesh the deep and lasting love He has for all of us, and we become a sacrament, a living sign, that God is always with us. In addition, the second reading from Paul's Letter to the Galatians makes it clear that our faith and baptism call us to a unity with Christ so rich that we inherit all that God has promised to His people. And haven't we experienced that this weekend?

All too often, fear and frustration have paralyzed our efforts. Let it be clear that this is no longer true. We have come to claim our birthright and our ministry. Yes, the ministry is ours. Phil's and mine, and yours as well. We believe the Church is going to receive a real bargain - two for the price of one. What if those who had gone before us had taken these bold steps? Now it is our mission. Yes, indeed, companions on a journey with God.

We are Companions with Clerical Priests

Clerical priests need the depth of our love, the richness of our experience, the honesty necessitated by living so closely with a spouse, and the awesome blessing of giving and nurturing human life. Last year, the Committee on Priestly Life and Ministry of the National Council of Catholic Bishops prepared a reflection on the morale of priests. The bishops candidly admitted a serious problem with priestly morale. As the shortage of priests increases, a profound weariness overtakes those who are called to do double duty. Frustration builds because of the conflict between an increasingly legalistic hierarchical structure and a people in need of a Church with creative leadership and warm understanding. Even more, obvious solutions to this clergy shortage cannot even be discussed.

This is where we come in. Just think, in the United States alone, there are 18,000 marriages just like yours and ours. Our insights into marriage and family life, and our ability to cope with everyday life in a world of complex change are invaluable. If those in Church leadership positions wish to be traditional in the best sense of the word, why not go all the way back - back to the very beginning - to a married priesthood. I sincerely believe I am a far better priest now than I have ever been. Linda didn't "steal" me from the Church. Rather, she has enabled me to minister with greater honesty and integrity. Many priests and their wives are ready to do the same.

In regard to health and longevity, studies have clearly shown that we live longer than priests who remain unmarried, and our mental health is better. I know that I am encouraged and emboldened when I have Linda by my side. Perhaps the Church isn't ready for us. But the Church does need us - our holy impatience with imposed legalism, and our fierce loyalty to Christ. In fact, I welcome the opportunity of taking a loyalty oath to Christ. Also, the Church needs our gift of hope after so many of us have been pushed and shoved and sometimes crushed by an often insensitive institutional Church. To our brothers in the clerical ministry, we say that married priest couples will enhance your ministry. With you, we are companions on a journey.

We are Companions with the Laity

We are companions because we share baptism, confirmation and marriage with you, along with a unique understanding of the life you live.

We, too, struggle to raise our children the right way. We understand the fear which all too often exists because of a lack of job security. As a clerical priest, Phil's job was always guaranteed. How about trying to stretch that paycheck to cover just one more bill? What about our beloved Church which sometimes seems distant rather than embracing, reliant on power rather than service, rigid legalism rather than living tradition, and fear rather than love. Believe me, we understand.

I believe we have all seen the familiar sight of geese flying in a V formation. Recently, our bishop told our parish congregation that he had researched this phenomenon. The V enables each bird to benefit from the draft of the one in front, making it easier to fly. In marriage and as the people of God, we are meant to be the wind beneath each other's wings. And what about that head bird out in front? No worry, that's the Holy Spirit. No matter how turbulent or long the journey, the Spirit will lead us where we need to go.

The love Phil and I share as husband and wife becomes the love we share as father and mother. We, too, love children, but how many, and how do we determine the size of our family? Important questions often demand agonizing choices. We understand because we walk that proverbial mile in your shoes.

As married couples, we bring together in one graced union priesthood and laity and, if our marriage is what God calls it to be, the distinction between priesthood and laity is completely overshadowed by a love which seeks to serve rather than be served. With you, we believe the people are the Church and the Church needs us to help it grow. We may not always agree on how things should be done, but we will do all we can to get it done. Together with you, the laity, the lifeblood of the Church, we are companions on a journey.

We are Companions with One Another

As wife and husband, we are companions on a journey - with one another. In today's Gospel, Jesus asks His apostles, "Who do you say that I am?" Each of us has been asked this same question by Jesus. And we answered as Peter did - You are the Messiah. That answer has brought us to where we are today. As Christ promised, that answer has called us to walk in His very footsteps. Every couple here embodies a singular love affair with Jesus. Each of us has recognized the Christ in our spouse and spoken a promise of fidelity and love before God which will last forever.

I literally owe my life to Linda. Shortly after our marriage in 1982, I felt chest pains with increasing regularity, but there was no way I was going to a doctor. At this point, Linda made her presence felt. By the way, she gives all the credit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. All preliminary tests proved to be negative. However, because of her strong insistence, my doctor ordered a cardiac catheterization which indicated extensive coronary blockages. Again, she got behind and pushed. Seven years later, without surgery, but with our own diet, exercise regimen, lifestyle changes and most importantly, prayer, my angina is completely gone, there are 30 less pounds of me, and my cardiologist is both pleased and amazed. Thank you, Linda! Thank you, Lord!

Some say kids keep you young and others say they make you old. We subscribe to the first theory. They certainly make us laugh! On Father's Day, while I was putting Joshua, our two-year-old, to bed for the night, he looked up at me with the cutest sly smile and said, "Dad, Happy Mother's Day." I smiled at the humor, and then it occurred to me that God is both "Abba" and "Imma," our Dad and our Mom. Without realizing it, the little guy had spoken a profound truth.

The married priesthood is here to stay because we are here to stay. We have been called by God who has plans for us - women and men. As Jeremiah said, "Plans for our welfare - not for woe." Each of our marriages is a sign that priesthood and marriage can be effectively combined in a union which brings a blessing to both marriage and the Church.

CORPUS and this conference state clearly to those in the Church who have ears to hear and eyes to see that we are here to serve. We want to serve. And we have a God-given right to serve. Christ, Himself, chose those who were married to be apostles and marriage is a beautiful sacrament. We have shared the Word of God in our readings and we now prepare to break the bread and share the wine of the Eucharist. In the beautiful words of the song by Carey Landry, "We are no longer strangers to each other, for we are companions on the journey." May the power of love and determination so evident in this Liturgy embolden us to take the next steps of our journey together.

We believe in the married priesthood because we believe in the love of our God. We journey with confidence because our ever-present companion is Jesus. We are His eyes. We are His hands. We are His feet.

If not here.....Where?
If not now.....When?
If not us.....Who?
If not for the Kingdom.....What for?



Holy Thursday Witness

Dennis and I discovered CORPUS in 1993. We were the “young kids on the block”...late bloomers who married in our mid 40s.

About two weeks after Dennis and I got married, we moved from the east coast to Los Angeles. We planned to be a part of a parish, but we had no plans to be part of any kind of reform movement. Dennis had a new and demanding job in aerospace engineering, and a new career to build. Each weekend we would visit a different parish in the LA area, looking for a place that felt right for us. We had some Sundays when we came back to our condo, sat on the couch, and cried.

We knew we needed a place to belong and we didn't know where to look. I had seen a phone number for CORPUS in a tiny ad in the back of an edition of NCR. So, I called that number, hoping to find some help in finding a parish. Instead....I found Linda Pinto on the line, and a connection to the CORPUS group in LA. We didn't know it, but we were about to embark on a wonderful piece of our journey as a couple.

I phoned Linda's contact in LA, Nick de los Reyes. He invited us to drive down the freeway to the home of one of the members of the LA group for their next meeting. Before having a potluck meal together, the group celebrated Eucharist around the living room coffee table. Ed Hastings, an older married priest, began to pray the opening prayer. At that moment, the image of my husband as both husband and priest became one. That was an unexpected and important gift for me. The people of that LA group became church for us while we lived in California.



At that first LA group meeting, we met John and Roberta Hydar. We learned the Hydars lived just a few miles from us. They became our very special friends. After we moved back to the east coast, we looked forward to trips to LA to see them. There were lots of phonecalls over the years, and joyous reunions at CORPUS conferences.

I have some emotional memories of Eucharistic celebrations at CORPUS conferences. Those liturgies were the only time I could joyfully sing the song “All Are Welcome” and know the words were true and alive...in that place and in the hearts of those people. I may not get to see my vision of an inclusive church in my lifetime. But, I know what it can look like, because I have seen it in the CORPUS community.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Strader-Sweeney





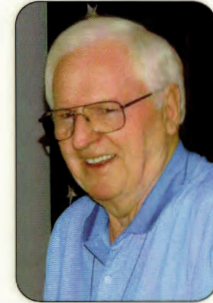
My husband, Finbarr Corr, is no longer here to speak for himself anymore but I know what he would want me to say. I can confirm the importance of CORPUS in his transition from the formal priesthood in 1988 and his continued growth as a married priest. He loved and admired Tony Padovano and loved being part of such a supportive community with a strong shared vision. He greatly appreciated the individual members who made up the CORPUS family and valued their ideas and participation in discussions to produce change in the Church.

One of the things that struck me personally in attending CORPUS gatherings with Finbarr was my realization that every one of the members were still lovingly ministering to people even though they were no longer active in the formal priesthood. Their commitment reinforced the beauty of the fact that ministry is a sacred calling that can't be undone by organizational rules; it is so deep in the hearts and souls of the individuals who respond to the call that they cannot walk away from it. It was certainly true of Finbarr...and just one of the reasons I loved him. We were both grateful for the CORPUS community.

Laurie Hutton Corr

Finbarr Michael Corr

July 25, 1935 • August 18, 2021



Laughter, acceptance, love...

These are the things I think
of when I think of you.

'Twas heaven on earth
to be here with you.

From Terry Dosh to CORPUS REPORTS has been a journey in thoughtful reflection. Ideas like wings give us flight to imagined possibilities. They raise our spirits and deepen our convictions toward an unidentified tomorrow.

Whether realized or not during our life span, truth transcends time and space, a peephole that calls forth prophets to proclaim the Good News. This act of proclamation during the past fifty years has stirred action and reaction among the community of God's people.

It can heighten our anxiety or stimulate our curiosity into the mystery of God's play plan. Meaning and purpose are prorated by our awareness, reflection and sense of history.

Our direction will be guided by the headlights of faith and love. Corpus has served a high purpose in its short life. Through its pages it tried to proclaim the reflective truths which will live forever in the hearts of its readership—and then some. Thank you for your ACT OF PROCLAMATION.

Joseph P. Duffy
Havertown, Penna.



I spotted your name in the latest CORPUS post, easily recognizing you and wondering if you might remember a once active corpus member in San Jose, CA. Tom McMahon .I'm 94 now , just having a pace maker implanted living with a 91 year old friend after my wife Elaine died three years ago; hence the e address Kjelstrom.dorothy@comcast.com

I see where you are gathering material for a final publication and if this is so I wonder what I might offer to recall past history, such as the convention in San Jose some thirty five+ years ago. I did write for *Catholica* in Australia for 12 years weekly until the blog collapsed when Brian Coyne had a nervous breakdown.

I still write,particularly about church history. I have traced the role of bishop back into before the common era , originally a roman tax collector and priest his agent ., 300 BCE . I write a Tuesday Memo to about 120 weekly, old friends .(Tom , ordained 1954 for San Francisco , quietly married 1968 , exiled from RC ministry in 1980 by AB John Quinn , pastoral educator of Community of Jesus our Brother which still exists today ,except most Members have died , widowed in 2021 , grandfather of five with oldest 18 now at Georga Tech how time has flown).

I have many memories and thoughts about CORPUS through my many years of membership from seventies. A close married priest friend first mentioned CORPUS after I transitioned in 1972. Terry Dosh recruited me to be an area representative as he organized the various regions in the US. My wife Marie and I became active members. We also connected in the seventies with other married priest couples who had recently transitioned and were adjusting to a new life as married couples. We became particularly close to five couples, and we got together once a month until the last few years when illness and aging made it no longer possible. Often, we would vacation together with our children when they were younger. We had such wonderful memories. Meanwhile, my wife and I were active with CORPUS in our New England region organizing events for the many members in the region. These meetings culminating in area first National Conference in the Boston area in 1997.

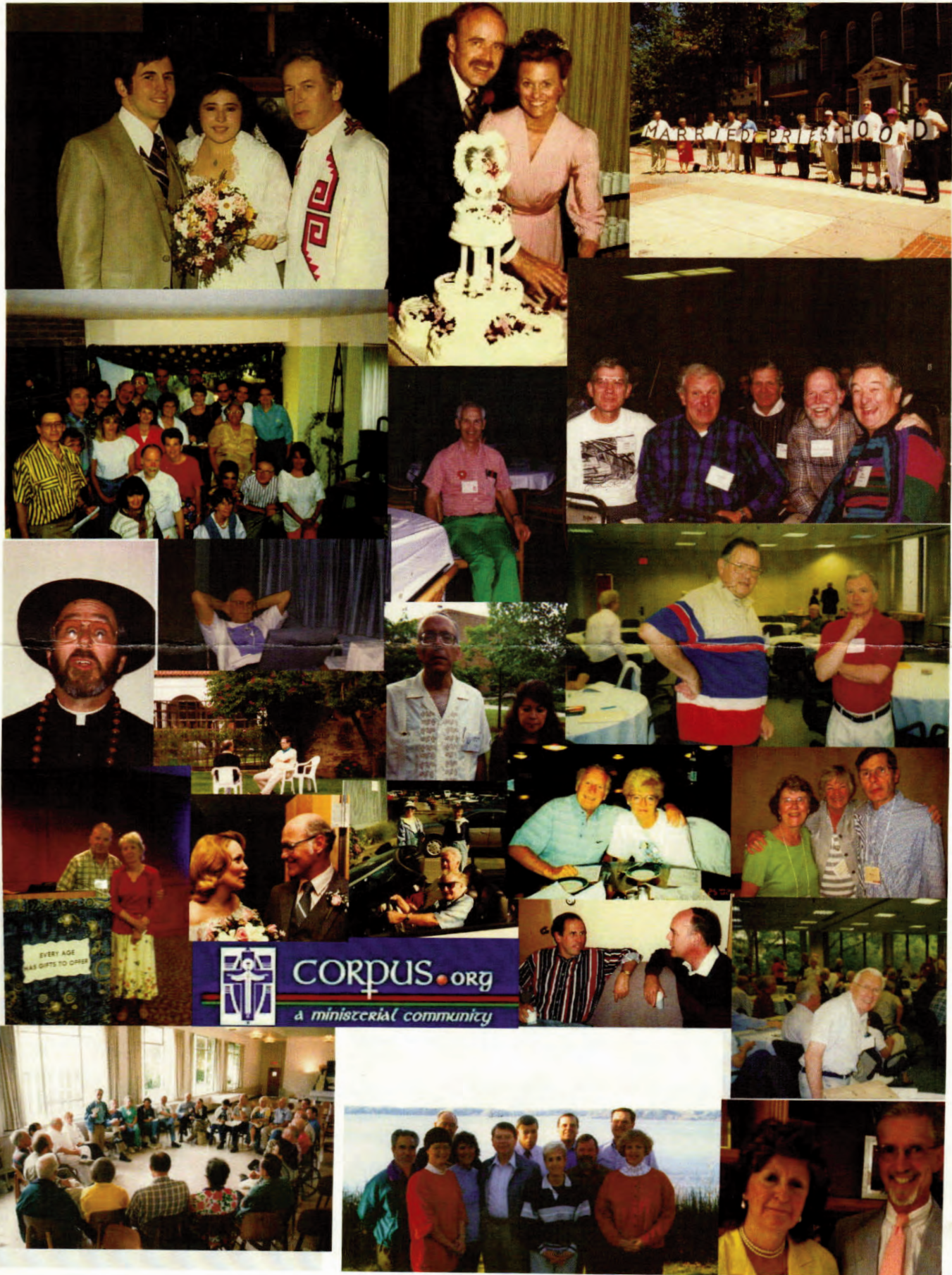
However. I have deep gratitude to the people of married priest community and CORPUS who supported our journey over the years. When we left the priesthood, we were alone and felt abandoned by a church that no longer wanted anything to do with us. CORPUS supported and gave meaning to our new way of life. Through CORPUS we realized that we were not alone but part of larger movement to bring about a renewed married priesthood. Through the years, we supported each other in trying to find employment and adjusting to marriage and children. Looking back on this magical journey called life, I realize all support that we gave to one another. For that I am eternally grateful to CORPUS and the married priest community.

My wife Marie passed away in 2005. The CORPUS community was there for me during this difficult time. The "group" as we called them, supported, and encourage me through the very difficult road of grief. After Marie's passing, I found support and companionship from a widow, Oliva McLaughlin, whose husband was a CORPUS member and a close friend.

Reflecting on my life, I have felt the work of the Spirit throughout. My call to the priesthood, my call to married life. I have a deep sense of gratitude to God and to the people of CORPUS for all the support that was given to me in my faith journey. Thank you, CORPUS!

Stu O'Brien





Memories of CORPUS

CORPUS has always brought together committed and faithful people who only want to exercise their vocations to priesthood— by service to the People of God—in any way people call them to do so.

Going back over the history of CORPUS, names like Linda and Ralph Pinto and Sylvia and Allen Moore are at the top of my mind. Frank Bonnike, Terry Dosh, Dave Gawlik also figure large. So many CORPUS Conferences were also happy events that brought our extended family together to share ideas and update ourselves in theology and pastoral practice.



I remember a dinner hosted at our home for the CORPUS Board. Good food, laughter and camaraderie were the fare of the evening.

Theresa Padovano

To the Corpus Executive Council and Staff-

Thank you from deep within my spirit for the magnificent work you have done over so many years, keeping me and many others connected in the joy of the Christ Light with ever new perspectives and hope.

With eternal gratitude,
Vicki Di Benedetto



For many years we have enjoyed the relationship to so many interesting stories and personal histories. We wish all a renewal of spirit and we thank the Committees for the work they have done on behalf of Corpus solidarity.

With gratitude, René and Chris DeBrabander



CORPUS MINISTRIES

Service has always been at the heart and core of CORPUS. Listed below (alphabetically) was our outreach.

Catholic Organizations for Renewal (COR)

Catholic Organizations for Renewal (COR) is a coalition of Catholic groups inspired by Vatican II to further reform and renew the Roman Catholic Church, to bring about a world of justice and peace and to reflect the sacredness of all creation. Membership is open to any group whose constituency is primarily Catholic, and whose mission includes working to change unjust structures and practices in the Roman Catholic Church, as expressed in the foundational documents: The 1990 "Call To Reform" statement and the 1997 "We Are Church" Referendum. COR regularly schedules public events to highlight its work. Anthony T. Padovano and Linda Pinto served as CORPUS representatives.

Community of John XXIII

Recognized as religious community of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion, the Community of John XXIII gathered members in prayer, reflection and commitments to Relatedness, Justice Making and Mutual Collaboration. We participated in a program of study, prayer and reflection with an emphasis on transformation as well as information. Mary and Dick Scaine were facilitators.



CORPUS Ambassador (International)

CORPUS was an instrumental member of the International Federation for a Married Catholic Priesthood. This consortium of over 30 countries met on a regular basis to strategize and advocate for reform in the church. CORPUS was also a member of We Are Church: International. This effort was birthed in the 1990's as a signature campaign to gain international recognition and support for a reformed priestly ministry. Anthony T. Padovano served as our Ambassador. He was later succeeded by William Manseau.

CORPUS Ambassador (Mexico and Latin America)

It became clear that reform movements in Mexico, Central and Latin America were growing. Bob Walden was appointed as our Ambassador for these efforts.

CORPUS Job Transition Services

Marty Hegarty and George Spellman had transitioned from active canonical priesthood to corporate America. They both realized how challenging it was to find adequate employment for men who were steeped in philosophy and theology. WOERC was established to assist priest in their new journey matching skills, talents and experience with available employment. Russ Ditzel helped continue this effort through CORPUS.

Database

As CORPUS began to grow through leaps and bounds, it became necessary to develop an adequate database for effective communication. As we entered the internet era, many talented "techies" came to our rescue. We remain grateful to Kirby Brown, Len Roach, Andy Kukec and Dan Neesley. And, as always, David Gawlik was always a constant (and magical) presence!

e-corp

This ministry is offered through the good graces of Stu O'Brien. Weekly he gathers the most current and pertinent articles regarding our faith and reform efforts. To subscribe, email Stu at sobrien6431@me.com.

e-catholicism

This ministry is offered through the good graces of Joe Cece. Each Sunday an email newsletter is sent with news, reflections and spiritual resources. To subscribe email Joe at cece@ecatholicism.org.

FACEBOOK

Our gratitude to Jack Houston for posting news of the CORPUS Community.

Joined in Christ

This resource manual was developed for priests who embraced continued priestly service as wedding officiants.

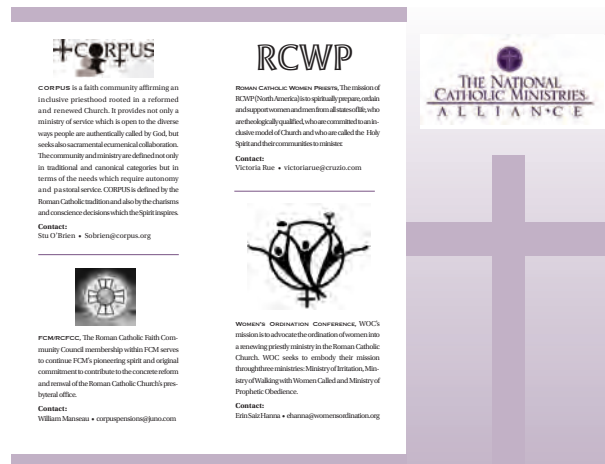


Ministry of Compassion

This pastoral outreach to veterans was coordinated by Russ Ditzel.

National Catholic Ministries Alliance

The National Catholic Ministries Alliance (NCMA) is committed to enable and nurture inclusive Roman Catholic ministries of women and men, women priests and married priests, committed to the work of Vatican II reform and renewal. This partnership and collaboration of organizations whose principle focus in the reform of the presbyteral ministry (CORPUS, Federation of Christian Ministries (Roman Catholic Faith Community Council), Roman Catholic WomenPriests and Women's Ordination Conference) originated in conversations in which was fondly called "ministry row". Each organization sponsored a booth at the annual Call To Action conference and a consensus grew to further our missions in the Alliance. William Manseau was the principle coordinator for CORPUS.



Pension Advocacy Campaign

The CORPUS Pensions' Advocacy Campaign was initiated in 2012 by a resigned priest of the Archdiocese of Boston, Paul McGreevy who was also a civil lawyer on behalf of a seminary classmate who was denied a pension by the Archdiocese after 25 years of service. He contacted the CORPUS Board of assistance and William Manseau, a Board member and member of the Boston Archdiocese married clergy, took on the project. He found assistance from a former parishioner, Dr. Richard Young, who chaired a Jewish community foundation named Trinitas which agreed to provide some seed money for the advocacy effort by The Emmaus Institute, Inc. which Manseau directed. The Institute determined that the issue has been thoroughly litigated. The courts have refused to intervene, seeing the matter as a First Amendment issue as the free practice of religion. Accordingly the CORPUS Pensions Advocacy Campaign has had to rely on grass roots work with local dioceses. Approximately one third of diocesan jurisdictions have implemented pensions for resigned priests. As a participant in this campaign I noted that this justice issue was contemporary with the Clergy Sex Abuse recognition explosion with the dioceses having to give their attention to the financial aspect of these court cases. A fuller report on this history is to be found on the CORPUS.org website which lists the participating dioceses.

Website

The CORPUS website is a treasure-trove of history, resources and reflection. Joe Cece, along with his son, Informational Technologies manage the content.

CORPUS GOODBYE

This week I buried my most precious aunt, 98 years old and the mother of a priest. She was my second mother, my friend and my confidant. While mourning this beautiful lady, I've been asked by the "mother" of CORPUS to write and say goodbye. I can never say goodbye to CORPUS. It is saying goodbye to me.

My first encounter with married priests was at a New England meeting of the CORPUS regional chapter where I met National Coordinator Skip Sikora and Bill Manseau. What followed that February 1992 was an immediate connect and forever relationship with Linda and Ralph Pinto. That led to a workshop at the June Chicago national conference where I met among others, Canon Lawyer Del Smolinski, Frank McGrath, Terry Dosh, Pat Callahan, Jim Magner; Chris Schenk and my soon-to-be spiritual director Joe Girzone, author of the Joshua books. That weekend was a highlight in my life and the beginning of a spiritual journey for which I am grateful to God.

The courtship continues even with one foot in the grave. I am appreciative for the support and cooperation through 30+ years of service to Jesus' "boys" and their families through the collaboration with CITI Ministries/Society of Christ's Priesthood, founded soon after that first CORPUS meeting. Del Smolinski's research project of 21 Canon Laws allowed us to respond through the free referral service "Rent A Priest" to requests from a spiritually needing public, without hierarchical interference. Even Louvain University produced a thesis legitimizing the ministry of CITI's free referral service "Rent A Priest."

Thank you especially for the research platform you have provided through CORPUS REPORTS during these last few years. The cobweb of Roman Catholic clergy sexual abuse and mandatory celibacy slowly unwinds.

Except for my late husband Dick, married priests are the love of my life. They are my Church. I will never say goodbye because you will always be in my heart and soul.

Louise Haggett





In Memoriam

With this final issue of CORPUS REPORTS, we pay tribute with profound gratitude to Anthony T. Padovano.... Husband, father, grandfather, priest, pastor, professor.... his years of dedication to the CORPUS Community are beyond priceless.

We reprint the Eulogy given by his eldest son, Mark. We also reprint a tribute to him in Conscience Magazine, the periodical of Catholics for Choice.

Eulogy for Anthony T. Padovano

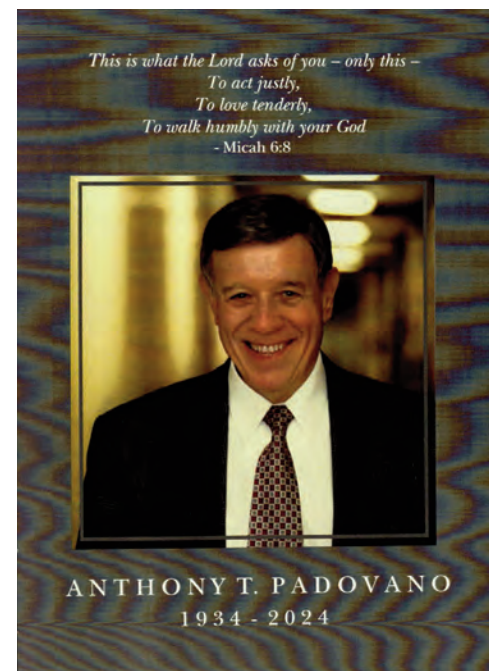
How do you honor a man that was so much to so many? To focus on his essence without remembering the complete would miss the grandeur of a life well lived. I will try to describe and honor the man who gave us so much. To many he was our teacher, our friend, maybe a colleague, our pastor, or family. To me he is dad.

Born September 18th, 1934 in Harrison, NJ to Thomas and Mary Padovano he had one sister, Rose Marie. From very humble beginnings he quickly discovered his lifelong love for learning, baseball, Italian food- especially desserts- and family. From an early age, he immediately rose to the head of his class, always reading, writing and challenging himself academically. I would say he was without hesitation, the most intelligent man I have ever known.

His great intellect and ever-present personal discipline would allow him to pursue and achieve a career of his choice. He once told me he struggled to decide between becoming a journalist because of his love of writing or joining the Navy because of his love of seeing the world and adventure. All of this before a profound calling to the priesthood when he was 14 years old. This would become the defining moment of his life. From this point forward, he poured his talents and great intellect into his love of God and the Catholic Church.

To say he excelled would be a great understatement: he thrived! To quote Ecclesiastes: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all of your might" – he lived this. In reading about his life and accomplishments, I lost track of how many Magna Cum Laude's he graduated with. I discovered he never wasn't magna cum laude: this includes seminary, all university work, including the Gregorian University in Rome. Doctorate in Theology and Doctorate in Literature. He wasn't just a great student, he was an academic titan-unrivaled!

He then used this knowledge from his studies and began teaching, another great love of his life making what he learned accessible to us mere mortals! As professor, and Roman Catholic Priest he again rose to the top of his calling, quickly becoming a highly sought after lecturer and scholar on the national and international circuit. He was a great teacher-again without equal. He wanted to convey his love of God and love of learning to others, and he did this so well.



This then led to the next part of his life, when he met my mother. His teaching requests brought him to Houston, TX. From the moment they met, he said he knew immediately this was the great love of his life. As they got to know each other, his great love for her never faltered, it grew exponentially. He once told her early on “you may find someone who loves you better, but you will never find another who loves you more”.

Dad now found himself at a crossroad: His love for the priesthood and love for Theresa collided and a choice had to be made: give up the love of the priesthood- his focal point of his life’s work and marry Theresa? Or save his life’s work but lose Theresa? A gut-wrenching decision for most, but he

knew that his love for her surpassed all and everything he worked for. He would love and let the chips fall where they may. He chose her always, and he chose her forever.

He became husband, father, grandfather- but always a teacher, writer, and constantly pursuing the divine. He was one of the founding faculty of Ramapo College since 1971, where he became Distinguished Professor of literature and philosophy for 45 years. He never stopped reading, writing, teaching and loving my mom and all of his family.

All of this leads me to ask, how do I best remember him? To honor him, I’ve decided to write an open letter to him:

Dad:

I could remember you best by your academic and literary excellence: authoring 29 books, 3 plays, countless articles and theological contributions over a lifetime of dedication and service, but I won’t.

I could remember you best by your hard work ethic, always leading by example, and rarely if ever relaxing and taking a break. Your unceasing drive to provide and selfless ability to put the needs of family before yours, but I won’t.

I could remember you best by your teaching ability- I’ve never seen it done better. You said once, when teaching “if you can’t break things down and explain concepts in simple terms-you don’t know your material well enough!” I could remember the great teacher the best, but I won’t.

I could remember you best by your antics of which there are many: Your ability to mistakenly consume nonedible items rose to a near legendary status. This includes nearly all the parts of ANY fruit, including the seeds and rind, the paper fortune inside fortune cookies for over a decade before someone eventually stopped you. Your perfect imitations of various despots throughout history made us laugh and regard your acting abilities with awe. These gave us great moments of laughter and love for you. I could remember your humor the best, but I won’t.

I could remember you best as a great crusader and reformer in the catholic church for whatever seemed to need improvement: your devotion to a married priesthood, optional celibacy, and voice for those affected by abuse became one of your greatest passions. You helped countless people with your service

and gave a voice to the voiceless. I could remember you best by your dedication to fixing what was broken in this world, but I won't.

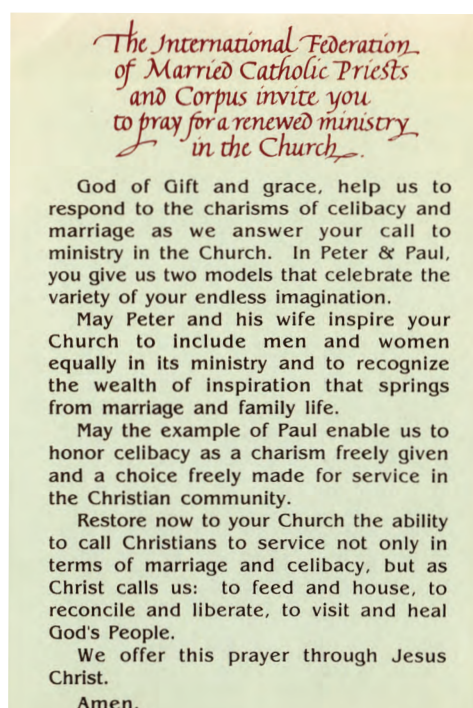
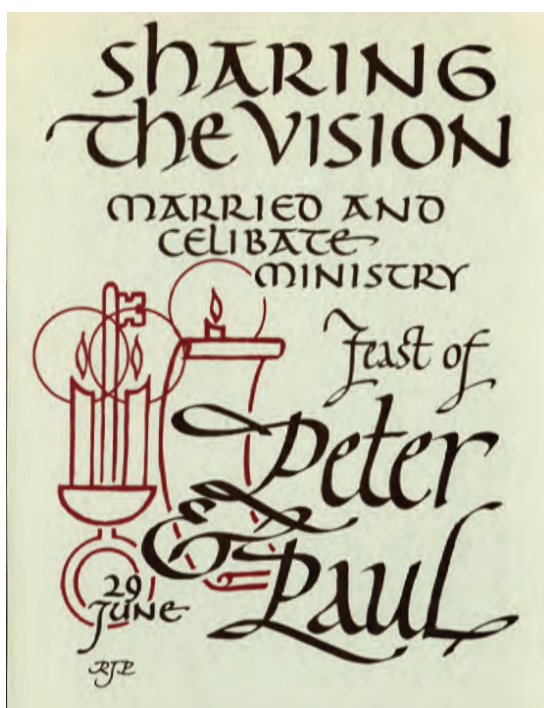
I could remember you best by your deep love for mom, it was always there. It was our rock and our north star. It served as a supreme framework for our lives as your children. You left a legacy on how to love a woman and never stop. Your love for her was unyielding, indisputable, including your whole married life to your last day. I could remember you best by this dad, and this is a very high thing, but I will not.

Dad, I am amazed that you were able to always be there for all our milestones, our games, our birthdays, and concerts. You devotedly dropped it all to put us first. You always jumped into action when your family needed you and rescued us at pivotal moments when a crisis arose. I'll miss our talks in your office, always praising in public but softly correcting in private. I'll miss our long bike rides together, laughter at the dinner table, and family movie nights.

As a man that has spent his whole life reading and sharing the bible with others, I once asked him "Dad, what is your favorite part of the bible?" He responded without hesitation: "The Parable of the Prodigal Son". As I became an adult, and a prodigal son myself, I realized that he gave us the best example of what it means to love unconditionally.

No matter how far we went astray, no matter how off the path we went, you had the most forgiving and loving heart that forgot the bad and rejoiced with the good. It did not matter what WE DID, it mattered who YOU WERE: a godly example for all of us. This reflection of our heavenly father is how I remember you best. This is who he was first, this is how he lived, and this is how he was until his last day. Your example is alive with all of us! It will not perish!

Thank you for everything dad- but thank you for your unconditional love the most. We look forward to seeing you again and hearing you say "Welcome home, I love you, let's celebrate"!



Tribute to Anthony T. Padovano to *Conscience Magazine* by Linda Pinto

To meet Anthony T. Padovano is to be touched by the grace of God.

Whether as priest, pastor, professor, international lecturer, author (29 books, 3 plays translated into nine languages), energetic church reformer or just as a person, he touched your life in such a way that you were a better human being. He passed into eternity on June 22, 2024.

Essentially, his life was driven by three things: faith, family and the future.

Anthony was quintessentially catholic to his core. Born in Harrison, N.J., at a time when you identified by your Roman Catholic parish rather than your street address, it was clear early on that he possessed a towering intellect and an insatiable curiosity. These traits were rivaled only by a spontaneous, unpredictable but spot-on sense of humor. These attributes never wavered.

Excelling in school, he had hoped to either become a journalist or join the navy “to see the world”. At fourteen, he encountered an intense call to priesthood and ministry. The rest is history. He entered Darlington Seminary and was ultimately sent to Gregorian University in Rome for further study on the cusp of Vatican II. He obtained his doctorate in theology.

In 1962, he returned to the U.S. and became a seminary professor of systematic theology. He distinguished himself by empowering and enabling seminarians to think for themselves rather than be boxed in by rigid dogmatic axioms. His courses always relied on contemporary media (literature, movies, plays, etc.) to illustrate fundamental theological principles. While retaining his seminary position, he was part of the founding faculty of Ramapo College, which grew into a four-year New Jersey State accredited institution. He served as a distinguished professor of literature and philosophy, and consequently Chair of the America Literature and International Studies until 2018.

He also became a visiting professor at over twenty-five American colleges and universities. It was during this time that he faced his greatest blessing and challenge. He soon realized he was in love with Theresa Lackamp, a religious Sister of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, attending one of his courses. His connection to her was as intense as his call to priesthood. They both realized their call to marriage was sacred and holy. There was only one course of action to take and be true to the spirit of Vatican II and the Spirit moving in our world. As the Vatican ignored their own Papal Biblical Commission finding no contradiction between priesthood and marriage, they married.

Together they shared their world with Mark, Andrew, Paul and Rosemarie and eventually five grandchildren. Despite his intense schedule, family was the focus and core of his being. No matter what was being served, mealtime was sacred. It was the altar to test ideas, opinions and enlightened ways of thinking. He always found time to be present to the family during all their milestones, athletic games, concerts and birthdays. Family became the epicenter of his spiritual community.

He loved the church while also knowing that it needed to be changed. With his relentless (almost stubborn) optimism, he constantly watched for opportunities to reform and renew the priesthood, especially applying the principles of Vatican II.

In 1974, he helped establish CORPUS, the National Association for a Married Priesthood. CORPUS became a home for the over 35,000 canonical priests who chose love over law; a catholic marriage over a celibate commitment; family over isolation. His keynote presentation at the first national gathering in 1987 touched and transformed those who had been dismissed, discarded and disgraced by the official hierarchy. He served as President and then Ambassador for over 30 years traveling the globe to proclaim that marriage and ministry are compatible.

In 1986, he was approached by a local minister, Anne Hess, of the United Church of Christ. She was sensitive to the unmet needs of almost half of her parish who were catholic. He used this opportunity to develop a groundbreaking adventure in ecumenical ministry. The Inclusive Community was established as a place where people were welcomed and celebrated. Worship and ritual were designed to gather, celebrate and respect all denominations. He sought after and won recognition as a Roman Catholic priest in the UCC system. He invited other married priests to become involved as another opportunity to exercise their priesthood.

After attending the Parliament of World Religions, he proposed a spiritual center be established at Ramapo College. It would be modeled after the United Nations Meditation Room and be open to all students, faculty and visitors as a place for tranquility and reflection. It is known as the Padovano Peace Pavilion. He noted: "The essence of the spiritual is to encounter God in whatever transcendent reality one is seeking."

Always a church reformer, Anthony realized that almost all challenging issues facing the hierarchy (married priesthood, female ordination, LGBTQIA rights (especially marriage), reproductive choice, etc.) were rooted in a common thread. He became the ultimate champion of conscience as the arbiter of personal decision making.

In 1993, the fledgling Catholic Organizations for Renewal was formed. This was a consortium of over 22 catholic reform groups advocating for a more inclusive church in line with Vatican II. Catholics for Choice, a national group advocating reproductive choice including abortion, requested membership. He was present when they were denied entry into the room for discussion on the basis that the organization was not catholic. Some members were still holding onto the hope that they could enter into dialogue with bishops and achieve their goals. After an intensive exchange, he called for a break. During that time, he penned a seven-point treatise of what it was to be authentically catholic. When the vote was held, Catholics for Choice was accepted around the table.

Anthony continued to support and contribute to CFC as a board member and cherished contributor to Conscience, the journal of CFC. One of his articles entitled *A Personal Perspective: A Theologian on Humanae Vitae*, presented a theologically sound, pastoral approach to issues around birth control and freed individuals from the misconception of its infallibility. His contribution to the video *The Secret History of Sex, Choice and Catholics* further explored sound catholic theology and challenged barriers to a healthy expression of being human. He authored a book entitled *Life Choices* which examined the complexity of the issue.

His life's work meant nothing to him if it didn't lead to love. His celebration of life closed with his favorite hymn....*All I Ask of You is Forever to Remember Me as Loving You.*

To have known Anthony is to have been touched by the grace and love of God. And, we are better human beings because of it.

Catholic Organizations for Renewal

Dear Members of CORPUS,

Catholic Organizations for Renewal (COR) recognizes that CORPUS was one of the founding members of COR. We are grateful for the many ways CORPUS' representatives to COR have led and actively participated in the work of this coalition over many decades.

CORPUS has helped many in our church recognize and articulate the need for a renewed priestly ministry, and its members have long modelled what this could look like. This mission continues in the vision and work of other COR member groups, as well as in the hearts of many inspired by your vision.



We express our sincere gratitude for the many years during which CORPUS has stood alongside us in our ongoing efforts to further reform and renewal in the Roman Catholic Church, to build an inclusive church, to bring about a world of justice and peace and to reflect the sacredness of all creation.

We understand that CORPUS will no longer be an organizational member of COR. Each of the current COR organizations would welcome individual CORPUS members to join them. This would be a means for you to continue to support our important work of church renewal.

Signed:

Call to Action
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Interim Executive Director
blackmoses@cta-usa.org

Catholics for Choice
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DignityUSA
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The Worth of a Woman

CORPUS is always grateful to our members for their feedback. Recently, a number of comments have mentioned that the pages of CORPUS REPORTS seem to focus more on women than on the issue of married priesthood. Their integral interconnection is never more evident than in our statement at the Forum on Women (July 2015).

CORPUS began in 1974 when priests, who had fallen in love, wanted to remain in active institutional service, but only if their wives were accepted and their marriages celebrated. Our history reflects a commitment to the co-equal status of women in the church and in society and their worth as co-equally reflecting the face of God.

It is telling, indeed, that if an ordained priest in active ministry falls in love and cannot come to terms with the church's policy of mandatory celibacy, he is free to pursue the relationship (affair) as long as it is quiet and discrete. What does this say about the worth of a woman?

If a priest falls in love and this relationship (affair) is blessed with children, a priest is free to continue in active institutional ministry as long as news of the affair is kept quiet. Women and children are often paid to promise silence using church funds. What does this say about the worth of a woman?

If a priest from another denomination requests to be recognized as a Roman Catholic priest, he is welcomed and celebrated along with his wife and family, as long as he signs an affidavit that he will not remarry if his wife dies. What does this say about the worth of a woman?

But if a man, born and raised catholic, becomes ordained and then falls in love, a calling we believe is also from God, he is forced to leave active ministry; required to move more than 40 miles away from his last parish; forbidden to participate in any parish ministries, including lector or Eucharistic minister and is frequently not granted permission to marry in a Roman Catholic Church.

These men of CORPUS have made the choice to cherish women as co-equal partners in love and life.

CORPUS stands as a witness to the worth and wonder of women's presence in our lives, our marriages, our families, our church, and our world.



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Final CORPUS Gifts

CORPUS was given birth 50 years ago in December of 1974 and, having profoundly impacted the lives of thousands in the United States and throughout the world, will pass into the pages of history this December, 2024. At our inception, we were determined to be the drop of water that would become a flood that would open the hearts and minds of the leaders of the institutional Church to the wisdom of an all-inclusive priesthood. We looked those leaders in the eye and we didn't blink. But they were unmoved. However, hope never dies and we did, in fact, enable thousands of married priests to reclaim the ministry which they ultimately received from Christ, the Eternal High Priest.

Because CORPUS has been committed to an inclusive priesthood of married and single men and women, it has been a gift to untold numbers of people during these many years. Providentially, during this beautiful season of Advent/Christmas when we celebrate God's unbelievable gift of a Savior, our organization will make a number of financial gifts to worthy organizations.

Our By Laws state the following: "In the event of liquidation or dissolution of CORPUS, the assets remaining after all debts have been satisfied are to be conveyed to a non-profit association qualified under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States, to be used for the purposes, as nearly as practicable, which are analogous to those for which the movement was created."

During a meeting in December, the Board surveyed numerous national and local organizations to determine where our assets would have the greatest impact. Among the many criteria discussed, the most significant were determined to be reform, ministry and service. Based upon our discussion, we decided to fund seven local organizations and five national organizations.

Local Groups to be gifted \$2,000 each: Holy Family Inclusive Catholic Community, Mary Magdala Community, Benincasa Community, Living Beatitudes Community, Living Water Inclusive Catholic Community, Leaven, Dignity Boston.

National Groups to be gifted 20% of our remaining assets: FutureChurch, Dignity USA, Roman Catholic Womenpriests-USA, Federation of Christian Ministries, Women's Ordination Conference.

We are both happy and grateful that, with these gifts, our ministry will live on and many of God's people will be blessed. Perhaps, two quotes will encapsulate our thoughts at this time of closure. The first is by Etienne de Grellet, Quaker missionary: "I shall pass this way but once; any good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being; let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." And the second is from 2 Timothy, 4:7: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Amen.

