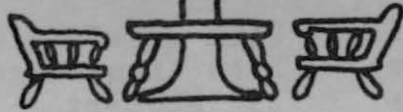


# Table Talk



News and Views of the Student Body of The Lutheran  
Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

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## A PARISH INTERNSHIP

The intern program is a part of the learning process that we participate in as seminarians. This principle is apparent in such intern programs as that of the Inner Mission or the campus ministry. While it may be less apparent in regard to the parish internship it is no less true. The intern does not enter into a parish situation in order to set right all that he thinks is wrong or to revitalize what he may feel is a lagging program. If he fulfills his role properly the opportunity may present itself for him to make some changes that he feels are necessary. But the first role of an intern in the parish is to be a learner.

The Parish program is not a duplication of the junior field work program. Participating in the life of a congregation only one day of the week provides a very limited opportunity to observe and participate in the life of the parish in any depth. The parish intern program does provide such a situation. There are many areas and levels where the intern can enter as a learner.

My internship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Carlisle, Pa. was a valuable part of my seminary education. It exposed me to various levels of church life and activity. I had to deal with the church as an institution. St. Paul's is a large congregation. It cannot function without some organized program. As the intern I was called upon as a part of the ministry to the congregation to maintain and renew this organization. Church Council meetings were a part of my monthly routine. I was permitted a voice in all council meetings and found that the men comprising the council with which I worked for my fifteen months were sensible, dedicated men. They were open to ideas that I brought to them, especially those having to do with the youth program of the congregation.

The internship requirements of the seminary provide for one area in which the intern carries full responsibility. I was in charge of the youth program. It consisted of a Luther League organization and a Saturday Night Open House which was open to the community. This area of my work was one of the most enjoyable and educational. Here I met and worked with young people who were anxious to take a responsible part in their church. It was a challenge to meet this need, for these young people were looking for responsible roles, not just token participation. This was indeed a learning experience, for though I arrived at very few answers in meeting this need I have become acutely aware of the inadequacies of the traditional youth program in this respect.

In addition to these duties I also taught several Sunday School classes on a rotating basis, the first year catechetical class, and a released time religious education class of seventh graders.

Of prime importance in any internship program is the intern supervisor. This, rather than the situation I think, should be the criteria in selecting an intern location. I was most fortunate at St. Paul's to work with an excellent supervisor. We spent from a half to an hour almost everyday in conversation about things that I was doing or that

(cont. on p. 4 col. 1)

T. S. Eliot is dead. Overflow of praise will warm his ashes in his ancestors' earth: the beginning and the end, now and forever, mercy! Even now the magazines remember; the "Lost Generation" is past. To stay there or to dream into the future would be to prostitute the man. The vision the reality, is here and now caught in the branches of half heard children and the sudden sight of a dried pool filled: hints and guesses of the knotted rose on fire. Let us at least stand at the still point. "...the rest/ Is prayer, observance, discipline, thought and action."

That is perhaps all that one should say. It is Word in truth. The bearing is harder. That he came out of his wasteland, our wasteland; and walked the spiral staircase in the ashes of Wednesday to the garden that was always there, this hollow man solved is a present too much with us. Somehow we chose to forget the voyage in our pretentious farewells and turn our dry brain from the sea, the river, the Rock. The echo is fading but let us hear: Fare forward travellers! Datta. Dayadhvam. Damyata./ Shantih shantih shantih. We at least out of the dry season to dance in the circle and leap through the fire: to sit still and cease "mixing memory and desire." We alone now at the clanging of the bell "can rejoice and mourn at once for the same reason." Dare we think this life designed by God "for His love of mer, to warn them and to lead them?" Found is the life that was lost in living and The Stranger. "...the Church must be forever building...Let the fire not be quenched in the forge." The steps and the Temple are in our hands; shall we lay the mortar to hold the blood in its flow. "The dance along the artery" is reconciled "Not too far from the yew-tree." We will plant our life in significant soil and perhaps walk at night

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#### EDITOR'S CORNER

Attention Juniors! Are you reading the current series of articles on internships? This series is for your benefit as well as for the Middlers; in fact Monday's Middler class meeting with Dean Stroup showed that the Middlers, for the most part, have their minds already made up.

You, the current Junior class, will probably be the last seminary class in the whole L. C. A. which will not have a required internship; many seminaries already require them. This is not to say that all of you should take an intern year, but it does mean that it is a matter that deserves your careful consideration in your preparation for the ministry.

R. F. G.

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T. S. Eliot (cont. from column 1)

under flickering tongues in "The eyes of a familiar compound ghost." He has gone the way and all shall be well "In the ground of our beseeching." Here, now and always, Amen!

Lest you think these only poet's tears of joy; brothers, "...I would have you keep in your hearts these words that I say, and think of them at another time."

Fred Reisz

FROM THE BALCONY.....

by Max - O.C.M.

No. 2

TO: Table Talk

FROM: Business Office

This week I had an interesting experience. The weather was not too bad so I went across the street to the Hardware store. Old Mr. Nail, the owner, eats cheese sandwiches and I get the crumbs when he's not looking.

While I was there, Mr. Twoface the head usher at the Church, came in to buy some things. Every Sunday Mr. Twoface looks sharp in his best suit with a flower in the lapel. He's right there on the spot helping to seat people and saying nice things to the ladies. Everyone likes him and they all think he's such a fine Christian man.

Well, as Mr. Twoface got to talking I thought he was going to start a prayer a couple of times. He and Mr. Nail talked about some of the ladies at the church. It didn't sound like the same things he says about them on Sunday mornings. Then they talked some more about God and Jesus Christ and then Mr. Twoface left.

I still can't figure out what God has to do with a dam--we don't even have one around here. But Mr. Twoface must know about it since he's a good Christian. The more I think about it the more I realize that the Pastor is lucky to have such people in his congregation. The Church must mean a lot to Mr. Twoface if he even talks about God and Jesus in the Hardware Store.

That's all for this time. Be good.

Max - O.C.M. (fk)

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#### STUDENT FACULTY LECTURE COMMITTEE

Dr. Carl Braaten has accepted the invitation to be our spring lecturer and will be on campus March 24. Watch for further details in coming issues of Table Talk.

1) Notices have been placed on the Bulletin Boards informing students that they may apply for summer work on Campus. Applications will be received until February 15th. Further information is available from Mr. Benson for anyone interested.

2) The Seminary has once again entered a basketball team in the local community league. Prospects look good this year for our team, and the "Seminary Sinners" are to be commended for their participation.

The schedule of games is posted on the first floor Bulletin Board. Our team deserves support from the Seminary family so let's get out and give our players a boost with your presence and your cheers.

"Mr. B"

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#### SKIP THIS PARAGRAPH

Didn't you notice the heading on this paragraph? Didn't you see that you were to skip this? Then why on earth do you go on reading this? We assure you that you'll get nothing out of this paragraph, and that, if you haven't stopped yet, you are only wasting your time. If you have any character at all stop right now! Well, didn't you understand? Stop! Stop now! We are already halfway through the paragraph, and you're still going on. You just can't stop reading the next line - or can you? You can't! And we were right. What are you getting out of it? Nothing - you just go on and on. You're wasting your time by reading these last words, aren't you?



Intern (cont. from p. 1)

TO: Table Talk

were going on in the congregation. Here the program provides the opportunity for an intimate relationship with someone who is experienced in the ministry. There is a wealth of knowledge to be gained in this manner not only about the church but about one's self.

The opportunities of confrontation in a variety of situations with the membership of the congregation open still another area of experience to the intern. My fifteen months at St. Paul's brought me into intimate contact with many present day saints as they were confronted by the problems, perplexities, and joys of life. Here the strength of the church resides.

We shared the calling at St. Paul's which meant that I visited the hospital every other day and the homes of the sick and shut in of the congregation the remaining days. What I learned regarding the nature of the Christian faith from these visits will enrich my ministry, as well as my own life, beyond limit. To visit a woman who had been dying from cancer for the past several years, but who had remained secure in her faith in God and radiated this every time I visited her, is an unforgettable experience. There are many such experiences that I could relate. The parish internship is full of such happenings for in it the intern is able to become a part of the people he is serving. Here is a real opportunity to engage in life in a Christian community which we strive for so longingly at seminary.

So many more experiences come to my mind concerning the parish internship that I spent at St. Paul's but I cannot relate them all to you because of the limitation of space. If the parish ministry is the aim of your preparation, sincere consideration should be given to a parish internship. The returns of such an experience are limitless.

FROM: Mr. Benson

Gettysburg College has been very cooperative in allowing Sem-inarians to make use of their athletic facilities in their new Physical Education Building. I have heard claims that the students, faculty and staff members that have been availing themselves of this privilege through regular exercise are the healthiest people on campus.

Our Government through their fitness program keep reminding us of the importance of regular exercise. It has been proven by many authorities that an individual can work or study much better and increase their efficiency many times more if they are in good physical condition.

It is obvious that a little "girth control" should be practiced by some people on our campus. It would be well if many more of us would make an effort to join the group as they go to the gym or go down individually at most any time and get your blood circulating.  
I Corinthians 6:19-20

"Mr. B"

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THIS SPACE FOR CLASS NOTES.