

Along the way

"Were not our hearts burning within us as he opened the Scriptures for us along the way." — Luke 24:32

A publication of **sabbath retreats** the preaching ministry of Father Lou Papes

Curtains going up . . .

It's *Cabaret*; it's three weekends in September; and it's at the Workshop Players Theater in Amherst! "IT" is my third acting gig since my retirement last December. *Cabaret* will run from September 6th through the 23rd. Performances will be at 8:00 p.m. with a 3:00 p.m. curtain for Sunday matinees.

I auditioned and was cast in the role of Herr Schultz, the German Jewish fruit stand owner who courts Fraulein Schneider at the beginning of Hitler's rise to power.

Though most people remember the 1972 film with Liza Minnelli (in which there was no Herr Shultz) the original stage production has Shultz as a symbol of the impending tragedy being masked by the "Come to the Cabaret" atmosphere of denial at the Kit Kat Club.

The play is being directed by Jonathan O'Toole, who was in second grade at St. Peter in Lorain when I was first assigned there after ordination! Fraulein Schneider will be played by Bernie Hisey who was the music teacher at St. Peter School in those days!



You do NOT want to know what my wife (Linda Ryan, center) is shouting at me as our housekeeper (Jeanette Stack Luli) tries to calm her in this opening scene of August: Osage County!

Details on the dates, times and directions to the Workshop Players Theater are on page 4 of this newsletter.

. . . all over town

Earlier acting roles were *August, Osage County* (photo above) in Brecksville in February and Arthur Miller's adaptation of Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* at Lorain Community College's Studio Theater in April. The Ibsen play offered the role of the leading antagonist, Peter Stockman, whose greed and arrogance destroy his brother. (That was not type-casting!!)

I've also been asked to audition for Cuyahoga Community College's fall production, *Three Generations of Imbeciles*, based on the 1927 Supreme Court decision, *Buck v Bell*, legalizing the sterilization of the mentally disabled. The title of the play is taken from the comment of Chief Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, writing for the majority, that "*three generations of imbeciles are enough*"!

This production will be staged for two weekends in November at the Western Campus Theater, 11000 Pleasant Valley Road (just west of York Road) in Parma. The dates are November 2, 3, 8, 9 and 10 at eight o'clock and Sundays November 4 and 11 at two o'clock.

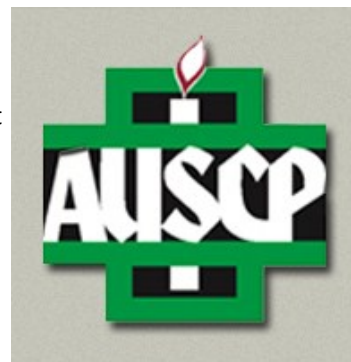
New association of priests honors the legacy of Vatican II

Catholic priests in the United States have begun organizing in the hopes of both honoring and preserving the legacy of the Second Vatican Council. Known as the *Association of United States Catholic Priests* or **AUSCP**, some 250 priests —of the nearly 700 members from around the country — attended the inaugural assembly at St. Leo University in Florida, June 11-14. What is remarkable about this meeting and AUSCP's membership is that the organization is barely a year old.

It was one of the most hope-filled and inspiring gatherings of priests I have ever attended. Headlining the presenters were renowned theologian Richard Gaillardetz, president-elect of the Catholic Theological Society of America and former archbishop of Milwaukee, Archabbot Rembert Weakland. Both addressed the challenge facing the Church today of holding on to vision and the passion of Vatican II.

At the conference at St. Leo's University we began each session with the same prayer that was said at every session of Vatican II. I would ask you to pray it (below) now and often so that the vision and promise of that Council will continue to bear fruit in building the Reign of God in our time. Check out our website: <http://www.uscatholicpriests.org>

To read the resolutions passed at that first meeting of the AUSCP, simply Google **AUSCP Inaugural Assembly Resolutions** for a pdf version of that document.



Prayer before each session of VATICAN II

*We stand before you, Holy Spirit,
conscious of our sinfulness,
but aware that we are gathered in your name.
Come to us, remain with us;
and enlighten our hearts.
Give us light and strength to know your will,
to make it our own, and to live it in our lives
Guide us by your wisdom,
support us by your power,
for you are God,
sharing the glory of the Father and Son.*

*You desire justice for all;
enable us to uphold the rights of others;
do not allow us to be misled by ignorance
or corrupted by fear or favor.
Unite us to yourself in the bond of love
and keep us faithful to all that is true.
As we gather in your name,
may we temper justice with love,
so that all our discussions and reflections
may be pleasing to you,
and earn the reward promised
to good and faithful servants.
We ask you who live and reign
with the Father and the Son,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen*



Priests listen to Richard Gaillardetz, president-elect of the Catholic Theological Society of America.



At the AUSCP Conference with Archabbot Rembert Weakland, former Archbishop of Milwaukee.

From my point of view...

While I traveled around the country virtually every weekend for twelve and a half years, visiting over 600 churches in 123 dioceses in 43 states, it had become evident that much of the spirit and vision of Vatican II was waning. The examples are too numerous to enumerate, but a few will give a flavor of what I observed..

In the Tulsa Diocese, the bishop celebrates Mass with his back to the people. In the Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese, a headline in the diocesan paper quoted their bishop: "The Latin Mass will unite us!" In some dioceses, the bishops are allowing the prohibition of girls as altar servers, even in parishes where girls had been serving for decades. One bishop even banned the singing of the popular hymn "All Are Welcome" wherever he presides! In at least two dioceses, the laity are being told that only a priest may hold his hands in the orans position (outstretched) because the current practice of the people using that posture during the Lord's Prayer takes away from "the *hierarchical* nature of the Mass"!

From a lessening of the role of the laity, to suspicion of religious women, to changes in the way we worship, it is becoming evident that the Church —the People of God — need to reassert the spirit and vision of the Second Vatican Council.

The Holy Spirit does, however, seem to be moving through the Church. Some bishops are beginning to speak out about the treatment of the divorced and remarried. One bishop actually began asking his people: "Why are you leaving?" I have seen firsthand the deeply pastoral ministry of parish priests, religious women and lay people all over this country. The heart of the Church is in the parishes! In spite of what we keep hearing about a Church that is out of touch, I am convinced that where it really matters—in the parishes—the People of God are at work witnessing the Gospel.

Further evidence of the movement of the Holy Spirit in and through the People of God had been the recent outpouring of support for religious women in the United States in the face of the Vatican's criticism of them. People no longer accept what contradicts their lived experience.

At the same time, ordinary parish priests from Australia to Austria to Ireland to the United States are pledging with the help of that same Holy Spirit to renew their understanding of the documents of the Second Vatican Council and recommit themselves to leading their people to that vision.

Father Tom Tifft

In Memoriam

John Urbancic

Within a few days of each other, two rather sudden deaths saddened all who knew them. Fr. Tom Tifft, (69) Rector-President of St. Mary Seminary here in Cleveland and my former church history professor, died July 9. Former classmate at Cathedral Latin and John Carroll University and long-time friend John Urbancic (73) died July 13. May they rest in peace.

On a lighter note....

Nearly four years ago, I decided that a pet would be a great idea. A dog would never do with the traveling I was doing, so Sister Mary Ellen Brinovec, a consummate animal lover, convinced me to get a cat. It took some convincing since I felt that cats, though low maintenance, were too aloof for companionship.

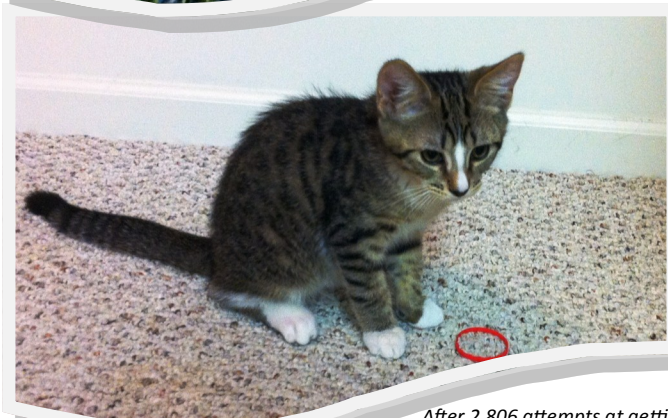
Mary Ellen also convinced me to get two since I would still be away a lot and the two could keep each other company. Sasha and Smokey, sister and brother respectively, quickly changed my mind about cats as pets. Sasha is a "lap cat" and as affectionate as any dog, though it is on her terms!

Unfortunately, Smokey had critical health issues from day one. The vets did all they could, but the problems just got worse, so we had to let him go. (That's also as hard as they say!)

For nearly two years now Sasha has been alone so I decided to get her "a Smokey." So Max, a four month old male who almost looks like Smokey, arrived two weeks ago. Max is wonderful, but Sasha is having a little trouble accepting him. But with a little bribery (a treat every time she "kisses him!") I hope she comes around.



Sasha making herself at home.



After 2,806 attempts at getting Max to be still, I snapped this picture.

CABARET



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

8:00 pm Curtain
Sundays at 3:00 pm

BOX OFFICE 440-988-5613

9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

44820 Middle Ridge Road, Amherst, OH 44001

Directions from Cleveland: Take Route 2 / I-90 into Lorain; get off at the Broadway exit (Middle Ridge Road). Take a left, go over the bridge, and go about a mile down the road. We are in the old schoolhouse on the right.

Cuyahoga Community College Theater Department

presents

THREE GENERATIONS OF IMBECILES

A new play by William Baer

November 2, 3 and November 8, 9, 10 at 8:00 p.m.

Sundays November 4, 11 at 2:00 p.m.

11000 Pleasant Valley Road, Parma, OH

ON THE WEB:

www.sabbathretreats.org



Behold, I make all things new!

sabbath retreats

4519 West 193rd Street
Cleveland, OH 44135

Return Service Requested