

a special

CARBON

TO THE STUDENTS AT MARIAN COLLEGE:

As you all know, Father Robert Konstanzer is no longer on the staff at Marian College. The purpose of the following statement is to present the facts, as I know them, and recommend a course of action. To begin, Fr. Konstanzer was removed by Archbishop Schulte who acted in his capacity as religious leader of the Archdiocese. The reason given for this action is that Fr. Konstanzer conducted off campus, proscribed experimentations with the liturgy. Fr. Konstanzer has declined to accept another position in this Archdiocese; his plans for the immediate future consist of returning to school for doctoral work. The nature of his long-term activities remains indefinite.

Although, in my thinking, the severity of the penalty imposed by the Archbishop is neither reasonable nor commensurate with the offense, there are certain realities we must recognize. The priests on the campus are secular priests, "loaned" to the college by the Archbishop and subject to his authority. Liturgical experimentation is controlled by ecclesiastical law, and the Archbishop is responsible for its enforcement. So, regardless of our feelings, toward either the liturgical restrictions or Fr. Konstanzer's good intentions, he did violate the "letter" of the law.

There are, however, other details connected with this issue which are separate from the personalities involved and of legitimate concern to us. The entire action has been taken with obvious disregard for the needs of Marian College. The administration here was not consulted by the Archdiocese prior to the action nor was it notified after the action was taken! Compounding this remission is the fact that this is the second such occurrence this semester. Soon after this term began, Fr. John Elford was transferred for more pleasant reasons, the change was made without the administration being consulted or notified. And, even more distressing to us is the fact that in neither instance has the vacancy created been filled by new personnel.

The Student Board feels that the college in today's society must be given every consideration. The learning process is a very serious undertaking and must be recognized as such by all those involved with it. We do not believe that actions like the transfers of faculty during the course of a semester in any way contributes to the excellence of our education here at Marian. We are justified in demanding that the quality of our education not be sacrificed to Archdiocesan expediency.

In keeping with this conviction, we have made our dissatisfaction known to the administration and Monsignor Riene has represented the college to Archdiocesan officials. In addition, I have discussed the matter with Dr. Guzzetta who is to become president of the college in February. He is aware of and understands our displeasure. Moreover, he has assured me that he will act immediately to stabilize our position thus avoiding such conflicts in the future.

I am convinced that Monsignor Riene and Dr. Guzzetta, along with other college officials, are as anxious as we are, and in a far better position to effect changes in the present structure. I have, therefore, given my word to both men that I will do everything in my power to insure moderate student reaction. Any student action which might weaken the positions of these administrators would be detrimental to us as well. I believe that organized protest, at this time, would be quite precipitous, serving only to worsen the situation without possibility of improving it. Fr. Konstanzer's transfer, though intolerable, is irreversible. We must, therefore, direct our efforts toward preventing such action in the future.

The Student Board requests that students take no action, other than expressions of dissatisfaction, at this time. I am well aware of your feelings on this issue and share your desire to end such practices. The decision not to act has been a most difficult one and I can only hope for your cooperation. Essentially, what I am requesting is a vote of confidence in the Student Board and myself.

with the latest news on local

archdiocesan purges . . .

Tom Turner

Student Board President

— CARBON —

The students returned from the holidays to find the faculty deleted of a member, a dangerous member. His dorm rooms were emptied, his shingles taken down and he, gone. It's almost as we are told life would be in a totalitarian state, with the constant fear of the purge. But this is Marian College, Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.A.

A man is gone who had succeeded in bringing faculty communication to the students and in bringing meaning to the lives of some people. His success is not to be measured in words of praise but to be witnessed in the people who daily sought him for counseling help, the people who attended his "meaningful" liturgies, the people who ate with him in the student cafeteria, the people who. . . These people, we the students, have lost a friend. But we must remember that such a man is dangerous for he preaches a creed "contrary" to the established order. His new creed is one of contemporary interpretation and meaningfulness to the teachings of Christ. A creed which gives inadequate preference to church structure, church law, vestments. . . a truly dangerous creed.

Yes, Father Konstanzer was a radical. A radical who tried to make this existence a little more meaningful to our generation and to himself. A radical who refused to play the pompous game by all its silly rules. But Father's removal cannot destroy the new attitude of Christianity, the new attitude of humanism, that he helped to establish here at Marian. For this, we thank you Father Bob.

QUESTIONS ON THIS ISSUE WILL BE

jo'k

ANSWERED TONIGHT 6:15 p.m. AT THE STUDENT BOARD MEETING — SAC LOUNGE