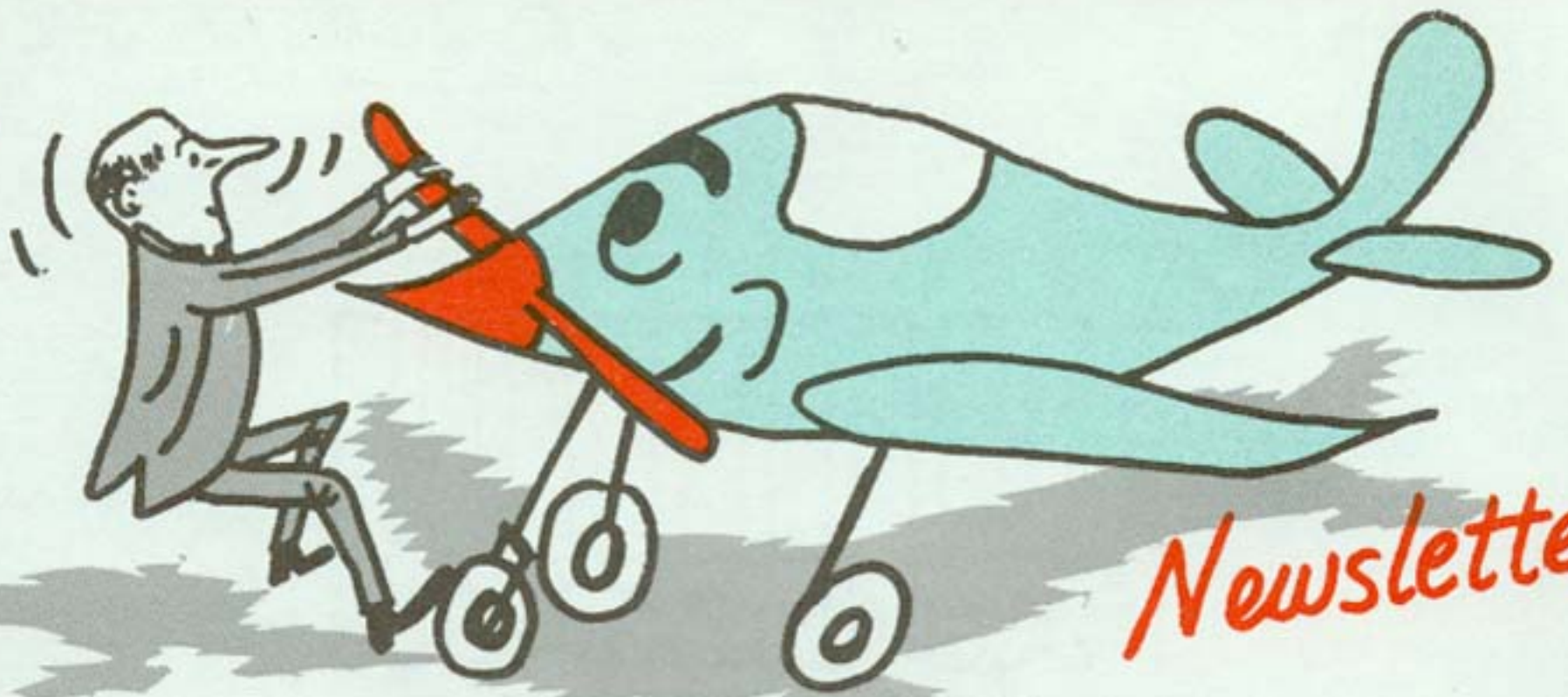


N.A.P.P.



Newsletter

VOL. XIX

JUNE 1982

NO. 6

YOUR PRESIDENT'S PROFUNDITIES

President John Herzog wrote in late April that he was checked in at the House of Affirmation in Montara, California. Reports since that time are that his treatment is progressing well. He had checked out the local airports by the time of the writing and was looking forward to getting back in the air.

Many who have written assure John of their prayers for a speedy recovery.

.....

In lieu of any further message from the President we have the following note from Bernie Bush, S.J., of the House of Affirmation in Montara.

Dear Mel,

I am offering the enclosed copy of an editorial by Fr. Dick McSorley from the 4/30/82 NCR to contribute to the NAPP dialogue concerning the military and the moral problem of nuclear arms. I've read with great interest the note of John Costello and the accompanying pastoral letter of Bishop Roger Mahoney.

In the light of all these factors, I am becoming increasingly uneasy about visiting the Air Force Academy without some careful distinctions being made. First of all, I'll assume that the cadets are being trained for "conventional" war, which under certain carefully controlled circumstances can be justified. They are also being trained to wage nuclear war which to my thinking, and the overwhelming Catholic moral position, is morally indefensible.

Secondly, I have to determine the question whether the two forms of war or defense are by now so inextricably bound together that in reality there is no distinction and hence no moral defensibility. Such statements as, "If we are losing a war conventionally we will resort to nuclear," muddies the distinction. In practice, we lost a war in Viet Nam and did not resort to nuclear, so I'm not all that positive where our policy is for now.

In the light of these, and I'm sure, other important considerations, I am hesitant to visit the academy without knowing precisely what we're going to say and do. For me, some vague references to a common desire for peace, and hopes that the men there never have to use their skills isn't enough.

We may be even in a position to make a strong statement about morality in a bastion of the military. That might take some of the fun out of the convention, but I don't think we can avoid the questions our visit raises.

(The article by Richard McSorley, S.J. National Catholic Reporter. April 30, 1982.)

### MODIFIED MILITARY MORALITY

A nurse at Washington's Walter Reed Hospital's psychiatric ward was trying to console a disturbed Vietnam soldier. "The trouble with me is that I've been seven years in Vietnam, teaching people to kill," the soldier said. "My job as a sergeant was to get them to scream, 'Kill! kill! kill!' and to mean it, as they stabbed dummies with their bayonets. I was the best one in the whole group at doing it. Now they tell me they don't need me anymore." The nurse tried to use her advanced training in psychiatric nursing to help him. "Maybe it was a mistake from the beginning to train to kill. Perhaps it wasn't good for you or for the marines or for the country to teach killing."

The marine began to scream at her, "Who the hell do you think you are? You're wearing those captain bars on your shoulders, and you're telling me now the same as the others. First they tell you to kill, and now they tell me not to kill. You're a damned hypocrite."

The nurse left him, went to her room, locked the door, lay down on her bed and cried. The screams had brought back a flood of doubts, and memories. She had been very upset by the military when she was in Korea for a year. The U.S. Army venereal disease rate was about 90 percent, compared to the Korean rate of about 50 per cent. She had wondered why. Was the army she belonged to part of the reason?

She felt the Korean government, despite the millions of U.S. dollars given to it by the U.S., was stealing the U.S. blind. She had questioned the role she was playing as a part of it all. She remembered the young nurse she had taught at Walter Reed who had left the Nursing Corps on the claim of conscientious objection. The young woman had written a letter in the nurses' journal saying why she could not in conscience give her nursing skills to support war. Here was a soldier who brought the whole question up again.

She could see clearly the hypocrisy of saying that maybe you shouldn't kill, while still wearing the insignia of a captain.

Something of the same kind applies to the priest who is also a military officer. It is difficult for him to advise the military on what to do. Father George Zabelka, the chaplain to the men who dropped the bombs on Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, remembers how hard it was for him. A pilot whose flaming napalm bombs had burned to death a four-year old child on the street in Tokyo asked if it was right to be bombing civilians. The chaplain wasn't upset at the time, he just said that the bombing was necessary. That's what the superiors told him.

Years later, he says, he looks back and believes that by his silence he failed as a man, as a priest, as a chaplain and as a Christian.

In the Nagasaki bombing three entire convents full of religious women were vaporized. Were they guilty people? They were doing their regular works of mercy until the atomic bomb hit them.

Zabelka recalls, "I was silent. I was told it was necessary."

Can a Catholic chaplain speak to the soldiers about the immorality of the use of nuclear weapons or the bombing of civilians? Yes. But it is more difficult while he wears a military uniform and is subject to military discipline. He is very likely to lose his job if he speaks against military policy.

Some of this difficulty is reflected in the letter Cardinal Terence Cooke sent to the military chaplains in December 1981. He wrote that he was responding to questions, apparently from chaplains, who asked whether in view of the condemnation of nuclear war by Vatican II and the statement by the U.S. Catholic Conference that "as it is wrong to use nuclear weapons so is it wrong to intend to use them," can Catholics handle

nuclear weapons at all?

These questions are not asked in a vacuum. They don't come from the imagination. They come from chaplains who are actually advising the men who handle the weapons, the men who have problems of conscience about their work because of what they hear from bishops and priests.

It is not an academic question, it is something from everyday life. The pressure is on the chaplains and their cardinal to agree with U.S. military policy and say, "Oh yes, it's all right. The government says it is necessary." What kind of an argument is that?

What about a Catholic who wants to follow what Christ wants, what Christ teaches? The church has never taught that war is good or that killing is what God wants or that war is necessary to be a follower of Christ. He taught us how to die, not how to kill.

Catholics have not practiced this gospel teaching as they should. An example is the crusades. But "love your enemy" has always been taught as the gospel ideal. The danger of nuclear disaster now helps us see better than ever the importance of practicing what we preach about the immorality of nuclear deterrence. How can the chaplains object to nuclear deterrence policy when they are part of the military?

Is it not legitimate and moral for a military person to ask, "Can I be part of nuclear deterrence, part of preparation for nuclear war?" But the chaplain, who is an officer, will appear to be a hypocrite if he disagrees with policy and yet is an officer. So he will feel pressured to find some way of agreeing with national policy. Cooke's letter to the chaplain's illustrates this.

Army regulation 65-20(2) makes the same point: "The chaplain's duties are those which normally pertain to his profession as a clergyman...modified by the mission and distinctive conditions and circumstances of the Department of the Army." This is a strong condition which includes an assortment of circumstances. Back of it all is this simple message: moral teaching better not conflict with army policy.

The army uses the church to help bring acceptance of its methods, but seeks to restrict the church in its moral teaching.

\*\*\*\*\*

## - Address Changes -

### NEW

Rev. Martin Breski, OFM Conv.  
St. Hyacinth College-Seminary  
Granby, Mass. 01033

Chaplain John Maiorana, USN  
110 King George Court  
Jacksonville, NC 28540

Rev. Richard Grillo, M.M.  
Hampshire Towers  
7401 New Hampshire Ave.  
Hyattsville, Maryland 20783

### CHANGES

Msgr. Richard F. Allen  
128 N. Fulton Street  
Salisbury, NC 28144

### CHANGES

Rev. Charles E. Estee  
20 Elliot Park  
Dover, NH 03820

Rev. Anthony Gendusa, MSC  
CM ANIR (FENI) NIP  
Private Mail Bag P.O. Rabaul  
Papua, New Guinea

Rev. John Herzog  
Box 437  
Montara, CA 94037

Rev. Stephen J. Wolan  
1508 Grosscup Ave.  
Christ the King Church  
Dunbar, WV 25064

Mel Hemann

SEND ALL NEWS RELEASES TO: Box 458

Preston, Iowa 52069

FROM OUR CONVENTION HOST - IRV WEBER

The reservations for the twenty rooms at the Springs Motor Inn, Colorado Springs, are now filled up with the possible exceptions that Jack Lawler and John Bellon indicated that they may get accommodations elsewhere. Here is the list of reservations that you may want to publish in the June letter. I would appreciate that those who have indicated earlier that they wanted reservations but now have changed their minds, would please let me know, because I'm sure that there will be more requests for reservations for the rooms.

RESERVATIONS FOR JULY 12-13-14

- |                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. John Bellon    | 11. Robert Kirsch          |
| 2. Bernard Bush   | John Esquibel              |
| 3. Alvin Werth    | 12. Kathy Kelley           |
| John Wolesky      | Edwina Tabares             |
| 4. Eugene McCahay | 13. John Vakulskas         |
| 5. Miles Barrett  | Al Lefoelholz              |
| 6. Phil Schmitt   | 14. Jack Lawler            |
| John Friederick   | 15. Irvin J. Weber         |
| 7. Frank Nemmers  | 16. Robert Sennott         |
| Dave Hogan        | 17. Don Eder               |
| 8. Arthur Kleve   | 18. Jerry Wightman         |
| 9. Eugene Murray  | 19. Augustine Abeywickrena |
| Edward Murray     | Patrick Trujillo           |
| 10. Thomas Geelan | 20. Mel Hemann             |
| Ed Tiedman        | Jack Paisley               |

*N.B. It may be that some of these persons will not have another guest, and will be willing to accommodate other priest-pilots in their rooms. I would like to know who will be together so that additional reservations can be made.*

Rev. Irvin J. Weber  
St. Joseph's Church  
Box 447  
Benkelman, NE 69021

*(Looking over this list I'm sure there are many who can double up. PLEASE let Irv know as soon as possible as He's trying to coordinate this whole affair from quite a distance... Editor's note).  
The Concelebrated Mass at the Air Force Academy will be the Mass at which the Cadets will be in attendance. PLEASE bring your alb and stole.*

\*\*\*\*\*

OTHER HOTELS & NEARBY MOTELS

Holiday Inn Central  
8th & Commarron  
(Toll free number - 1-800-238-8000.  
1/2 mile from downtown & five miles from the airport).

Sheraton Motor Inn  
8110 No. Academy Blvd & I-25  
(Toll free number - 1-800-325-3535).

\*\*\*\*\*

For anyone who might be interested, Gene Murray got some information on the only passenger train still running like in the old days - 40's & early 50's. Leaves Denver Monday, Thursday & Saturday to Salt Lake city. Returns on Sunday, Tuesday and Friday. Can go all the way or part way through the beautiful and scenic Rockies. Call Gene for information if you'd like to include this in your planning. 712-288-6446. Or your travel agent could get the arrangements made for you. We understand tickets have to be purchased in advance. \*\*\*\*\*

OUR CONVENTION SCHEDULE

- Monday, July 12 -- Arrival  
 Tuesday, July 13 - Alternates: Pike's Peak -- cog train  
                                   Cripple Creek -- old mining territory & historical town  
                                   Evening -- outdoor Bar BQ & stage show - Flying W Ranch  
 Wednesday, July 14 - 9:30 AM - business meeting. 11:00 AM - bus leaves for  
                                   Air Force Academy. 5:00 PM - Concelebrated Mass, Cadets in Attendance.  
   Banquet following at Academy.

(We got this one from Fred the other day. Perhaps someone can help them  
in locating a plane)

OFFICE OF MINISTRIES  
1026 W. 4th Ave., RM. 203



ARCHDIOCESE OF ANCHORAGE

POST OFFICE BOX 2239 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510 TELEPHONE: 907/277-1628

Home Phone: 907/338-0394

June 15, 1982

Rev. Mel D. Hemann  
St. Joseph's Church  
Box 458  
Preston, Iowa 52069

Dear Mel,

I had a great chat with Fr. Everett at the college and he told me to contact you by this Saturday. I understand that you will be printing the Newsletter for the NAPP and thought that you could include a note from us.

I am one of three priests in the Archdiocese of Anchorage who have recently gotten a pilot's license. Now, the disease has hit us awfully bad! We were told by an old Alaskan priest pilot that the only remedy is to get an airplane. The exact prescription is as follows:

1 Cessna 170 B with 180 HP  
or  
\*1 Cessna 180  
or  
1 Stinson with plenty of HP  
or  
1 CITABRIA  
or  
1 Maule

(As you can tell, we are not picky!)

We were also told that this prescription would even be better taken with floats and skis conversion, <sup>kit</sup> should they come with either or both - perhaps even a STOL kit.

Would you please help us locate this valuable prescription. Both the high cost and limited choice in Alaska prompt us to seek elsewhere hopefully through your watchful eye. We can perhaps come up with a figure of  $\pm 10$  (G that is).

From one priest pilot to another, may I say US PRIESTS' PILOTS HAVE TO STICK TOGETHER!

Looking forward to hearing from you, I remain

A priest pilot,

*Fred Bugarin*  
Fred Bugarin

-5-

*We would prefer this if available.*

(The following was sent to us by Katie Kelley, S.N.D., president of FOPP, Inc, [Friends of Priest Pilots, Inc.]. It was acclaimed as a prize-winning tale in a recent national contest. Here is the "tale":)

My friend is a rather old-fashioned lady, always quite delicate and elegant, especially in her language.

She and her husband were planning a vacation in Florida, so she wrote to a particular campground and asked for a reservation.

She wanted to make sure the campground was fully equipped, but didn't quite know how to ask about the toilet facilities. She just couldn't bring herself to write the word "toilet" in her letter.

After much deliberation, she finally came up with the old-fashioned term "bathroom commode." But when she wrote that down, she still thought she was being too forward, so she started all over again, rewrote the entire letter, and referred to the bathroom commode merely as the "B.C."

"Does the campground have its B.C.?" is what she actually wrote.

Well, the campground owner wasn't old-fashioned at all, and when he got the letter, he just couldn't figure out what the woman was talking about. That B.C. business really stumped him.

After worrying about it for awhile, he showed the letter to several campers, but they couldn't figure out what the woman meant either, so the campground owner, finally coming to the conclusion that the lady must be asking about the location of the Baptist Church, sat down and wrote the following reply:

"Dear Madam: I regret very much the delay in answering your letter, but I now take the pleasure of informing you that a B.C. is located nine miles north of the campground, and is capable of seating 250 people at one time.

"I admit it is quite a distance away if you are in the habit of going regularly, but no doubt you will be pleased to know that a great number of people take their lunches along and make a day of it. They usually arrive early and stay late.

"The last time my wife and I went was six years ago, and it was so crowded that we had to stand up the whole time we were there. It may interest you to know that right now, there is a supper planned to raise money to buy more seats. They are going to hold it in the basement of the B.C.

"I would like to say it pains me very much not to be able to go more regularly, but it surely is no lack of desire on my part - as we grow older it seems to be more of an effort, particularly in cold weather.

"If you do decide to come down to our campground, perhaps I could go with you the first time you go, sit with you, and introduce you to all the other folks. Remember, this is a friendly community."

\*\*\*\*\*

## CENTRAL REGION MEETING

Fr. John Vakulskas, St. Mary's Church, Dow City, Iowa, hosted the Spring meeting of the NAPP Central Region. 19 members were in attendance. This set a new attendance record for the semi-annual Regional meeting. The opposite page shows a few of the highlights in down town Dow City.

The quality of the pictures is not the best because I had a slide film and the reproduction process leaves something to be desired.

NAPP treasurer, Jack Paisley, North Washington, IA - (515-394-2078) will host the Fall meeting on October 11. Fly-in airport is Charles City, Iowa. Mark that date on your calendar



You can tell it was all VERY serious business. Upper right shows ex-president John Hemann conducting the meeting. The two lower pictures show some of the exhausted Fathers relaxing after the stress of the meeting.

Those who were in Anchorage last year perhaps remember I had alternator problems all the way on that trip. To the right you see the "bird" getting a new alternator on this trip. Wonder if I should continue flying to NAPP meetings???



# 1982

# NAPP Convention



In  
Colorado  
Springs  
  
July 13-14

## Flying W Ranch

- Authentic Chuckwagon Suppers, steaks cooked on open wood fires
- Original Western Stage Show featuring the Flying W Wranglers
- Completely restored Western town with trains, old-time movies, and ice cream parlor

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ETA (date and time) \_\_\_\_\_

ETD (date and time) \_\_\_\_\_

### ARRIVAL BY:

private plane N \_\_\_\_\_

commercial flight # \_\_\_\_\_

car



SEND RESERVATIONS TO:

Erv Weber

Box 477

St. Joseph's Church

Benkelman, NE 69021