

Despite problems, pressures delight in simple pleasures

“Kit’s dad didn’t get a job that day, or the day after that, or the day after that, though he certainly seemed to be trying. Every day he put on a good suit and rode the streetcar downtown. He said he was going to have lunch with a friend or business acquaintance. Every day Kit hoped her father would come home with the good news of a new job. But every afternoon he came home tired and discouraged.”

That is a paragraph from the newest series in the enormously popular American Girls (Pleasant Company Publications, 2000) book collection. In Book 1, we meet Kit, a resourceful 9-year-old girl whose family is caught up in the Great Depression.

The year is 1934. Kit’s father has lost his job, and the Kitridges, in danger of losing their house, must take in boarders. Their once-serene

life is disrupted.

The scenario is one that is hitting home in many modern American households as the country faces the prospect of an economic recession.

In the 1930s, the unemployment rate was 25 percent, and many breadwinners were reduced to selling apples for a nickel apiece on the street corner. Thousands of families went “on relief,” the Depression-era word for welfare. In some communities, schools shortened the school year to save money. Kindergarten classes were canceled.

While the anticipated downturn in the economy might not reach the crash proportions of the ’30s, people are worried. They may have to make major adjustments in their lifestyles. How do families deal with the shame and em-



george plagenz

• saints & sinners

barrassment that goes along with having people find out that their parent (or spouse) is out of work?

“When it happened in our family,” said Mary, “the first thing I did was call the children together. I reminded them that they all had reason to be proud of their father’s achievements. I assured them that a man of his ability would once again find his place in the economic world.

In the meantime, I said that we were going to go on being proud of him and having faith in him.”

Mary’s story appeared years ago in Atlantic Monthly magazine.

“Our success in the new venture,” she told the family, “will be determined largely by the sympathy, understanding and tenderness we display toward each other.”

She told the children that, while they might be poor, they were still rich in so much that made life worth living.

“Denied the luxury of planning for tomorrow, we started living for today. We squeezed every drop of pleasure out of each day’s simple and commonplace experiences - like picnics.

“Picnics used to be the bane of my existence. Now we take a meat pie out of the oven, put a

carton of milk and a few apples into a basket and wander down to the creek to eat. It’s surprisingly delicious, this simple fare, when eaten under the trees.”

What strikes me about Mary’s remarks is that, although they are directed at families that are going through the worst of times, she says things that need to be heard even by families going through the best of times.

Often, when things are going well for us and money is of no concern, we lose sight of the things money can’t buy - things that bring real happiness, such as pride and faith in one another, tenderness and the simple pleasures of each day. Things such as picnics.

Remember Mary’s words if hard times should come a-knockin’ at your door. And even if they don’t.

At a Catholic University, conservatives complain they are silenced

By Kelly Yamanouchi

Associated Press Writer
SAN FRANCISCO — Just blocks from Haight-Ashbury, where antiwar demonstrations raged in the 1960s, students and faculty are protesting again, saying their voices are being silenced by the “brutal” actions of a university president.

At stake is the future of the St. Ignatius Institute, a conservative Catholic “great books” program within the comparatively liberal, Jesuit-run University of San Francisco.

Since its founding 25 years ago, the institute has been a voice for Catholic tradition, its faculty and students backing Vatican doctrine even as important elements of mainstream American Catholicism distanced themselves from Rome.

But the institute — which offers its alternative curriculum for about 150 of

USF’s 7,000 students — also has been considered “separatist” by university administrators.

USF’s new president, the Rev. Stephen Privett, abruptly fired its directors in January, saying that the institute must be integrated into the rest of USF and that consolidating its separate admissions and study-abroad programs would save money.

Six of the 17 faculty members quickly resigned from the institute in protest (although they still teach at the university), and weeks of demonstrations followed, along with a letter-writing campaign and newspaper ads.

They urged USF’s board of trustees to overrule Privett and rehire institute director John Galten and assistant director John Hamlon.

But Privett still enjoys the support of the board, which last week voted 30-2 to affirm the president’s decisions.

“In my judgment, neither person had the academic credentials to run an academic program,” Privett said in an interview. “By disposition, these are not the people who are going to take the program in the direction I want it to go.”

USF, founded in 1855, has a picturesque hilltop campus with vistas of the San Francisco Bay. Like many U.S. Jesuit universities, it prides itself on diversity and theological freedom — not, as Privett says, a one-size-fits-all approach.

Galten, a co-founder of the institute who has taught at USF for 24 years, said Privett’s real motivation was to squelch a prominent conservative Catholic voice at a time when Catholic universities are debating how to comply with new requirements from the Vatican.

“What it’s really about is this battle of the church trying to restore its presence and its leadership in education. It’s about

Ex Corde Ecclesiae,” said Galten.

The Latin phrase is the title of a decree issued by Pope John Paul II more than a decade ago that laid out general principles for Catholic higher education. U.S. bishops and administrators at America’s 235 Roman Catholic colleges and universities have struggled with it ever since.

Under Ex Corde, the Vatican this year will begin requiring university theologians to get a mandate from the local bishop in order to teach. This gives bishops, and ultimately the pope, more leverage to stem dissent and divergence from church policy.

Most U.S. Catholic university administrators have objected, calling the mandate a threat to academic freedom.

Faculty at the St. Ignatius Institute, however, signed it gladly, according to Kim Summerhays, a chemistry and computer science professor who re-

signed in protest.

“We pledge allegiance, so to speak, to this magisterium of the church,” Summerhays said. “Our feeling is that the church has always had good reasons for the positions it’s taken on social issues, and faith and morality. Our goal is to elucidate those ... but never to publicly dissent from the church’s teaching.”

Galten is among those who believe Privett was making a statement to Rome by reorganizing the institute. But others doubt it.

“Certainly it doesn’t represent any rejection of Ex Corde Ecclesiae,” said the Rev. Charles Currie, president of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities in Washington, D.C.

Like the church whose twin steeples tower over the 55-acre campus, the St. Ignatius Institute is named after the saint who founded the Jesuits.

Supporters say the “great books” pro-

gram has high academic standards, following a centuries-old Jesuit curriculum. Students can take classes such as “Catholic Tradition I” and “Vocation to Marriage and Family” to fulfill general education requirements. Activities include spiritual Masses and retreats.

Joe Marti, a student at USF who has completed the St. Ignatius program, said classmates feel cheated.

“The institute wants to do its own thing. It just has always enjoyed its freedom to have its own curriculum, to have its own spirituality,” Marti said. That, he said, may be more difficult under the junior faculty member Privett installed as director.

“How is a non-tenured leader going to make decisions that may not be popular with the university?” Marti asked.

Privett’s decision, opponents say, will mean the loss of future St. Ignatius students.

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Pastor: Don Crutcher

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Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am

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Pastor: Rev. Steve Rains

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Morning Worship: 10:30 am

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Saturday: Prayer Meeting: 5-7 pm

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Church of Christ

401 Caldwell

899-6185

Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am

Worship Service: 10:45 am

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Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Matthew Delp

Third & Caldwell

899-2080 or 899-3797

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am

Worship Service: 10:50 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First Baptist Church

Pastor:

Fifth & Center • 899-3450

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am

Morning Worship: 10:30 am

Evening Worship: 6 pm

Tuesday: Mens’ Prayer Group: 5:30 am

Thursday: Ladies’ Bible Study: 10 am

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail

Pastor: Bobby Potter • 332-3956

Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am

Worship Service: 11 am



Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Pastor: Loren Strait

Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233

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Worship Service: 10:30 am

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899-3631

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Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sonrise Christian Church

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Youth Minister: Doug Bean

Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am

Sunday School: 10:45 am

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Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm

Adult & Children’s Classes: 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 899-6161

Pastor: Scott Grimshaw

Sunday: Sunday School: 8:45 am

Worship Service: 10 am

Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Kanorado

United Methodist Church

Pastor: Leonard Cox

399-2468

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am

Worship Service: 10:15 am

Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400

Pastor:

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am

Morning Worship: 11 am

Evening Worship: 6 pm

Wednesday: Call for location

Grace Fellowship Church

104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423

Pastor: Bob Snyder • Residence: 899-0134

Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Worship Service: 11 am

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center

899-2115 or Rectory 899-2114

Priest: Father Charles Schneider

Deacon: Gretchen Talitha

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Holy Communion: 5 pm

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1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (970) 664-2470

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Sunday School: 10:45 am

Priesthood/Relief Society: 11:30 am

Word of Life Foursquare Church

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899-5250

Pastor: John Coumerilh

Sunday: Worship Celebration &

Kids’ Church: 10:30 am

United Methodist Church

Brewster:

Pastor:

Worship Service: 10:45 am CST

Sunday School: 9:45 am CST

Winona:

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Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

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Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm

Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

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