

This is a Collegium Justin gave this week

PRIMAL COMMUNITY EXPERIMENT

Justin Morrill  
Collegium  
Febr. 24, 1975

This is the time we have been waiting for. There is a mythological and symbolic void. This is the kairotic moment the People of God always wait for. Let us look at the situation and trends to discover some new directions. We moved from the teaching image to PSU image. The dominant theme around the globe is primal community experiment. Only 8 have not sent grid of focus of their concern.

On the other side of our consults we have seen these trends?

1. We're experiencing the new sociological form of the church. It is in the midst of us.
2. Has released the power of the laity. The 25-50 iron families in the experiment are no longer predominantly clergy, but lay.
3. Concern has moved beyond local to globe.
4. Vocational collapse of clergy. They are unclear about their role in new form. It has two expressions: give up on congregation or grasp the congregation and be terrified, to the point of tears, by it.
5. Some congregations have made the turn and the new form is there: there is a corporate pastorate, and there is the ecclesiolola.

II YEARNING FOR CONCRETE ACTION

**Yearning** a sense of local concrete engagement. They are beginning to catalyze recruitment for courses in a new way. They want to be trained but they want practical training. The Local Community Convocation will be an increasingly breakopen tool and LENS will be a training tool.

There are some negative aspects:

1. Danger in local projection over against doing a signal the world can replicate.
2. Danger of watering down one global thrust to local manifestation.
3. Moving before they are ready.

III SERIOUS STRUGGLE WITH BATTLEPLANNING. They are experiencing the multiplicity of movementalizing. There will be 5 or 6 sets of battleplans out of which to move (the house, the galaxy, the guild, the congregations, etc.). There is growing interrelatedness in their battleplans. The key to this is understanding the use of miracles. Another is phasing, for they will try to do a 5th City or Uptown, but they cannot do it in one quarter. Right now is the catalyzing phase, which is to get 25 iron men who will work Day I, Day II, Week I, Week II the rest of their lives. Their concern is not to reconstruct community but to beckon forth troops. They experience themselves victim to the complexity, and an unclear image of what the congregational action needs to be

IV Imaginal focus is on catalyzing guild to bring it into being. This is the key to the future of the church. Until the tensional dynamic between the symbol and the stuff of society is clear we won't know how to do the congregation.

As they move on the Guild, they are creating a new understanding of the catalysts role. They see they have no control over them, for they live out of other symbol systems.

As they catalyze the guild, they will have no problem with authorization. In fact, there is too much of it. Some places were unstrategically sought and they took us seriously. The catalytic forces are not there to show authorization, but to do something. We have authorization but did not have the forces. Now they are waiting for us to do something. Perhaps we need to give them a story to hold them until they begin something.

They are struggling with what to do with the guild. There is a need for people to know what to do with community. They need to get into the parish, to touch it, to begin to analyze it.

#### V WHERE WE NEED TO MOVE

1. On the local level, reimage and rearticulate revolutionary principles, such as the revolutionary image, meaning of catalysis, strategy, geographical considerations, moving in depth, the servant role, invisible forces, going local and public are not synonymous, waiting for the right moment.
2. The Guilding Dynamic. Perhaps we need to look at our work in Summer '73. We could take over social agencies and be a coordinator of local action groups.
3. The new sociological form is going to come thru guild. In watching 5th city and Uptown, we see the Guild doing the congregational tactics.
3. Massive troop development and training.
4. Consider selective Majuro Consults in key locations, such as Rochester and San Francisco.
5. Back up system--this is abaloon--should we think of it on an areal basis rather than centrum monitoring. As we move into guild formation it will take local care to keep the commonness. Maybe we need area signals, and pour effort into the six locations where people can go there and engage in edge work. In non-North American places, it is an areal function.

We need to get the wisdom of Uptown, such as guild meetings and cadre meetings to use in other experiment. Perhaps areally we have the area prior do the interchange and consults, and focus LENS, Town Meetings, and recruitment. Perhaps Centrum function is training, curriculum, back up materials, and do long range research

6. We need a clearer articulation of the new sociological form of the church. Institutions are ready for images of a reconstructed form, rather than going at it tangentially. The authorization base is there. The job of loosening the congregations from old images is done. People are no longer living in a two story universe; history has done that for them. I believe the historical church is ready for it. Just renewing the liturgy, etc. is not enough