

INSTITUTE FOR ECUMENICAL AND CULTURAL RESEARCH

COLLEGEVILLE, MINNESOTA 56321

ROBERT S. BILHEIMER, *Executive Director*
JEROME THEISEN, OSB, *Associate Director*
DOLORES SCHUH, CHM, *Administrative Assistant*

Telephone: 612-363-3366

April 10, 1975

PRESIDENT
Kilian McDonnell, OSB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN
Dr. Raymond P. Morris
(Methodist)
Yale University

VICE-CHAIRMAN
Mr. Terrance Hanold
(Plymouth Congregational Church)
Minneapolis, Minnesota

SECRETARY
Mrs. Russell Lund
(Lutheran, LCA)
Edina, Minnesota

TREASURER
Mr. Peter M. Butler
(Roman Catholic)
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dr. Roger R. Anderson
(United Presbyterian, USA)
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Rev. Colman Barry, OSB
(Roman Catholic)
Catholic University of America

Rev. Michael Blecker, OSB
(Roman Catholic)
Collegeville, Minnesota

Dr. Robert McAfee Brown
(United Presbyterian, USA)
Stanford University

Dr. Calvin Didier
(Hope Presbyterian Church)
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dr. David du Plessis
(Pentecostal)
Oakland, California

Rev. John Eldenschink, OSB
(Roman Catholic)
Collegeville, Minnesota

Mr. Charles M. Grace
(Roman Catholic)
Santa Monica, California

Dr. Louis H. Gunnermann
(United Church of Christ)
New Brighton, Minnesota

Mr. Harold LeVander
(Lutheran, LCA)
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dr. Franklin H. Littell
(Methodist)
Temple University

Mrs. Abigail McCarthy
(Roman Catholic)
Washington, D.C.

Dr. James I. McCord
(Presbyterian)
Princeton, New Jersey

Dr. John T. Middaugh
(Presbyterian)
Northampton, Massachusetts

Most Reverend Leo A. Pursley
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend
P. O. Box 390
Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46801

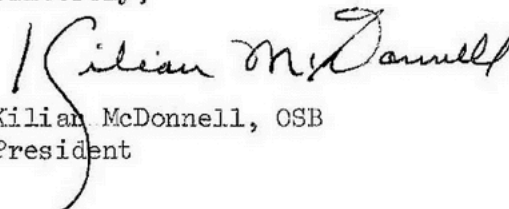
Dear Bishop Pursley:

By now you will have received the packet of six documents from Dr. William Storey on the Catholic charismatic renewal.

I enclose my own reflections on the six documents and on Dr. Storey's letter which you might find helpful.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Kilian McDonnell, OSB
President

KMcD:ds
Enclosure

Mr. James Miller
(United Church of Christ)
St. Cloud, Minnesota

Mrs. John Miller Musser
(Episcopalian)
St. Paul, Minnesota

Mr. John Parish
(Episcopalian)
St. Paul, Minnesota

Mr. Lloyd Peterson
(Lutheran, ALC)
Paynesville, Minnesota

Mrs. Robert B. Ridder
(Roman Catholic)
St. Paul, Minnesota

Rabbi Max Shapiro
(Jewish)
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Mr. Clifford Sommer
(Lutheran, ALC)
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Lloyd Svendsbye
(Lutheran, ALC)
St. Paul, Minnesota

Mrs. Theodore Wedel
(Episcopalian)
Alexandria, Virginia

Reflections On The Six Documents On The Catholic Charismatic Renewal

Submitted By Dr. William Storey

1. All that I know about Dr. William Storey is good. He is a competent historian and liturgist, a deeply spiritual man. He has had a profound effect on the spiritual lives of some leaders within the renewal. Indeed, it was Dr. Storey who brought some of the national leadership into the charismatic renewal.
2. Criticism should be welcomed, listened to, and not rejected with undue haste. I myself do not doubt that many of the accusations in these documents were true.
3. All of the documents refer to the charismatic renewal in one city, South Bend, Indiana.
4. Five of the six documents refer to one particular prayer community, True House in South Bend. There is a second charismatic community in South Bend. The documents do not touch this second community.
5. The sixth document, by Josephine Ford, refers to a more general situation in South Bend and to some leaders in Ann Arbor, Michigan. However, most of the document refers to South Bend.
6. The national leader who was also a leader of True House and whom Francis R. Hittinger accuses of immoral advances, was removed from his leadership position in True House and he ceased to be a national leader. This was done by the Service Committee a year and a half ago, in 1973.
7. True House, as a charismatic community, no longer exists.
8. The author of the sixth document (Josephine Ford) has had a long history of difficulties with the Catholic charismatic renewal. She has quarreled with most of the national leadership. A number of her observations and criticisms are, in my opinion, valid. She is a person of some intelligence and perception. However, her writings are not taken as seriously as they should be because they are full of personal bitterness. She is an extremely difficult person. Though small and fragile, she is a woman of iron determination. As an outsider, I attempted to act as a reconciler between Josephine Ford and the South Bend Community. Josephine Ford coldly and firmly rejected my attempt and would not discuss the problem with me.
9. In her defense it would seem that Josephine Ford has not always been handled wisely. However, she is difficult to handle at all. She was determined to become a leader in a community which did not want her as a leader but was willing to have her as a member.

10. The accusations made in the six documents should not be extended beyond South Bend, and most of them should not be extended beyond the now defunct True House. No evidence is presented to indicate that the situation they describe is general. No documented evidence is given to show that the renewal has fallen into doctrinal error.
11. However, it is possible that abuses and errors exist elsewhere. In a broad popular movement, with large lay involvement, there are sure to be problems and abuses. Theological expression, especially by untrained persons, is often imprecise.
12. A theological commission, under the bishops, examining the teaching of the charismatic renewal would be welcomed by the national leaders of the renewal.
13. These six documents are concerned mainly with a local situation in South Bend, with a person who is no longer either a local or a national leader, with a community which no longer exists. I do not see the documents as sufficient reason for the Pope to refrain from celebrating the Mass on Pentecost Monday for the Charismatic Congress.

Kilian McDonnell

April 9, 1975