

MM Late Summer Blue Sheet



Grandson Kyle and Wife Sabrina

Morgan's Moment...

They're pointing into the wind...
heeling "Say Yay!"
grandpa remembering.
Letting go of the mooring line
on the sailing dinghy
when Kyle was only 5.
Off he went solo...
his mother anxious...
"Can he get back?"
I had done this many times before
so I answered hopefully...
"He'd better come back."
I have the old photo
that same little grandson...
sailing away all alone.
We've seen him off to Antarctica...
to university and marriage
and adult life.
We let go of mooring lines
and trusted his hand on the tiller
to get him where he wants to go.
Almost a quarter century later
I see him in this photo
and remember.
Say Yay!

Art Morgan

BOOK CORNER

Interesting that my current read is John Dominic Crossan's "How to Read the Bible and Still be a Christian" as I try to put together a few words about Raymond Hunthausen. Both are/were Catholic priests. Hunthausen stayed in the church while Crossan left during the same troubled era. Crossan went on to become regarded by many as the foremost historical Jesus scholar of our time. I try to read several such books each year. I will be reporting.

A STILL AND QUIET CONSCIENCE

The Archbishop Who Challenged a Pope, a President and a Church THE LIFE OF RAYMOND HUNTHAUSEN

By John A. McCoy

I've often found myself attracted to people who have stood up to tradition and church authority. Some of the finest biblical scholars and theologians of our time have either left the church or been dismissed from positions in Catholic institutions. I feel especially attracted to those who have been excommunicated.

Archbishop Raymond ("Ray" as he preferred to be called, or "Dutch" as close friends called him) Hunthausen never left the church or was excommunicated. He was, however, humiliated by the powers in the Catholic hierarchy, particularly by Cardinal Ratzinger who became Pope Benedict.

What could he expect?

He was Archbishop of Western Washington, offices in Seattle. It was the time of great nuclear threat. It was when the Trident Nuclear Submarine Base was being established at Bangor on Hood Canal.

He was Archbishop to a half million or more Catholics, many of whom were employed in various military related jobs. Four military bases and three Boeing factories as well as all the support businesses are embedded in the area and basic to the economy of Washington.

So what could he expect when he spoke at Pacific Lutheran University saying: *"I say with deep consciousness of these words that Trident is the Auschwitz of Puget Sound."* (p. 12)

His protest against the nuclear arms race led into the unholy alliance of President Reagan and the Vatican to silence Hunthausen.

My emotional interest in his story is how he handled the extreme criticism from the Pope and his church hierarchy, the residents of the Puget Sound region, proponents of nuclear submarines and the conservative elements among his own congregations. Few could stand against such opposition.

Clergy can learn how to be Christian and pastoral when under persecution from Hunthausen. Bishops and Regional Ministers can learn how to lead. It is a marvel what this quiet man actually accomplished. Parishes under his administration thrived, even during the period of his persecution.

He steadfastly stayed true to his Christian conscience.

The papal investigation was national news. He spoke about it at the National Association of Priests, representing 27,000 priests. He explained: *"Never did Jesus compromise the truth he had come to reveal, but neither did he fail to extend to all he encountered the warm and compassionate embrace of a loving God. That's the challenge I face day after day in Seattle, and I know that is the struggle of each of us in this room."*

"As Hunthausen left the podium and walked back to his seat, the ballroom erupted in a loud, vigorous and prolonged standing ovation." (p. 271)

I have known some of those who opposed Hunthausen and also some who were his friends and allies. Loren Arnett, exec for the Washington Association for Churches drew bishops and denominational execs together, including Ray, for a monthly breakfast. I was invited (as Bishop of Moment Ministries?) Bob Brock, Disciples Regional Minister, was a steady presence. Dick Cunningham, another Disciple minister taught theology in the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University, a Catholic School. It would not have been possible without Hunthausen.

Pope Francis is coming soon. Hunthausen said "He's doing the things I tried to do." The main difference between them is that Hunthausen was an Archbishop and Francis is a Pope. — Art Morgan, Sept 1, 2015