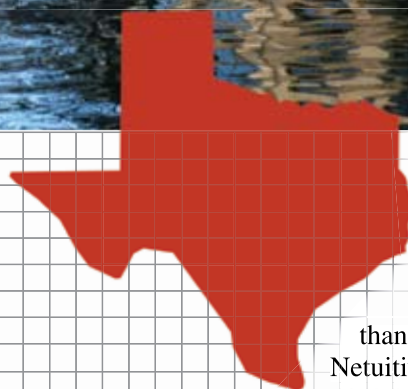




ELEANOR ZEPEDA

# In the Heart of Texas



Two university professors in San Antonio promote the Economy of Communion through a lecture and symposium. For students, it is a true discovery.

BY LINDA B. SPECHT

“THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE Economy of Communion coincides perfectly with my values and beliefs. This lecture gave me much to consider, especially in terms of my future.”

These are the words of one of the attendees at a lecture on Trinity University campus in San Antonio, Texas, last February. Although a few of the graduate students attending the lecture already had some knowledge of the Economy of Communion from an ethics and law course, it was a new concept for many of the undergraduate students.

“It is very encouraging to realize that I can pursue my interest in the business realm without abandoning my deeply rooted beliefs,” the student added. “I had thought the only option for a person such as myself would be the nonprofit sector. I am now aware of much greater potential and broader opportunities.”

The fact that the lecture itself was even held at Trinity was somewhat remarkable. A month earlier, I had received a call from Professor Jonathan Michelin, a *focolarino* in San Antonio, who had scheduled a course on the EoC for one-hour credit at St. Mary’s University. The course was to include a six-hour symposium, and it seemed that the speakers would be available a day earlier if I was interested in

bringing them to the Trinity campus!

That exchange began a flurry of emails between Jonathan; Nick Sanna, CEO of Netuitive; Tom Rowley, CEO of Finish Line; and me. Finally everything was arranged.

Nick and Tom presented the historical background, main principles and personal experiences from the EoC to 75 students. This was followed by a question-answer session and a reception, which allowed the students an opportunity to talk to speakers and share ideas.

I realized that the EoC offers hope to students who are searching for a way to make a meaningful contribution to mankind while working in the world of business.

One of my current students in particular struck a chord: “This was the best presentation I’ve ever seen at Trinity. I want to know more about EoC. I want to become involved. I have a dream about what business should be like. This is it.

“I’m so excited. I have faith in business now. I’ve been told I’m an idealist. Well, if EoC is reality than I am a very, very happy idealist right now because I’ve just been enlightened to something so real AND ideal. Thank



LINDA SPECHT (2)



We are impacted by the culture that surrounds us. We must all do our part to transform the culture of having to a culture of giving.

A lecture at Trinity University and a one-credit course at St. Mary's University in San Antonio offered the opportunity for students to discover the Economy of Communion firsthand.

you so much. Seriously. WOW?"

The following day, Nick and Tom moved on to the symposium at St. Mary's. The two schools offered a real contrast. Although both are private institutions, Trinity is a small, primarily liberal arts university with a total enrollment of 2,700. St. Mary's is the oldest and largest Catholic university in Texas, with 3,900 students. Those attending the lecture at Trinity were primarily business students who had heard about the lecture or had been invited to attend, while the students at St. Mary's were enrolled in a course for credit.

During the symposium itself Nick and Tom engaged students through interactive means as well as lectures, Powerpoint presentations, videos and personal sharing.

John Mundell, owner and CEO of Mundell and Associates, also joined in via conference call to share his personal

experience of divine providence at his EoC business, a consulting firm for the environment.

The symposium culminated with a question and answer session, during which students expressed the desire to be more deeply involved in spreading the "culture of giving" that is the basis for the EoC.

One student commented that the "EoC is much needed for 2 reasons: (1) it puts the person at the center; and (2) it counts on God's intervention."

At both St. Mary's and Trinity, students expressed an interest in learning more about the culture of giving and internship positions with EoC businesses.

To follow up, Jonathan and I are bringing our students together on one campus to view a video of the dedication of the Lionello Bonfante Industrial Park and make plans for those who are interested

in attending the North American meeting of the EoC, to be held at Mariapolis Luminosa in August.

From there, we have ambitious plans, with hopes of developing a course for credit at Trinity and working with EoC companies to develop internship opportunities and visits to the businesses.

As Mother Teresa once said, "We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."

We are impacted by the culture that surrounds us. We must all do our part to transform the culture of having to a culture of giving. We've made a small beginning on two campuses, "deep in the heart of Texas."

If you would like to join us in promoting the culture of giving on your campus, contact [eocassoc@aol.com](mailto:eocassoc@aol.com). 