

GUNDERSEN CLINIC, LTD.
LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

C. F. MIDELFORT, M. D.
J. B. LEFSRUD, M. D.

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Dr. Carl Whitaker
University Hospitals
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Carl:

I just wanted to let you hear from me and to express my appreciation to Muriel for her biographical sketch in "Voices". It interested me that you spent some time in obstetrics inasmuch as I also had a year of it at New York Lying Inn Hospital on East 68th Street. I think Muriel did a most interesting sketch and it makes both of you seem much more real.

I could wish that we could organize an institute devoted to the study of the family in all of its dimensions. This is an idea that I have had for many years and never have been able to bring into reality. I talked with Milton Senn about having such an institute here in La Crosse where the access to family life is so rich but, of course, he was so preoccupied in New Haven and I here with the clinical practice of psychiatry and the development of family therapy that nothing came of it.

I have just read the syllabus on the study of mental retardation at the University and it is remarkable that so much effort and time can be brought into this area when all the other problems tend to be neglected. I could visualize myself in such an institute studying the relationship of religion to mental illness with the church considered an extension of the family. If we had someone like deChardin to give us a boost in the development of the theory of evolutionary process, this would be of greater help. Of course, I am just saying these things to express my concern for this large area of life that lies open for the harvest with very little to go on.

I hope to be able to come to the workshop of the AAP in Madison this summer and I hope that Helga and I can soon spend a weekend with you and Muriel either in Madison or La Crosse. I am eager for her to meet Muriel and perhaps through you I will be able to meet John Warkentin.

Best wishes for a Happy Easter.

Sincerely yours,

CFM
C. F. Midelfort, M.D.

CFM/drs