

# Jerusalem, 33 A.D., ... You Are There

## Catholic Press Features

Fort Wayne, Ind. — One of the most effective ways to make the Gospels come alive for young people is to borrow from Walter Cronkite's famed "You Are There" technique, according to one enterprising catechist.

Miss Carol Clark, CCD Coordinator with the Religious Education Office of the Archdiocese of New York, reported in "The Religion Teacher's Journal," published here, how 10- and 12-year-olds were encouraged to send themselves back through time to write essays, letters, autobiographies or diaries following such instructions as:

"You're the next door neighbor to the Holy Family. You are 10 or 12 and the Boy Jesus is your neighbor playmate. Tell of some of your experiences."

"You're the owner of the

donkey Christ used on Palm Sunday. Give us a first-hand account. Where were you and what were you doing as the two apostles untied your donkey? How do you feel about the whole affair?"

"You're one of the apostles who helped to pass out the bread and fish to the 5,000 people. What are some of your thoughts and some of your conversations with a few of the other apostles?"

"You are a cousin of Mary Magdalen, one who witnessed her life of sin and life of repentant love. You live in Jerusalem, but now have a job working in Magdala. Write a letter to your family concerning Mary, your pros and cons. Do you think she will persevere? What about her reputation? What about your reputation, being her cousin?"

The resulting "I Am There"

commentaries are read aloud in small groups of four or six children. These experiments, Miss Clark maintains, have increased the interest of the students — even teenagers.

"To hear and see a teenager become so involved in the FEELINGS of the Crucifixion scene is rewarding to the teacher as well as to the students," she said, referring to one "You Are There" assignment in which a Roman soldier writes to his commanding officer about Good Friday. "It's religion alive with a meaning."

She quotes one boy who said, "It puts me in the place of some of the good people I'd like to be like," and she then comments: "In the final analysis, isn't that what we as teachers aim to do, to put them in the footsteps of good people?"

personated Peter taking the lunch from a "nice boy" before the feeding of the 5,000.

"I was beginning now to get very hungry, and Christ could tell it. So He told me to prepare the lunch. Well, I tell you there were 5,000 people out there. Then I saw this little boy coming with a basket of 'goodies' (Anything looks good when you're hungry.) He said, 'I know these won't fill all of those people but at least that nice man (who is preaching so wonderful) can have a lunch.' I said, 'Thank you,' and then took them to Christ. That nice boy sent them for you, Jesus," I said. Christ replied: "He shouldn't have given so much."

The girl who wrote the essay commented: "I felt like I was following the paths of Christ. And I felt like I was right there with Him."



Seder in Catholic Church

Rabbi David Schwartz of Temple Beth Ha Shalom lifts a vessel of wine at a model seder conducted at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic church in Montoursville, Pa. Seated to the rabbi's left is Father Walter Fleming, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes. The rabbi conducted the traditional Jewish service for nearly 200 Catholic and Protestant youths. (RNS)

## Museum Offers

### Holiday Extras

"Signs of Spring", the current show at the Strasburgh Planetarium, will be offered on Easter Week afternoons at 3, 3 and 4 o'clock.

These are holiday extras, April 7-12. The regular planetarium schedule also will be maintained.

Another Museum Science Center program for vacationing students is a series of "Teen Travelogues." Five area high schoolers who have lived abroad as exchange students, and a girl from Paris, will give illustrated lectures at 2 p.m. April 7-11, in the museum auditorium, East Avenue at Goodman.

The planetarium will be open Easter Sunday; the museum will not.

## Ecumenical Events

### Aim of Dialogue: Understanding

Miami — (NC) — The purpose of Jewish-Christian dialogue is not to fulfill the ultimate dream of Christianity but to enable each faith to understand its own traditions better, a priest-scholar told a Jewish congregation here.

Father Raymond Brown, S.S., professor of Sacred Scripture at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, and consultant to the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, lectured during an institute for adult studies at Miami's Temple Israel.

He told the audience that the bitterness which developed early between Christians and Jews "had previously poisoned our relationship. Now we are in a unique moment for intelligent dialogue," he said.

"By an accident in history, Christians became dominant in western culture while the Jews were persecuted," the priest continued, adding that "this has resulted in Jews being somewhat suspect of Christians — when we say we want to discuss theology."

"What are Christians looking for in wanting to discuss theology with Jews?" Father Brown asked.

"In all honesty," he said, "I do feel that the mission to the Jews in the old sense to convert them to an existing form of Christianity is dead. Often this meant imposing a non-Jewish form of worship on the Jews."

Father Brown cited three major problems affecting Jewish-Christian dialogue:

- In theological problems, "ignorance on both sides."
- A certain exclusiveness in the Jewish outlook com-

parable to an "isolated" attitude prevalent among Catholics before the Second Vatican Council.

• Jewish demands about the Christian attitude toward Israel.

Father Brown said many Jews feel there cannot be dialogue with Christians who do not accept the state of Israel.

"I feel that a Christian cannot be indifferent to the fate of the Jewish people in Israel and I strongly condemn any threat of genocide," he said. "On the other hand, to make Christian acceptance of the political ambitions of the state of Israel a condition for the continuance of Jewish-Christian dialogue is, I think, intolerable."

### Change in Church To Be Subject Of Debate

"Revolution: Protestantism and Catholicism" will be discussed and debated by Father Leopold Protomastro, co-director of the Adult Theology Programs conducted by the Diocesan Office of Christian Formation and Rev. John E. Skoglund, Minister of Preaching at Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

The sessions will be on Wednesday evening at 8:00 p.m. for four weeks, Apr. 16, 23, 30 and May 7.

The first two evenings will be at the Baptist Church Temple at 1101 Clover St. and the last two at St. Thomas More Church, 2817 East Avenue. The public is invited.

### Teacher's Course

#### Set at Asbury

Rev. John S. Savage, Minister of Education, Asbury First United Methodist Church, will conduct a four week training program on the "Religious Development of Youth."

The program is designed for teachers, lay leaders and parents to understand and foster religious training of youth in the home.

The courses will be held at the church, 1050 East Ave., on Tuesdays, Apr. 15, 22, May 6 and 13 at both 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. The text used will be "Adolescent Religion" by Charles Stewart.

To register and for further information call Rev. John S. Savage, 271-1050.

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By Ruth DeMallie



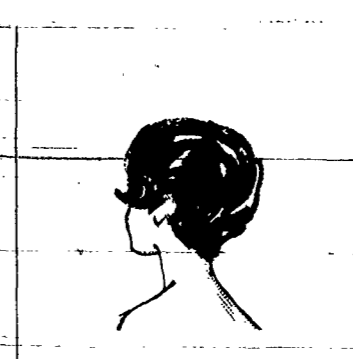
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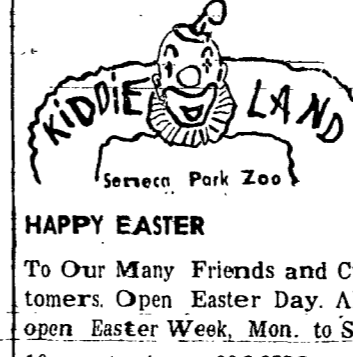
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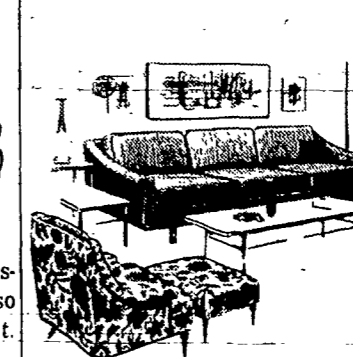
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