

Dr. James Cone A Black Family Life Conference — Professor Explores Society's Problems

By John Dash

The problems of a technological society, especially as they manifest themselves in the gap between the black upper and under classes were explored recently by Dr. James Cone at a Conference on Black Family Life sponsored by United Church Ministry.

Dr. Cone, professor of systematic theology at Union Theological Seminary and author of Black Power and Theology, A Black Theology of Liberation, and God of the Oppressed, noted in an interview that "the Affirmative Action programs of the past decade have benefitted the black professionals, and in that sense they are competing fairly well."

But, he said, there is a large group, "what I call the black under class in urban areas who are unemployed, and whom society has written off as expendable."

Black professionals, he said, "must create a society in which all members are productive."



Brothers in ministry and vision, Dr. James Cone and Father Jerome Robinson.

In the course of the interview, Father Jerome Robinson, a former student of the professor and long-time friend, frequently interjected his agreement with the doctor's statements.

Father Robinson will shortly leave the diocesan post of director of the Office of Black Ministries, for duties with his Dominican order in Nigeria.

Dr. Cone sees the Churches as becoming "alternative training centers" for urban, poor blacks. They will offer services, he

said, "which will not come from other agencies."

He challenged the Churches "to be creative in ministry." He said they will have to deal with the primary question of "how to deal with the destructive and oppressive institutions which burden black people."

"I am concerned," he said, "that they use religion in a creative role."

"The assumption of the Church is that the Gospel provides alternatives beyond cultural and social evils," he said. However, "when you look at Church history," he

said, "that is not always true."

On the other hand, black and poor Churches, "are largely capable of the message of liberation. It was and is in their interest to see it," Dr. Cone said.

He said that "The Gospel claims that people have the possibility in the Gospel itself to be born again — that is the significance of the resurrection — the radicality of conversion and resurrection."

The question remains, he said, "whether the Church as a whole, however, can act against its own economic interest."

Effecting such change, he said, belongs to the realm of hope. "The world we live in," he said, "also tends to control our imaginations. But in hope we dream of possibilities in the social structure."

"The powerful want to create a sense of despair; but that situation should not control our lives if the Gospel means anything."

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One in Christ—'79 To Open this Friday

One in Christ — '79, a cooperative program of churches in the Spencerport area, will open at noon on Friday, June 1.

Mrs. Adele King, a mother and educator, will speak at the Lodge-on-the-Green on the theme, "Completed Jew," during a Fellowship Luncheon. Also slated on the program is music by Miss Peggy Williams. Reservations are obtained by calling 352-1526.

An evening celebration will open at 7:45 p.m. at the Spencerport High School auditorium. Rev. Don Stivers, pastor of All Saints Episcopal Church, Rochester, will speak. The Crofford Family will provide music for the event. Following the two-hour celebration the film *Godspell* will be shown.

St. John's School hall will be the site of a Family Breakfast at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 2. Al Howe and Friends will provide music for the event whose theme is "Youth to Adults." A special children's program is also slated. Reservations are obtained by calling 594-9683.

Rev. Paul Garlington, pastor of Community Covenant Church in Rochester will preach at the Evening Celebration that day at the high school auditorium, beginning at 7:45 p.m. Music for the celebration will be provided by Rainbow.

Special Sunday celebrations will take place in the individual churches sponsoring the weekend; and that evening's closing ceremonies will be preached by Rev. Fred Gordon at the high school

auditorium. Youth of Community will sing and there also will be a ceremony of Sharing-Breaking of Bread-Christian Fellowship.

Penfield-area Churches To Sponsor Run for Hunger on June 9

Churches in the Penfield-Perinton area have picked up on an idea from the Human Development committee of the Church of the Resurrection, and will sponsor a Run for Hunger on June 9.

The run will start in Perinton Park at 10 a.m. and proceed through the village of Fairport and the Town of Perinton, according to Joe Schnupp, organizer of the event.

Proceeds from the race will be used for self-help agricultural and industrial improvement projects in Upper Volta, West Africa.

The major event of the day will be the five-mile run; but there also will be a one-mile "fun run." In the five miler, awards will be made to the first three finishers in each age-sex category, Schnupp said.

Registration on the day of the race will begin at 8:30 a.m. Pre-registration, however may be made in most Penfield/Perinton area churches, schools, libraries, and stores for a lower fee.

Catholic churches among the sponsors are Assumption, St. John of Rochester and St. Joseph's, Penfield.

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