

At Your Parish...

Cathedral

Sacred Heart Cathedral's Fall adult education program opens next week with two evening classes and a daytime class.

"Living with Dying (in a Death-Denying Culture)," an eight-week course taught by Father Donald Schwab, chaplain at Rochester General Hospital, will be taught 8-10 p.m. Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 28 in Sacred Heart rectory hall. "Our spiritual heritage's basic philosophical and theological understandings of 'humankind,' as well as examples of situations encountered in a hospital setting, will provide a springboard for thoughtful discussion in the area of death and dying," promotional literature stated.

Sister Mary Lourdes, SSI, professor of religious studies at Nazareth College, will present "A New Look at an Old Book," 8-10 p.m. Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 29, in the rectory hall. The course is designed to help participants to search out the meaning that the Bible has for modern Christians, to increase understanding of the Old Testament's relationship with

the New Testament, to develop a greater familiarity with the revelation to the patriarchs and the prophets, and to demonstrate more fully the final fulfillment of the revelation in Jesus. The four-session course covers Abraham, Moses, David and the prophets.

Father Robert Miller will teach the daytime course, "Paul's Letter to the Galatians," 1:30-2:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 28. The rector of Sacred Heart will discuss the letter's insistence on the universality of God's free gift of grace.

Provision is made, for those who wish to attend the 12:10 p.m. Mass that day, to meet in the rectory recreation room afterwards with bag lunches for shared coffee or tea and discussion before class begins. Others, however, will miss no course material.

Registration is made at the first meeting of each class, or, in advance, by calling 647-3481. A fee of \$6 for an evening class and \$3 for the daytime class, is asked to help defray the costs of the program.

St. Philip Neri

The Women's Club of St. Philip Neri Church will hold its first meeting starting with Benediction at 7:45 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 28, in the Church. A wine-tasting party

will follow at 8 p.m. in the school hall. Dues are \$3 for active members and \$1 for auxiliary members. Hostess for the program is Joanne Cumiskey.

St. Stanislaus

The golden jubilee of an eighth grade graduation class will be celebrated by former pupils of St. Stanislaus School with a 10 a.m. Mass of Thanksgiving at the church and a 7:30 p.m. reunion dinner and dance at The Echo Club, Saturday, Sept. 25.

The morning Mass will also be offered for the 15 deceased

members of the group, and will be celebrated by Father Stanley Bialaszewski, who was a newly ordained priest at the time of the 1932 graduation.

Father Bialaszewski and Father Joseph Jankowiak will be guests of honor at the anniversary dinner.

St. Charles

The annual parish Country Fair of St. Charles Borromeo Church will open at 7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 1, on the church grounds, 3003 Dewey Ave. The three-day event features a country store, food and drink. A steamship round of beef will be served noon to 6 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 3. Reservations are made by calling 663-3230.

In other parish news, Sister Judy Green will lecture on and lead a discussion of bereavement, 7:30-9:30 p.m., tomorrow, Sept. 23, in the school library. The public is invited. The program is designed for families who have experienced the death of a loved one.

Holy Cross

Holy Cross School will host a basic leader training course from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 21-22. The program, to be conducted by a representative of The Great Books Founda-

tion, will consist of 10 hours of training for 40 people. Registration for the seminar is open until the end of September. For further information contact Holy Cross School, 663-6533.

Precious Blood

The Sacred Heart League of Most Precious Blood Church will run a garage sale noon to 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 9, and 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 10.

Donations for the sale will be accepted after Oct. 4 at the rectory garage, 219 Stenson St. Further information is available by calling Bernadine Gordon, 458-2118.

St. Jerome

A full six days of religious activities, starting this Saturday, will launch a year-long program of spiritual renewal at St. Jerome's Church.

Each weekend Mass will be preceded by a procession, and Father Robert Kennedy, director of the diocesan Office of Continuing Education, will preach the homily titled, "Who Are You before God and in the Community?"

The annual St. Jerome Soup Supper will be served 5:30-7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 25, in the school hall. Reservations are required to attend the event.

Father Robert Werth of St. Ambrose Parish will lead a Youth Encounter and

discussion, 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 27.

Father Kennedy will speak on changes in the Church, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 28. Included on the agenda is a 15-minute prayer service.

A holy hour with Benediction will be celebrated 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 29.

For the Feast of St. Jerome, Sept. 30, Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m., and the homily will be preached by Father Anthony Calimeri, pastor. After Mass a procession down West Avenue to Washington Street and back to the church will be made by parishioners and members of parish organizations.

Holy Family

The Rosary Society of Holy Family Parish will hold a tureen supper 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 13, in the Pine Room. Co-chairing the event are Mrs. Charles Noto and Betty Schillaci. Admission

is a dish to pass or \$3. Reservations are made by calling Mary Ann Walter, 436-8878, or Mrs. Robert Spahn, 235-3136, before Oct. 6.

St. Josaphat

The Schuhplattler-Verein Heidengold will hold a Fall Dance starting at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 2, at St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Church. Willy Adam will provide the

music for the Herbststanz. Tickets are \$3.50 in advance and \$4.50 at the door. Further information is available from John Houck 254-3302, or Vitus Stuhler, 436-5696.

St. John, Greece

The Women's Guild of St. John the Evangelist Parish will sponsor a home products demonstration evening, 7-10 p.m., Monday, Oct. 4, in the new parish center, 2400 Ridge

Road W. The public is invited to the event at which representatives from several companies will demonstrate products.



Fr. Bruce Ritter

SEX AS ENTERTAINMENT

Linda was 11, still a virgin, when her pimp took her. Peter was dancing naked on bars when he was 15. Martha was 14 when her pimp dyed her hair, got her a phony ID, and put her to work in a massage parlor. Tony was 16 when he fled, in terror, the call boy service, Dial-A-Model. Annie was barely 15 when her pimp went to her mother's house in upstate New York, waited until her mother left for work, and dragged a very frightened Annie back to life on the street and a near death...

There are many reasons why we have a sex industry all over this country. It is one of the "growth industries" in the United States. The undeniable fact quite simply is that we want one. There are literally millions of customers who patronize this multi-billion dollar business. Millions of customers...who believe the bizarre myth that prostitution is a victimless crime...who believe that prostitution is nothing more than a commercial transaction between someone who wants to buy something and someone who wants to sell...who choose to believe that sex is entertainment and that it's okay to pay the entertainers...who scoff at the notion that there is something sacred and deeply personal and intimate about sexual experience.

The sex industry, dominated and controlled by organized crime, has actually formed a continuum with the entertainment industry. It has almost become impossible to distinguish between some aspects of legitimate theater and the sex industry. And the fact is we seem to want it that way.

If you want to spend a sophisticated evening at the theater in Manhattan, and have twenty-five dollars to spend, you can buy a front row seat at "Oh, Calcutta," the longest-running erotic musical in New York. For your twenty-five dollars, you can watch a dozen young naked bodies sing and dance and tell you jokes while they simulate sodomy and intercourse on the stage. If you don't have twenty-five dollars, but you do have twenty-five cents, you can take your quarter to the peep show just down the street from our UNDER 21 Center on Eighth Avenue. You can drop your quarter in a slot, and for 90 seconds a screen will flip up, and you can watch one naked young lady dance. She won't sing. She will, however, tell you some very filthy jokes and invite you to masturbate.

There is no ethical or moral or qualitative difference between spending twenty-five dollars to see "Oh, Calcutta" for your

sophisticated evening at the theater, or spending twenty-five cents at a peep show owned by members of the Angelo Bruno crime family of Philadelphia, or watching the action at a West side hangout on W. 45th St. run by Matty "the Horse" of the Genovese crime family, or enjoying the entertainment at the Pussycat, another sexual supermarket owned and operated by Micky Zafarano, the top pornographer of them all, located right in Times Square. It's just sex as entertainment and a very big business—that makes a lot of very unwholesome people very rich.

There's no mystery why we have a sex industry. The reasons have always been the same: greed and lust. Their greed and our lust, and our inability to care enough about what happens to the young people who, every year, become enslaved by the industry. Because we tolerate and patronize this very sick business that treats young people as merchandise, we have made places like UNDER 21 necessary!

This year we expect at least another 10,000 kids to come through our doors. Most of them will have been involved, on some level, with the industry. I have never met a young prostitute, girl or boy—and I've met thousands—that wanted to be one. I've never met a young prostitute, girl or boy, that did not start out as a runaway. They have very few options. One boy put it for me very directly. Bruce, he said, I've got two choices: I can go with a john (customer) and do what he wants, or I can rip somebody off and go to jail. And, he said, I'm afraid to go to jail. I wouldn't make it through my first shower. I can't get a job. I have no skills. I have no place to live. The boy is 16. I do not know what I would have done if I were 16 and faced with that impossible choice.

That's why the Church must do this work. It has always been an unmistakable duty and an inalienable right of the Church to provide sanctuary for abused innocents—and maybe not so innocents—when they could not protect themselves from vicious exploitation.

We have almost lost the ability to protect our children, and God help us, the will to do so. Until the citizens of this country decide they don't want a sex industry, and that it is not O.K. to buy and sell children and young people, the Lindas and Marthas and Tonys will continue to be placed in harm's way, their lives destroyed, their spirits damaged irrevocably. Who, after all, wants to take on organized crime? Our politicians and law enforcement groups certainly don't. Our prosecutors and our judiciary tell us their hands are tied. Who wants to take on the well-financed pressure groups that worry more about the civil liberties of pimps and criminals than those of their victims? And who wants to be held up to scorn

and ridicule as book burners and fanatics because they see pornography as a degradation of an entire gender, as a classroom for rape and seduction?

My kids are good kids. You shouldn't think they're bad kids. When you're 14 or 15 or 16, or for that matter, 12 or 18, and you have no place to live, and you're cold and hungry and scared, and you've got nothing to sell except yourself, you sell yourself. There are thousands of young people caught up in this dangerous, degrading lifestyle, from which many never escape...and that ends up killing many of them.

My friends and I are convinced that the work we do is God's work, and a worthy work of the Church. But we know that without your help, we could not survive. We are always very broke and trying very hard to care for the hundreds of desperate kids that come to us every week. So, thanks very much for whatever financial help you can give us.

But more than anything else, thank you for your prayers.

I too want to join in the work of the Church and help free the homeless and runaway youth from the horrors of life on the street. Enclosed is my contribution of: \$ _____


NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP CODE: _____ AP (9/82)

Please send this coupon with your donation to:

 COVENANT HOUSE
Attn: Fr. Bruce Ritter
P.O. Box 2121
Times Square Station
New York, N.Y. 10108

Because the street is NO PLACE FOR A CHILD

Fr. Bruce Ritter, OFM Conv., is the founder and President of Covenant House/UNDER 21, which operates crisis centers for homeless and runaway youth.