

Church Role in Teen Pregnancy Topic of Day-Long Conference

The role of the religious community in the problems of teen pregnancy and sexuality will be discussed at an all-day

meeting, sponsored by the Coalition on Teen Pregnancy, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 20, at First

Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Road S.

According to Frank and Sue Staropoli, directors of the diocesan Family Life Office, the conference "will afford leaders in the religious community a forum to discuss and increase their awareness of the issues involved in teen pregnancy and sexuality. There will be Hispanic translation and small group leadership provided."

The Staropolis said the conference came about through the coalition's series of community forums on the question last year.

During those forums, the Staropolis said, two opinions were repeatedly expressed:

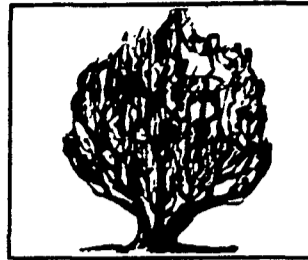
"People said that they were uncomfortable in approaching their religious leaders about questions of sexuality. It was especially difficult if a teen pregnancy was involved."

"Religious leaders expressed discomfort and some inadequacy in responding to the needs of their people, especially when a pregnancy was involved."

Keynote speakers for the conference will be Dr. J.C. Wynn, professor of pastoral theology at Colgate Rochester Divinity School-Bexley Hall-Crozer Theological Seminary, and Dr. Vernie Bolden, pastor of the Church of the Covenant.

Following each address, small groups will discuss problems related to teen sexuality and pregnancy.

The registration fee of \$7 covers the cost of a lunch. Reservations are made by filing one's name, address and telephone number, along with the registration fee, with Catholic Family Center, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, 14604, before April 15.



The Fire in the Thornbush Dialogue

Discussion Group Writes To Bishop

"It is imperative for our present well-being and future growth that we pray about, reflect upon and discuss the participation of women in the life of the Church."

Following are excerpts from letters written to Bishop Matthew H. Clark by participants of one Rochester-area discussion group that met for six weeks this past Winter to study and reflect upon his pastoral letter:

"I was given the opportunity to be a facilitator for a group discussion of 'Fire in the Thornbush.' To me it was not only an experience but a happening. I was privileged to share, learn about and participate in other women's hopes, wishes and despairs. I did not realize how strongly some need to lead, to use their God-given talents for the greater glory of God..."

"I think your pastoral letter is a good beginning for many, but so few have taken the time to get involved or to study it thoroughly. I personally wished it was addressed not only to women but to men also because with the liberation, equality, and recognition of women should come the liberation, equality and recognition of men."

"I feel you have wholeheartedly tried to be fair and give women recognition whenever and wherever possible. If you were not entuned to our plight, you would not have labored so lovingly on this pastoral letter... Whether you received flak or not for your outspokenness... I do not know, but I am glad that you took the initiative... and tried to elevate women beyond second class citizens, whether it be in the Church or the world."

"I must admit that when I first received the letter I assumed this would just be a way of the Church patronizing women and not really understanding us, rather giving us something to do to keep us quiet. Much to my amazement, I found deep concern, caring and understanding through this letter on issues of concern to us and the Church."

"You gave us much food for thought. Our group has been stimulating and honest in their feelings concerning women in the Church today and their future roles."

"I gained much from everyone's output. Being a traditionalist leaning toward 60 and having several priest friends that are totally dedicated traditionalists... I hang in midair! I do not

approve of women as priests, yet I would accept them... should the change transpire. It is difficult for me to share this opinion with you, but we were instructed to write what we feel and this is it."

"I believe that all who have attended the meetings have become more knowledgeable on the role of women in the Church... and on their contribution in the building up of the Mystical Body of Christ."

"The tension, I believe — for some, as you say, the pain — we experience is in being held back without good reason from certain forms of service. For others, the pain comes from the perception that the traditions are changing too rapidly. And I guess I am in between."

"Having been raised for 61 years in the traditional Church, Vatican II had stirred up an overwhelming confusion in my mind and feelings as to the direction of the Church and the role of women in the Church. However, since the changes have been gradual and we have been well-informed, I am becoming more comfortable with these changes, even to the extent of participating and being more actively involved in the Church."

"I trust, too, that God's will will be done and if this (ordination of women) is to be, the Holy Spirit will open those doors and take us in that direct path."

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APRIL ATTRACTIONS



ANTIQUE SHOW AND SALE

APRIL 12-16

TODAY
THRU
APRIL
15


Ask About the
Long Ridge Mall-WVOR
Great Escape
Weekend for 2

at the Marriott Airport
Booth located at Center Court, Directory Area. Winner to be announced April 18.

Lilac Prom For Senior Citizens

A LILAC PROM will be held on Sunday, May 15 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on the Mall at Long Ridge. The CARL DENGLER ORCHESTRA will provide the music for this occasion. One of the highlights of the dance, will be the crowning of a King and Queen. A memento photograph will be taken and given to everyone attending the dance. Refreshments will also be served. The ticket price is \$3.00 per person and can be purchased at a booth, near the directory area of the Mall, on the following date: April 15, 16, 22, 23; May 6, 7, 12 and 13. Tickets can also be purchased at the following locations beginning April 15th: Long Ridge Mall Promotion Office (located between Nusbaum's Bridal Shop and Time Out Amusement Center); Greece Nutrition Center, 3000 Dewey Avenue; Greece Senior Citizen Community Center, 200 Alcott Rd., and the Greece Recreation Department, 647 Long Pond Rd. Part of the proceeds from the ticket sales will be donated to the Town of Greece Recreation Senior Citizen programs.

For those people, who would like to include a dinner for the evening, Critics Mall Restaurant is offering a special dinner menu just for you. Dinner will be served from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, May 15th.



Also This Month

APRIL 18-21
Week of the Young Child


Classroom Demonstrations, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Children's Art and General Information on Child Care.

APRIL 22, 23, 24
LAWN, GARDEN and PATIO EXPO

Presented by the John Deere Corp. and featuring the Weekend Gardener, JIM BENNETT.

APRIL 27 - MAY 1
1st ANNUAL BUILDERAMA SHOW

Featuring Manufacturers Home Product Displays



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COURIER-JOURNAL

Wednesday, April 13, 1983

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