

Alcohol as Birth Defect Cause Topic for Day-long Symposium

Doctor Kenneth Lyons Jones, director of the Birth Defects Center of the University of California at San Diego, will open a symposium on "Alcohol: a Cause of Developmental Disabilities," 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Friday, May 6 in the Whipple Auditorium of Strong Memorial Hospital.

Jones is a widely published authority and one of the identifiers of fetal alcohol syndrome, a severe and last-

ing condition which involves mental retardation as well as internal and external abnormalities. According to the Rochester Health Association, research has tied the syndrome, as well as certain other birth defects, to mothers' drinking during pregnancy.

Jones will be joined in the program by Dr. Krystyna Wisniewski, a leader in the recent Governor's Task Force on Fetal Alcohol

Syndrome. She is associate director of clinical diagnostic services at the Staten Island Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities.

Speakers from the University of Rochester Medical Center scheduled to speak include Dr. John L. Sladek, chairman of the anatomy department; Dr. Jean Cullinan, assistant professor in fetal development; and Dr. Michael Reif, clinical instructor in pediatrics.

Dr. Reif, who also is director of the regional Early Childhood Direction Center, and Shirley Connell, associate director of the local



DR. JONES
chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism, will address the service-providers' perspective, stressing local supports available to families affected by alcohol-related birth defects.

Euclid Marier Leads Retreat

Father Euclid Marier will direct a retreat for men and women on the theme of "Finding Jesus Today," June 3-5 at the Cenacle Renewal Center.

According to Cenacle spokesperson Carolyn Schulte, the program will include presentations, film, music, small group sharing, quiet time and the opportunity for consultation.

The event will conclude with the celebration of a Sunday afternoon Mass.

An offering of \$45 is asked and reservations are made by contacting the Cenacle

Ministry Office, 693 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14607; (716) 271-8755.

NFP Class Planned in Avon

A Natural Family Planning class, sponsored by NFP Education of Rochester, will begin Thursday night, May 19, at St. Agnes Church, 108 Prospect St., Avon. Enrollment is limited, pre-registration necessary.

Further information is available from NFP Education (716) 464-8705.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Holy Spirit's Many Roles

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 14/23-29. (R1) Acts 15/1-2, 22-29. (R2) Rv. 21/10-14, 22-23.

The thread that links all next Sunday's readings is the offering and the Church wants us to generate within ourselves a hunger for the Spirit by revealing some of His functions.

Jesus, in His farewell address after the Last Supper, sought to allay the fears of His apostles by pointing out that He was not abandoning them. He assured His followers that He would come back and bestow upon them two gifts: The Paraclete and peace.

"Paraclete" means "one called to the side of another;" the Latin equivalent is **advocate**. "Advocate" means "a lawyer" — one who pleads another's case or defends another. A lawyer doesn't just stand beside his client; a lawyer acts very earnestly in behalf of his client. He pleads for his client before a judge. Likewise the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, defends before God all those who believe in Jesus.

The peace that Jesus promised to give means more than no fighting, the absence of war. Peace means God-in-us! "If you love me and keep my word, my Father and I will come and make our dwelling with you." Such "peace" the world cannot give, nor can it take it away. We pray for those who die that they "rest in peace." We mean, may they enter into the eternal rest of God, the rest taken once the creation was finished.

Besides being helper and peacemaker, the Holy Spirit is guide and Church-maker. St. Luke in the Acts tells us of the first council of the Church (R1). We are close enough to Vatican Council II to understand what a general council is. Vatican Council II addressed the question of "aggiornamento" — updating the Church. The first council of the Church addressed the problem of how does a Church, born in a Jewish culture, deal with the large number of Gentiles accepting Christ.

The solution, as St. Luke points out, came from the Holy Spirit. He

records a copy of its decree thus: "It is the decision of the Holy Spirit, and ours too, not to lay on you any burden beyond that which is strictly necessary. . . ." The first decree of a general council was inspired by the Holy Spirit and, like all the works of the Spirit, it was a freeing action — liberating the Gentiles from Jewish ceremonial laws. It was a monumental decision, for it was a breaking loose of the Church from its Jewish moorings. As if to underscore the momentousness of the conciliar decree, St. Luke literally positioned the council in the very center of the Book of Acts.

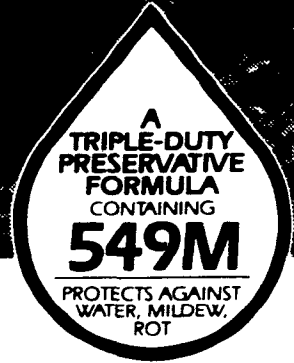
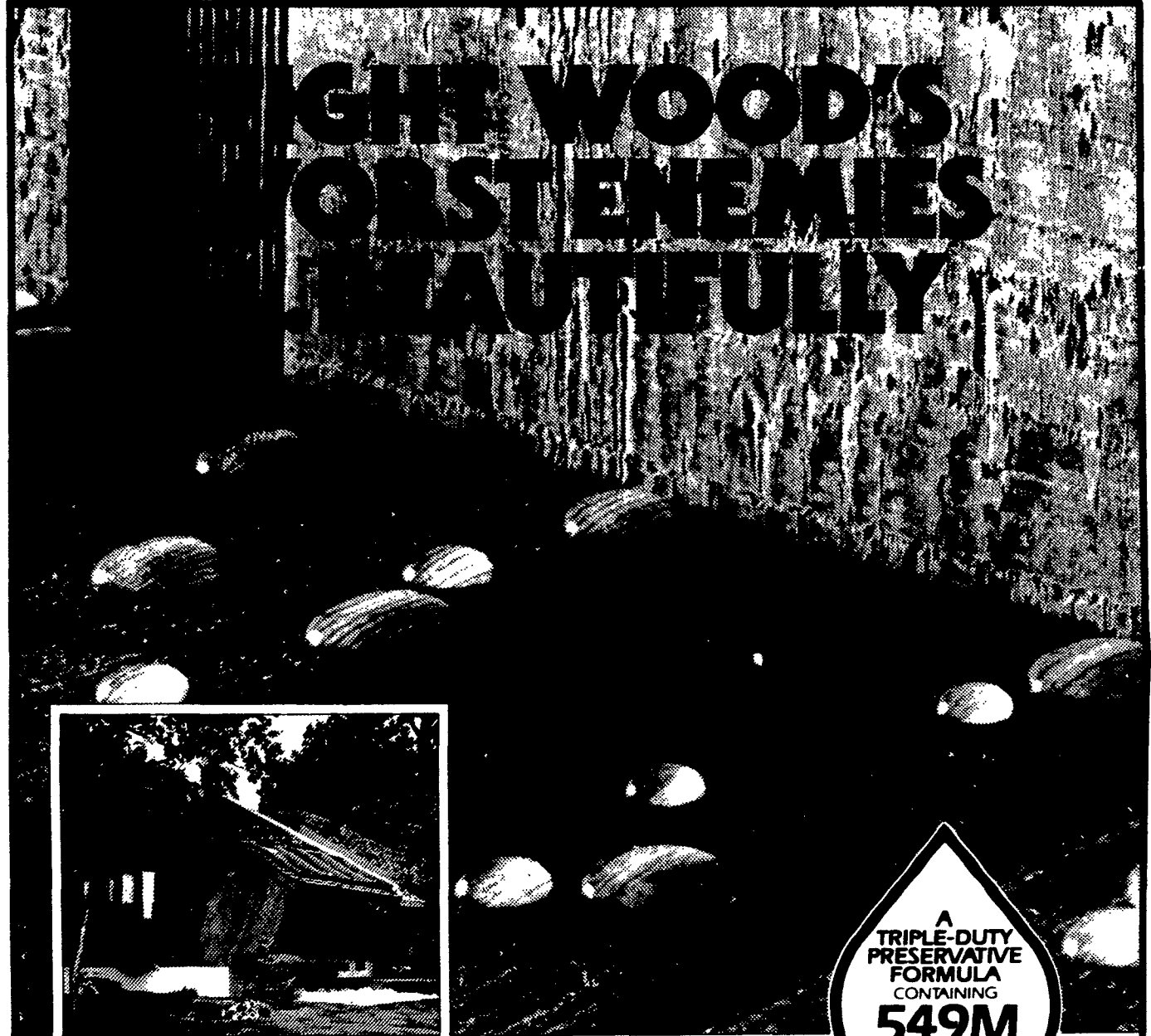
A final facet in the multi-dimensional activity of the Holy Spirit is found in the vision of John in Revelation (R2). John depicts Jerusalem as "coming down out of heaven" to stress the heavenly nature of the city. It comes down to the people, the people do not go up to it. The city no longer needs a temple, because God is in His people and His people live in total communion with God.

We, God's people gathered for sharing and worship and Eucharist, are the manifestation in time and place of the Holy City of God. The place where we gather for Sunday Mass is a place where God comes to meet us through the Holy Spirit. "Let your Spirit come upon these gifts. . . so that they may become for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ."

So Jesus promised us for our consolation. If anyone loves me and is true to my word, My Father will love him and we will come to him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit—the Paraclete, who will give you our peace.

First Friday

Father Robert Werth, recently appointed pastor of St. Bridget's Church, will celebrate Mass and speak to the First Friday Luncheon Club, 11:45 a.m., Friday, May 6 at the Knights of Columbus chambers, 670 Thurston Road. The public is invited. A \$2 donation is asked for the luncheon which is served following the Mass. The club is dedicated to promoting devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



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