

...a time for conversion...

Spirituality Faire delves into movies, more

By Kathleen Schwar
Staff writer

Looking for a way to keep focused on your spiritual journey? Try "Marinating Your Soul."

Want another way to tap your spiritual side? Consider the spirituality of movies, from "Dead Man Walking" to "Edward Scissorhands."

Both marinating and movie-going are topics among 11 sessions at the Spirituality Faire, sponsored by St. Louis Church and Church of the Transfiguration in Pittsford 7-9:45 p.m. March 17 and 18.

The overall theme is "Living Passionately" — planners promise the fair will help you to understand the power of compassion, find ways to embrace passionate living, and recognize models of compassion. "As God's chosen ones ... clothe yourselves with compassion ..," they quote from Colossians 3:12.

One means of connecting with compassion and becoming more whole, is experiencing the spirituality of movies, according to Father David Faraone, pastor of Church of the Epiphany in Sodus and an avid film critic. Certain movies dare to approach the question, "Is there life beyond what we experience here?" he said.

"Sometimes Catholics think there is an altar or priest or sister in it, and if there isn't, it isn't spiritual," he said. "Spirituality goes deeper."

Even in "Edward Scis-



Steve Boles (left) stars as guard Neal Trapp and Susan Sarandon stars as Sister Helen Prejean in "Dead Man Walking."

sorhands" he sees parallels to Christ's story.

"He was very much a Christ figure in the sense he came down from the mountains, and is sent to live among the common people, who liked the message he was sending them," he explained. "Then the tide turned against him. ... They pushed him back up the mountain, saying go away, this is too much for us."

Father Faraone also plans to discuss three favorites — "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial," "Field of Dreams" and "Ghost" — and other movies.

He noted that during a re-

cent visit to Los Angeles' Academy of Motion Pictures Library he mentioned his upcoming talk.

"They looked at me like I had three heads," he recalled.

For the more open-minded, he hopes to inspire responses to movies that have a spiritual flavor.

"I think people need to affirm that," he said, "not only by renting the videos and going to the theater, but by writing the directors and producers and telling them they like the spirituality emerging."

Meanwhile at the Spirituality Faire, Candy Hamilton, a Corpus Christi parishioner and

board member of Wellspring Church Resource Services, will be presenting "Marinating Your Soul."

"For many people the image of soul is abstract, an esoteric concept," she explained. "They have a hard time realizing they are 'in soul' all the time."

At the fair, Hamilton plans to marinate a steak and later, offer participants cooked green tomato mincemeat to eat with a main course.

"I'm going to ask them to tell me what they perceive of the soul," she said. "And second, I'm going to take some meat and as I pound it and put things like spices in it, I'm going to ask

people to identify what that is."

Just as they can identify scents wafting through the air that awaken desire, Hamilton said, so can they learn to identify how senses and life experiences can awaken a desire for God. "The end will be about the digestive, how to take it in, chew it," she said.

"I'm hoping by making it less abstract, the class will give people a sense of how they are participating in marinating their soul," noted Hamilton, who has also worked with the Sisters of St. Joseph Spirituality Center and who has presented a dream workshop at a previous Spirituality Faire.

The annual fair is promoted as "an invitation to adults to share their journeys in spirituality recognizing that adults are self-motivated learners and are self-directed in seeking God. Adults approach God by embracing an avenue of discovery, a spirituality.

"A spirituality is an attitude/belief/practice which facilitates contact with God," a fair brochure states. "... The Spirituality Faire recognizes that God's Spirit is not limited to one denomination, one religion, one worldview."

Now in its eighth year, the program has probed spiritual aspects of community, the human body and work, for example. It has featured anything from breathing techniques, pottery and music, to the Our Father in mime and C.S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia*.

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