

Bowel conversations are boring



moral perspectives
Rev. Charles Erickson

We gather with our own

Walking the streets and riding public transportation in the San Francisco area is starting to be a Detroit suburb. There is an amazing mix of humanity that we rarely see at home.

Variety of life-styles is normal in America. It is a shame that so many of us are unaware of this diversity. We miss the self growth which comes in pondering the validity of divergent preferences regarding the good life. We will be enriched if we understand people whose tastes make no sense at first glance.

One reason we miss the chance to appreciate diversity is that minority people congregate with others and create a ghetto. There is comfort in being with people whose responses are similar to one's own. One result is that ethnic riches — such as we see in Detroit's summer ethnic festivals — are preserved. The negative side is that by not seeing differences on a daily basis, we are not challenged to respect other peoples.

MINORITY groups also gather together in a neighborhood for safety. Hostility toward different behavior can make the majority into oppressors and minorities then need protection. It is a sad fact but we can learn from it.

Oppressed peoples around the world are pressing for liberation. Becoming part of a gathering of such people treats one to the news that their liberation will give all of us more freedom. We need release from emotions leading us to reject. We can learn to accept and respect others and gain more self respect in the process.

Worship is important to me and I know how to design and enact it. Worship with an oppressed group gets one to a center of reality that most of us

rarely experience. My consciousness is expanded by oppressed people praising God with different priorities regarding the human scene.

Such worship is primitive in the sense of expressing universal truth while dispensing with all pretenses. Those worshipping use direct words instead of covering up realities regarding skin color, economics, sex, war, politics, etc. It is refreshing to approach God in stark realism about forces in society which rob people of human dignity.

AN IMMEDIATE benefit of primitive devotion is the warmth of human relationships. It shows welcome to an outsider feels good, for it special respect in suffering people who risk letting a stranger into their piety. The warmth of these people reveals a caring attitude which is crucial.

We all need the support of others to make it through rough times, but that support won't be there if our worship has been superficial. Oppressed people can open windows in our lives so we allow ourselves to be warmly inclusive.

Becoming inclusive is the nub of the matter. America grew up including newcomers, and when we exclude we are un-American. One tool in developing attitude of both warm and dignity is inclusive language. We are enriched by respect toward human tendencies we do not see immediately in our selves.

Liberation will come when we who think of ourselves as normal Americans grow in awareness and appreciation of values prized by minority peoples. Cries for liberation by oppressed folk can spark the fire of liberation in those of us who have not realized that we too can have new and expanded freedom.

Dear Jo:
I am a head nurse in a nursing home for older people. My problem is that almost every conversation that I have with an older patient revolves around bowel function. I find the preoccupation on this subject by the elderly a little tiresome. I speak to over 30 patients a day and they all appear to only want to discuss this subject. Help.
R.N.

gerontology
A. Jolayne Farrell

Many people, as they grow older, become preoccupied with bodily functions, especially elimination. I agree bowel conversations 30 times a day can be quite boring.

My advice to you is to speak openly and honestly to each patient about your concern of the amount of time spent discussing this subject. They probably do not realize that this is the only subject they discuss with you. Perhaps a little humor is needed here.

Of course, the discussion of elimination is necessary and must be spoken about briefly two to three times a week. Then, the conversation must be directed by you to other aspects of his or her nursing care.

I guess I understand your "questionable" attitude because we live in a youth-oriented society that frowns upon being old. Feeling old at 30 is not uncommon. It is part of the process that so many of us go through at 30 or 40 or 80. It is more of an awareness of the passing of time that one feels as they reach the next decade of life. At this time a person has so many thoughts on life and of where one has been and where one is going. The aging process is natural and gradual. It is the expected.

I am so sorry that you have not cultivated any friendships with older people. I hope (now that you are 30) that you will foster some such friendship as I feel that age should not be a barrier. You will see that there are some pretty fantastic older people around.

In defense of your grandfather, I can only say that with pain and stiffness of arthritis it is pretty difficult to have a good attitude on anything. Give him a chance to know you. You could start by asking him how he felt when he turned 30. Thank you for your letter, I admire your honesty.

Dear Jo:
I do not have a very good attitude about aging. I turned 30 last week and felt old. The only older person I really know is my grandfather who is badly crippled with arthritis. He is very critical of me so I avoid him. I read your column and would like to know what you think of my "questionable" attitude.
Ron B.

Thousands of Michigan Vietnam era veterans may be eligible for a one-time, two-year extension of their G.I. Bill limiting date.

Gordon Clowney, director of VA's Regional Office in Detroit, said that the Veterans' Health Care, Training and Small Business Loan Act of 1981 signed training programs to educationally disadvantaged or unskilled Vietnam era veterans who allowed their 10-year delimiting date to expire before using all their entitlement for G.I. Bill training. The extension period began Jan. 1, 1982 and ends Dec. 31, 1983.

Eligible veterans may use their remaining entitlement to receive benefits for high school training, if they do not have a high school diploma or equivalent, or vocational, apprenticeship or other on-the-

Viet vets may get extra benefits

job training, if the VA determines that training is needed because the veteran is unskilled.

Payment for high school training will be limited to the cost of tuition and fees charged. Payment for vocational, apprenticeship or other on-the-job training will be at the regular G.I. Bill rates.

Enrollment in college degree courses, correspondence and flight training is not allowed. Veterans with employment assistance following completion of their training to help them find suitable employment.

Clowney urges all potentially eligible veterans to contact the Detroit Regional Offices for further information. Veterans residing in the Detroit metro area should call 964-5110.

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Please Call 644-1100 Ext. 200

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MINISTERS
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9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

CENTRAL WOODWARD CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Div. of Christian Church
3555 W. Big Beaver at Adams TRD
CHURCH SCHOOL
9:30 AM
WORSHIP 11:00 AM
Minister
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644-0512

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"The Altars"
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Robert G. Maddox
Barbara Gordon
MINISTERS
CHURCH SCHOOL
9:45 AM
WORSHIP
11:00 AM
644-5550

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39200 W. 12 Mile Road
Farmington Hills
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 AM
WORSHIP 10:30 AM
V.M. Messingham
Pastor

St. Paul's Lutheran Missouri Synod
2500 Middlebrook St. E. Farmington Hills - 474-0675
Worship 10:45 AM
BIBLE CLASSES 10 AM
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Grades K-8
Wayne C. Berkeson, Principal
474-2488

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN
Missouri Synod
12 Mile and Farmington Roads
Bloomfield Hills
Worship 8:30 and 10:45
SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE CLASS 9:30
Pastor: Rev. T. Richard Marcis
Church Phone: 553-3380

Bloomfield Hills Christian Church
Roma's of Bloomfield
2101 S. Telegraph
Bloomfield Township
WORSHIP: 9:30 AM
PRAISE SERVICE: 6 PM
BIBLE STUDY:
7 PM WEDNESDAY
645-1201

CLARENCEVILLE UNITED METHODIST
Pastor: Gerald Fisher
474-3444
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9:30 am - 11:00 am Service
11:45 am - Second Sunday School
12:00 pm - Bible Study

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Michael A. Halleen
Associate Pastor
Mary Miller-Vikander
Minister to Youth
David A. Rose
35415 W. 14 Mile Road
at Drake
661-9191
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MORNING WORSHIP 10:45

ST. JOHN AMERICAN LUTHERAN
2222 G. Road Farmington
Charles Fox, Pastor
Mark Radloff - Pastor
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9:40 Sunday School
474-0584

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9:15 Sunday Church School
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The Rev. C.W. Richer, Pastor
646-5207 • 646-6119

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16935 W. 14 Mile Road
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SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:15 AM
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WORSHIP: 9:00 & 11:15
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10:15 - 11:45 AM
11:15 - Third Grade B
Nursery Provided

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Pastor:
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WORSHIP: 9:30 AM
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151 Chester at Willets
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Rev. David W. Howell, Minister of Christian Education
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Nurses Care from 9:30-11:00 AM
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Woodward of Cranbrook
Bloomfield Hills
2400 Woodward Avenue • 240-2400
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Nurses Care from 9:30-11:00 AM
The Rev. Charles O. Erickson
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