

Moral perspectives

Who decides morality — God or man?



Fr. BERNARD HARRINGTON
Holy Name
Church

Recently I read an essay in moral theology that posed the question: "Who Decides morality? God or man?" This question intrigued me because of three recent events — all of which have to do with the smoking in the Pontiac Stadium and the human life amendment.

The movie was "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." In the final scenes of the movie, Jack Nicholson is returned to the same section of the psychiatric hospital he was in — the section of the hospital operation to correct his so-called mental imbalance.

His beloved silent friend, the giant Indian, realizes that the operation has taken place and that Nicholson will never function normally. The Indian proceeds to strangle Nicholson to death.

Lenten series offer wide variety

Two Lenten events — a general church series on Sunday evenings under sponsorship of the Farmington Larger Parish Council and Wednesday morning lectures offered by Nardin Park United Methodist Church will begin next week.

The Lenten series involving four programs will be Anderson, Birmingham, West Bloomfield and Nardin Park United Methodist Church, along with a concert by the Adrian College Choir. Each will be held on Friday, March 25 with four United Methodist churches belonging to the circuit taking turns in the host role.

West Bloomfield UMC 4160 Walnut Lake Road, Birmingham, will be the location for the first of the four meetings. The topic for the opening will be "Operating and Maintaining a Secure and Meaningful Marriage."

The second session with the counseling team will take place March 7 at First

Methodist, Grand River at Warner, Farmington, and the topic will be "Raising an Emotionally Healthy Child."

Orchard Methodist, Farmington Road and 12 Mile, will be the location for the March 21 meeting on "Divorce — A Beginning or an Ending?" and the March 28 session on "Communicating With Your Teenager."

Each meeting will be held Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 2807 W. 11 Mile, Farmington.

Nardin Park UMC also will be the setting for the 8 p.m. March 14 concert of the Adrian College Singers.

The concert will be conducted by Dr. Art J. Jones, an ensemble of 40 voices.

Dr. Jones' group appearance is part of a concert tour of high schools and churches in Michigan and Indiana. Its program will include sacred and popular music and will end with a bicentennial salute.

The Wednesday morning lectures, to be held at Nardin Park church, will offer a choice of two speakers at 11 a.m.

The Rev. James F. Thomas, associate pastor for the home church, will examine concepts basic to the Christian faith and maintain loyalty in a series titled "Patriots."

That series will be offered at 10 a.m.

along with one on Biblical Archaeology.

Dr. Harold Ellett, pastor of University Hills Christian Reformed Church,

Dr. Ellett has traveled extensively in the Near East and has studied the archaeological history of the area. His commentary will be supplemented with slides.

Another 10 a.m. Wednesday series will be led by the Rev. Bertile Anderson, pas-

tor of Antioch Lutheran Church of Farmington, and the title will be "Music, Liturgy and Art in the Church."

Pastor Anderson has had extensive experience in the teaching field and has composed music relating to the church.

Classes offered at 11 a.m. will be "Symposium and the Church Year," by Mrs. Marilyn Doyle of Orchard Lake, and "Talks About泰坦尼克号." Both will be held in the Ufford Hall of the Farmington Hills Library.

Mrs. Doyle is accomplished in needlework and has designed and created many decorative liturgical items used at Orchard church. Ms. Daffran is a graduate of Wayne State University, where she specialized in gerontology.

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Jewish men's clubs plan joint dinner

A tradition of four decades will be renewed Tuesday, March 1, when the Inter Congregational Men's Club dinner takes place at Temple Israel, 1200 Manderson, Detroit.

The third annual event involving the men's clubs of orthodox conservative and modern Orthodox synagogues from the metropolitan Detroit will be hosted by the Temple Israel Brotherhood. It will begin at 6 p.m.

Dr. Lowell J. Reister, past president of Temple Israel Brotherhood, is chairman of the event.

Guest speaker will be Albert J. Jungen, vice president and director of social action for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the national organization of re-

form Jewish synagogues.

All human life is sacred. But now the

United States Supreme Court has decided that the life of the unborn can be terminated if the child is unwanted.

For many people, the fact that the action is taken in our country is a source of shame with approved murder. If it is legal, it must be morally approved.

THREE THREE incidents raise the question: Is morality based on man's interpretation of God's commandments or man's reasoning? Or is there a divine law, a law of nature as well as divine law, revealed by God that should be the basis of morality?

If the action of the giant Indian in the movie will be accepted as a code of conduct because the audience approved it, I wonder if the rights of others especially non-smokers will be honored if it be accepted as a divine command.

I wonder if the moral court of our land weighed the natural law and the divine law, the 10th Commandment, as they pondered the question: "Who decides morality? God or man?"

1. There is a time in history that a man accepted a vertex and a place in the eye to be overthrown; after all, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Medieval art upholds the plump and voluptuous.

Then comes our century that maintains that overthrown is "socially unacceptable" to smoke in public; much it is socially unacceptable to be overweight or fat in our society.

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