

Forums Explore Faith

"Faith for Modern Man" is the title of a series of six weekly forums beginning Tuesday, April 7, at 8:30 p.m. in St. Clare's Catholic Church, 2920 West 10 Mile, Farmington.

The series, actually a continuation of lenten discussions in the church, explores the faith of Catholic Christians in today's world.

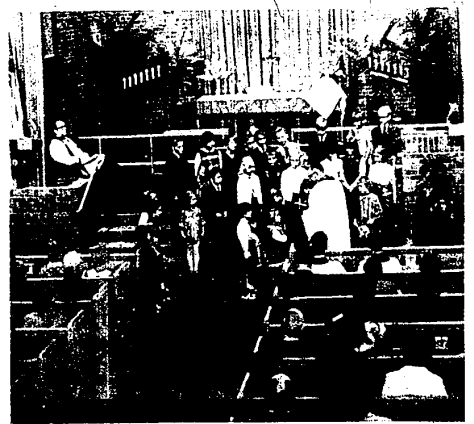
Adults and young people of all faiths are invited.

Heading the meeting will be the Rev. Joseph Drogowski, pastor of St. Clare, and Eugene Grabbe, lay assistant.

Topics to be discussed include: "Is God Dead?", "Why Baptism?", "A New Look at Sacraments and Grace" and "What Do We Really Know of This Man Jesus?"

Others are: "What or Who is the Church?", "Authority vs. Freedom", "Marriage, Divorce, Fornication, Responsible Parenthood" and "Christian Life, Prayer and Formation of Conscience."

In St. Paul Lutheran Children Get Own Sermon



SMALL FRY SERMON -- The Rev. Walter Rutkowski gathers the children of St. Paul Lutheran in the front of the church for their own part of the service.

The children of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Middle Belt and Eight Mile, Farmington, have a special reason for looking forward to attending church each Sunday.

Part of the service is just for them. About a year ago, the Rev. Walter Rutkowski, pastor, began a practice of calling the youngsters 2 1/2 to nine years of age to the front of the church at one point in the service.

AS THE CHILDREN gather, the pastor steps down from the pulpit and gives them a short talk, based on the sermon theme of that Sunday but oriented to their understanding.

Pastor Rutkowski illustrated his talks with a variety of props, ranging from an "invisible dog" presented to the children one Sunday morning to a walnut that made a point in another sermon. Sometimes each child gets a small gift.

A CHILDREN'S sermon also is part of the church's mid-week lenten services, currently being held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Adults in the congregation have reported they also enjoy the children's talks, and mothers have noticed that their young ones are less restless during the remainder of the service since the system has been instituted.

ECUMENICAL REFLECTIONS

"Ecumenical Reflections" is a column in which Observers' ecumenical clergymen and lay leaders are invited to present their ideas on church and religious topics of general interest. Anyone interested is invited to participate. Contributions should be one to two pages of double-spaced typing and may be mailed to the Church Editor, Observer Newspapers, 271 S. Main, Plymouth 48170.

By JOSEPH RADELET, St. John Provincial Seminary

The Easter season -- recalling the resurrection of Jesus Christ -- has always been a time of profound celebration for the Christian. The resurrection is concerned with the very heart of life and it is this mystery which can give hope to a Christian more than any other.

At Easter there is celebration that Christ's coming was purposeful: there is victory over death and over selfishness. Christ lives and we may live in him.

Since resurrection has to do with the very heart of Christian faith, it must be seen in the context of the whole of life. It cannot be an idealistic or casual theory which seems important only if we forget about many parts of life which press upon us.

THERE ARE BABIES losing their lives by starvation in India. There are people caught

up in the agony of war in Vietnam and the Mid East. The dignity of man is brutalized by apartheid in South Africa and by racism in the United States.

Does the resurrection seem isolated from human sorrows? There is the junkie on Woodward Avenue, the middle-class alcoholic mother at home, the high school boy on LSD, the unscrupulous landlord insensitive to others' needs.

Can a Christian celebrate resurrection even while pain and sorrow go on?

These thoughts present just one side of life -- the frustrating, the murky, the profoundly melancholy -- an effect like as God Friday.

There is more, of course: real beauty, long laughter, single tears, happy mothers and wandering babies, people making love. In a word, there is Easter -- the resurrection -- hard upon Good Friday.

THE EASTER question is -- Do we have to forget about the painful parts of life in order to celebrate the happy parts?

In other words, can our Easter celebrating have anything to do with the woe in Vietnam or with pain or with a cry in the dark?

Is Easter only a chance to "get away from it all" via Easter bonnets and little bunnies?

If the celebrating we do is to forget, then indeed Christians do NOT have the right to celebrate. But resurrection and Easter can have very much to do with the painful side of life as well as the happy side.

Resurrection in fact comes only after the painful side of life has been lived and offered. Lent and Good Friday precede Easter. Celebration can also point to the future if, by celebrating, the Christian becomes more dedicated to alleviating suffering among men.

The Christian does have the right to celebrate resurrection when the celebration brings him to live the mystery of life more fully -- both the painful side of life and the happy.

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN RADIO HOUR WABX 99.5 FM. LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA. CHRIST THE KING, HOLY CROSS, ANTIQHO, ST. JOHN'S, GOOD SHEPHERD, EPIPHANY LUTHERAN, FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL, LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RISEN CHRIST, ASCENSION, CHRIST LUTHERAN, ST. JOHN, SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, ST. MATTHEW, HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, CHURCH OF CHRIST, KENWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST, UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST, FARMINGTON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH.

Attend Church This Sunday With Your Family At The Church Of Your Choice. CHRISTIAN REFORMED. University Hills Church, REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA, CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR, MT. HOPE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

YOUTH GROUPS Sell Rummage. Youth groups of the First Methodist Church of Dearborn will hold their seventh annual rummage sale April 10 and 11 in the basement of the church.

CONCERT TO AID CHORALE TOUR. Jerry Jung, a 1966 graduate of Bentley High School and a senior voice major at Taylor University in Indiana, will give a recital of sacred music at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 5, in St. Matthew United Methodist Church.

Community Baptist Church, Westland Baptist Church, Livonia Baptist Church, Bethany Baptist Church of Livonia, UNITY OF WEST SUBURBIA.

Plymouth Ladies Plan Luncheon. The Women's Association of the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth will meet a 12 noon Wednesday, April 8, in the church dining room.

Rev. Lester Kinsolving's Religion Update. The depositing or "unfrocking" of a clergyman would appear, from the standpoint of Jewish-Christian ethics, a special tragedy in any denomination.

WHEN A CLERGYMAN is tried and found guilty by an ecclesiastical court and is deposed by his bishop, he is by no means the only sufferer.

You Need A Partner. When the Senior Partner in your life is Christ You Will Live Abundantly. HE MAKES LIFE COMPLETE. SUNDAY 9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages 10:45 Morning Worship (Nursery Provided) 6 p.m. Youth Fellowship 7:30 p.m. Evening Worship. WEDNESDAY 7 p.m. Family Film "The Life of Christ". GRAND RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH.



edly for 20 or 30 years before getting into trouble, his pension benefits have been confiscated and used to swell the ranks of the Church Pension Fund. Clergy deposed since 1968 can receive these benefits if they have served at least ten years--but this modest amount does not apply to any of the 300 who were deposed before.

THIS BISHOP also contains to preach ministerial sacraments and receive his pension. For smaller congregations, lesser members of the clergy have been stripped of their robes, their positions and their pensions.

And if they have any hope of recovering their confiscated pensions or rights to function like the two spectacularly misbehaving bishops, these deposed priests would be better off seeking justice in the civil courts.

CONDUCT 'CRUSADE' -- Evangelist and Mrs. E. R. Fiddler will conduct a special children's crusade "Knights for Jesus" April 6 through April 10 in the Trinity Assembly of God Church, 2920 Showcases, Farmington. Services will begin each night at 7 p.m.