

RELIGION TODAY

Father Osborne To Give Theology Series In City

Franciscan Father Kenan B. Osborne, author and lecturer, will present the spring edition of the Outstanding Catholic Theologians Series hosted by St. Francis of Assisi Church in Raleigh.

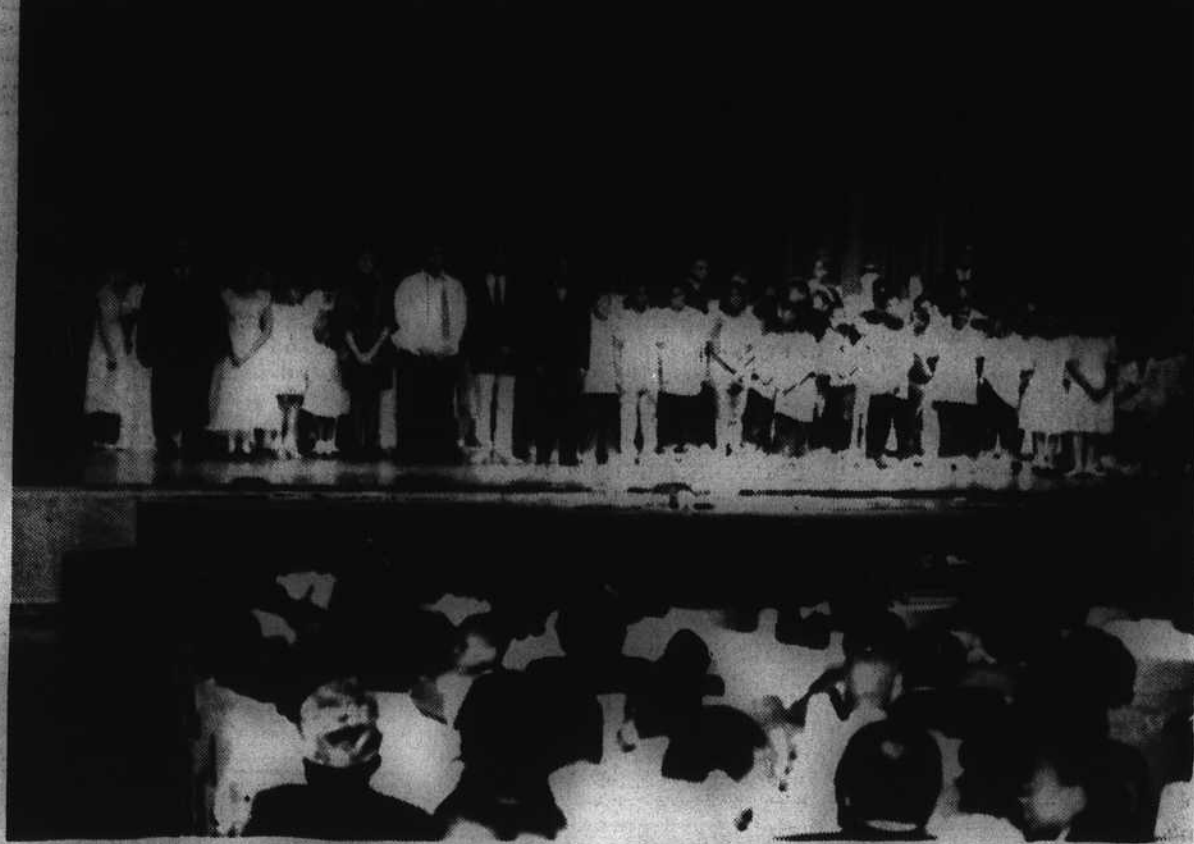
The schedule of the series, which begins at 7:30 p.m. in the church at 11404 Leesville Road, is:

- April 9: "The Message of Jesus: What Did Jesus Preach?"
- April 10: "The Death of Jesus: How Did Jesus' Death Save Us?"
- April 11: "The Resurrection of Jesus: What Was It? What Does It Mean for Us Today?"
- April 12: "Jesus and the World's Religions: How is Jesus Unique?"

Father Osborne is the author of "Sacramental Theology, a General Introduction" and "The Sacraments of Initiation," both published by Paulist Press.

He is a professor of theology at the Franciscan School of Theology/Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley, Calif. His articles have been published in the "New Catholic Encyclopedia," "New Dictionary of Theology" and Worship magazine.

For information about the series call 847-8205.



DELTA CAROUSEL—The Raleigh Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., sponsored the eighth annual Delta Carousel finale at Enloe High School, culminating activity for a year-long program which focuses on the development of children in grades K-12 in Wake County. This year's finale, "The Wizard of Odds," was a play centered on aspects of modern-day pressures faced by today's youth and positive ways of coping with problems.

Rural Parishes To Play Role In Top Issues

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Small-town and rural parishes represent an "overlooked giant" in U.S. Catholicism, according to a college professor who has studied rural church life.

The rural parish is where the theological issues of today's church will come to a head, said Gary Burkhardt, a sociology professor at Benedictine College, Atchinson, Kan. Examples cited included issues in priestly ordination, the role of the laity, and the role of pastoral administrators.

About one-third of U.S. Catholics live in rural areas or cities and towns with populations of less than 50,000, Burkhardt said.

Burkhardt, 45, is co-author of a recent report following up research initiated in the Notre Dame Study of Parish Life, a project probing contemporary Catholic parish life. A two-volume work on some of the study's findings was published in 1987 as "The American Catholic Parish: A History from 1850 to the Present."

Burkhardt's report, written with David Legee of the University of Notre Dame, reviewed study findings that apply to nearly half—46 percent—of U.S. parishes.

Burkhardt said the study is "a definitive statement on rural parishes based on the largest set of data ever collected on Catholic parishes."

ATTEND CHURCH

RALEIDOSCOPE

BY MURIEL W. BURT

When should we turn our thoughts to the Lord and worship Him?

For Christians the two most important holy days are Christmas and Easter. The birth of the Savior is a beautiful season in which great outpourings of love and sacrifice for the joy of others are easily identified in the lives of millions. Indeed the event brings out qualities in human nature that may be suppressed at other times of the year.

Easter brings its own rejoicing and focuses on the greatest message that Heaven has for mortals. Jesus Christ's God's only begotten Son, paid the price for the waywardness and sinning of all other children of the Heavenly Father. When Christ our Lord rose from death, He showed all mortals the way to eternal life.

Are there milestones for the Christian year from one Easter to the next Christmas? Assuredly there are. Each week has a day set aside for remembering the Lord Jesus and reminding us of the commandments He gave to His children and the covenants we made with Him to keep those commandments. In the Old Testament the Books of Exodus and Deuteronomy emphasize the importance of keeping the Sabbath Day holy. This encompasses refraining from all but necessary work, unshipping our God, and putting aside the mundane activities and amusements of the other six days.

It is evident that modern living does necessitate the postponing of many health care and related occupations most certainly not on the Sabbath Day.

Lutheran Services Program Plans Medical Aid For Highland Vietnam

Lutheran Family Services has announced the inception of the Highlands Assistance Project, a program designed to transport medical and pharmaceutical supplies to hospitals, schools and families in the highlands of Vietnam. Another goal of the program is to encourage greater cooperation between medical and academic institutions in Vietnam and North Carolina.

Through the auspices of Lutheran Family Services offices in Raleigh and Greensboro, North Carolina has been a national leader in resettling Vietnamese refugees. Specifically, LFS has provided homes, jobs and training for 250 Montagnards, the mountain group which fought alongside U.S. Special Forces in the Vietnam War. When the U.S. left Southeast Asia, these people were left largely unprotected against their enemies, and current economic conditions in Vietnam have further threatened their survival. The Highlands Assistance Project provides immediate medical and humanitarian aid for Montagnards and others currently living in the Highlands of Vietnam.

According to Raleigh Bailey, director of the LFS Refugee Resettlement Program, "The Highlands Assistance Project is a logical extension of the refugee resettlement work we have done over the past several years. The Montagnards have been tremendously successful in adapting and contributing to their new communities. But we cannot relocate the hundreds of thousands of Montagnards still in

Vietnam, nor would we want to. The idea behind the Highlands Assistance Project is to give aid so that these people may rebuild their lives in their homeland. This shipment of basic medicines and supplies is the first step in that direction."

The Highlands Assistance Project is seeking contributions of medical and pharmaceutical supplies, as well as monetary donations. Hospitals, medical associations and research facilities are being solicited for necessities ranging from medicines to microscopes. Inter-Church Medical Assistance has contributed more than \$30,000 of medicines and materials. Carolina Biological Supply of Burlington has donated an anatomical model, an item specifically requested by the Banmethuot Medical School in the Highlands of Vietnam. The UNC School of

Medicine and Wake County Hospital have also made significant contributions. Also giving to the cause are individual Vietnam veterans, many of whom credit their Montagnard allies with their survival.

The first shipment of supplies left for Vietnam the week of March 27. A contingent of workers from Lutheran Family Services will go to Vietnam the first week in April to oversee delivery of the supplies, to determine future needs, and to strengthen diplomatic relations. The group will go to Vietnam as special guests of the Vietnamese government.

For further information regarding the Highlands Assistance Project or other Lutheran Family Services refugee programs, contact Raleigh Bailey or Pierre K'Briuh at 1-855-0390 in Greensboro.

UMC Women Hold Meet At Raleigh Trinity UMC

The Raleigh Sub-District of the United Methodist Women held its annual meeting Saturday, March 18, at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Raleigh.

Mickey Robey, Raleigh Sub-District leader, called the meeting to order, extending a warm welcome to all present, thanking the host church and leading in prayer. Rachel Hayes of Trinity Church gave the devotional service. Special music was presented by Colleen Moon.

Carrie Goodwin, supportive community, gave a presentation of the 1989 programs.

District officers were recognized and Mamie King, membership chairman, presented the attendance banner to Trinity Church. Macedonia Church had the second-highest percentage of members attending.

Raleigh District President Rose DeHart introduced and presented Douglas L. Byrd, executive director of United Methodist Foundation, Inc.

Ngambi Retreat Keeps Heritage for Black Youth

SMITHFIELD—A group of young adult African-American Catholics are keeping a promise they made last year to themselves and the church. They have organized "Ngambi: Tangu Leo," which in Swahili means an agreement of people to come together for the common good of looking to the future.

The weekend retreat for African-American Catholics in their 20s and 30s will be April 28-30 at Short Journey Center in Smithfield.

The event tuitis promises participants made at the conclusion of the first Ngambi to continue to explore their identity, creativity, spirituality and unity as well-informed Catholic young adults.

"Last year was the building block for us in a lot of ways," said Dierdre Guion, who is helping to coordinate the retreat. "Even this year's theme builds on the first Ngambi theme, 'Kujichagulia,' or self-determination."

Ngambi, which is being sponsored by the Office of Young Adults in the Diocese of Raleigh, is regional in scope. Organizers and participants come from the dioceses of Raleigh

and Charlotte and parishes in South Carolina, Florida and Alabama.

"We want to look into the future, where we will find our places in the parish, the diocese and the wider church," said Ms. Guion, a member of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem. "The young adult is easily lost to the church. We hope to affirm who we are, identify our gifts and determine where we belong in the church today and tomorrow."

The retreat agenda includes worship, reflection, workshops and opportunities for cultural and social sharing.

Workshops will look at practical questions of identity, guidance and community involvement. Others will explore spirituality, liturgy, music in worship and church history.

Father Rhodes, chairperson of the Black Catholic Commission in the Diocese of Raleigh, said he is excited to be one of the workshop presenters. "But I'm more excited by the weekend itself. It reminds me how important this segment of church leadership is. It's important to remember that this retreat was initiated, designed and will be done by young adults."

Poet, Author Delivers King Memorial Lecture

CHAPEL HILL—"The Mountain and the Man Who Was Not God" will be the subject of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Lecture April 6 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Speaking will be poet, playwright and author June Jordan, professor of English at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

The free, public talk, which will be interpreted for the hearing impaired, will begin at 8 p.m. in 100 Hamilton Hall. The lecture is sponsored by UNC Chancellor Paul Hardin and the Established Lectures Committee.

One of three University Established Lectures, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial was established in 1977 to "commemorate the lives and work of those who have dedicated their energies to fostering the concepts of human rights and dignity and to provide a forum for serious examination and discussion of those concepts."

Jordan, a political columnist for the Progressive magazine and director of the Creative Writing Program and Poetry Center at SUNY, has written 16 novels. Her works include "His Own Where," the first American novel written entirely in black English. The classic was awarded the New York Times Outstanding Book of the Year honors in 1971. Her recent publications are "Moving Toward Home" and "Lyrical Campaigns."

Her poems, articles, essays and reviews have appeared in Ms., Essence, the Village Voice, the Nation, Black World and American Poetry Review.

A former playwright-in-residence with the New York Dramatists, she

has written two full-length dramas, "The Issue" and "All Those Blessings." In 1986 she wrote the musical "Bang Bang Uber Alles" in collaboration with composer Adrienne B. Torf.

Her numerous honors include the 1984 National Association of Black Journalists Achievement Award for international reporting of the black condition; a 1985 New York State Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Letters; and a 1987 MacDowell Colony Fellowship.

Jordan joins an illustrious list of past King lecturers, including Vice Deloria, political science professor and American Indian rights advocate; Randall Robinson, director of TransAfrica; W. Wilson Goode, mayor of Philadelphia; Vernon N. Jordan, former president of the National Urban League; the Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr.; Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young; and the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

NAACP Meet

The Raleigh-Apex Branch of the NAACP will hold its monthly meeting on April 9 at 4 p.m. at Martin Street Baptist Church, 1001 E. Martin St.

The agenda for this month is a youth forum, "Youth Speakout." Students are invited to attend and be involved in discussions on drugs in school, racial problems, peer pressure, teen pregnancy, and career motivation. If further information is needed, call 781-6318. Adults and students are invited to join.

Power To Change

..and grow

BY FRED AND JOANNE WILLIAMS

THE FAMILY CONFERENCE: WHAT DO YOU TALK ABOUT?

Our families are a blessing from God. Too often, we overlook our family members and take them for granted. We don't take time to share the things that are important to us with the people who are most important to us.

The family conference is one way to be sure that your family is communicating in a meaningful way. Last week we said that the family conference is a scheduled time when a family sits down in an open, non-hostile atmosphere to discuss feelings, express concerns and solve problems.

Marriage counselor Rev. Willie Richardson of Philadelphia suggests that the husband be the teacher of the family conference (if there is a husband). He also suggests that a time limit be set to avoid dragging conversations over a long period of time.

What are some of the things a family can talk about? Here are some suggestions.

1. Share your love and positive

feelings for your family. For example, each family member could give three things which they like about the family.

2. Share family concerns. Often family members hold things in, which they need to share. Each family member could be given a chance to share by completing this sentence: "I have been concerned about..." or have each person name one thing they wish this family could do differently.

The leader should then lead a discussion on each area. When criticism is given, it should be given in an atmosphere of love and fairness, not anger and vindictiveness. The family conference can do in one hour what was not expressed in one year.

Rev. Richardson says that the family conference should always begin and end with prayer.

It will not solve all your problems but it can be a tool which opens up family communications. Take time to talk to your family.

TWO MINUTES

WITH THE BIBLE

BY CONNELLUS E. STARR, PRES.
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60638

CHRIST AND POLITICS

Did you ever think of Christ's relation to politics? He came into this world, remember, as a king. The very opening words of the New Testament are: "Jesus Christ, the Son of David..." (Matt. 1:1). This emphasizes the fact that He came from the royal line. John the Baptist had gone forth as the King's herald, to prepare His way, and the twelve apostles proclaimed His royal rights as they preached "the gospel of the kingdom." This was all in fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulders; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David..." (Isa. 9:6, 7).

Instead of crowning Him King at His first coming, however, they nailed Him to a cross and wrote over His head His accusation: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Strangely though, He had come especially, this first time, to be rejected and crucified for the sins of men. Psalm 22, Isaiah 53 and other Old Testament passages had predicted that at His first coming He would be despised and rejected. As Matthew 20:28 says of this coming: "The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give His life a ransom for many."

Our Lord did not die an untimely death; the cross was not a useless sacrifice. He knew that man's greatest need was moral and spiritual—that his sins must be paid for if he is not to be condemned forever before the court of eternal Justice. So, in love He came to be rejected and suffer and die "the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God" (1 Pet. 3:18).

He will come again to judge and reign, but for the present He deals with mankind in grace. Ephesians 1:7 says that "in Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace" and Romans 3:24 says that believers are "justified freely by God's grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."