



The Interfaith Post

Volume 8, Number 3

October 2008

Newsletter of the Jewish Catholic Couples' Dialogue Group of Chicago

New Classes to Begin

We are very excited to announce our third annual education series. The following are the dates of the Education series meetings which will take place at the Community Room at St. Raymond's and will begin at 7:00 pm.:

1. Thursday, October 2, 2008—High Holy Day Service
2. Thursday, November 6, 2008—Evolution of Faith
3. Thursday December 4, 2008—December Holidays Light Service
4. Thursday, January 8, 2009—Law in the Old and New Testaments
5. Thursday, February 5, 2009—400 Years of Jewish Catholic Relations
6. Thursday, March 5, 2009—Jesus and his Jewishness

Editor - Abbe Josephs
Contributing Editors -
Dan Josephs,
Niamh Whelan

Save the Date:

Thanksgiving
Comes
Early
With the
Jewish
Catholic
Couples'
Group

Sunday,
November 9th

“Short” High Holy Days Service

On October 2, 2008 Rabbi Misha will be leading a High Holiday “Lite Service” with Fr. Bernie also being present at the service. As you know, this meeting will occur during the Jewish High Holy Days, between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Rabbi Misha will enable us to learn and experience the essentials of the High Holiday Services. Do you or your spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend get confused during the services? Are you not sure what prayers are being said? Rabbi Misha will allow us to participate in as well as learn about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Please be sure to join us on October 2nd to participate in this spiritual and learning experience.

Do We Have Time For Religion?

This is the third in a series of four articles by Niamh Whelan giving a synopsis of one of the education meetings from last year.

By Niamh Whelan

When you think about it, our time today is really split in two: time for work (or school) and time for leisure. For most of us, religion finds itself competing with a wide range of other tempting options on the recreational side. So how can religion compete and continue to make itself relevant in today's world?

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Rabbi Misha opened with the fact that today less than 50% of the Jewish community could be termed “practicing” (although remember that Judaism is not about going to temple every week but rather about a code of behavior that you follow).

Fr. Bernie believes that the “all are welcome here” message echoed in the Gospel is how the Catholic religion fits into peoples’ lives. In his experience, it’s quite normal for people to return to the church after a sabbatical “leave of absence”...either as they settle down and have families or as their families grow up and move on.

What keeps us coming back?

At St. Raymonds, Fr. Bernie acknowledges that within his parish there are differing religious needs. One of the ways the parish addresses this is to tailor the structure of the Mass to appeal to the different “audiences”. The parish has also strived to develop a series of specific social, educational, and outreach programs designed to better engage parish members in the life of the church. As many of us know however, this is not the case in all parishes. Our personal experiences and interactions with our local parish drive

the value that we associate with religion and the amount of time that we deem appropriate to devote to it.

Rabbi Misha’s experience is that religion must sell itself and that its unique selling proposition is “a quest for meaning”. In his mind, religion may not provide all of the answers but as long as it helps us in our search for answers, it will continue to remain relevant. In this context, it is interesting to note that the word “synagogue” means house of worship, gathering, and study which could be considered the three key elements of Judaism.

So what’s the way forward?

In conclusion, Fr. Bernie and Rabbi Misha agreed that in order to remain relevant and compete successfully with other leisure activities, religion needs to find the right balance between the traditional and the modern. Traditional, in that people expect a Mass to be a certain way or expect a Friday night service to follow a specific structure. Modern, in that the spiritual and scripture-based side of religion needs to be relevant to today’s fast-paced world. Quite a tall order indeed.

Changes

For address updates, phone number changes, or any other information that you would like to have updated in our membership database, such as names of newborn children or name changes after marriage, please contact Rob and Carrie Silverman by email at rob72@ix.netcom.com or carrie69@ix.netcom.com.

L’shana Tova from the
Jewish Catholic Couples’ Group

FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION
VISIT US ON THE WEB AT JCDG.ORG
OR
CALL US AT 708-802-1620

Send Us Your Stuff

Have you always wanted to be published? Did you see a cartoon or an article that you wanted to share? Did you or someone you know have an accomplishment or need best wishes?

Send it to us here at the Interfaith Post and we will consider it for publication. We want to make this **your** newsletter. Pictures and illustrations would be particularly appreciated. Please send your submissions by email to joseph-sda@aol.com.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Gina & Howie
Lakin on the birth of their son
Caleb!