

Theology on Tap—The Pub: A Place for Prayer?

BY EMILY BRASCOUPÉ

This past fall, at the Fergus Inn (1159 Bank Street), the Catholic Diocese held four discussion sessions of Theology on Tap—an opportunity for people of faith (19 years of age and older) to get together to socialize, talk and share thoughts on current Catholic issues and theology. So, is the pub a place for prayer? This topic was the first discussion held on Oct. 5, 2004. Guest speaker Father Raymond D'Souza tackled this question right away by saying that, in one way, the pub is not really a place to pray. However, being in a pub should not be separate from the way we live our lives. Our lives should be unified, whether we are at church, work, school or the pub. Faith touches all aspects of our lives, including our social life.

Every second Tuesday in October and November, the Fergus Inn has welcomed this remarkable Catholic endeavour and the pub has been consistently packed with people wanting to participate and listen to the speakers. The Pub: A Place for Prayer was followed by The Four Last Things: Death, Judgment, Heaven, Hell, a talk given by Father Lindsay Harrison dealing with the afterlife and the often misunderstood belief in purgatory.

People at every talk were animated and eager to learn, share their ideas and enter into a dialogue with the speaker. One evening began with a roaring rendition of Alleluia, sung by all of the participants and Fred

Schubert, a third-order Franciscan. His topic was The Scream of the Rich and Poor in the Global Village and the Alleluia of the Church.

The final talk was given by Angelina Steenstra—Theology of the Body: One Woman's Testimony. Steenstra, the only woman speaker, offered a personal account of her relationship with the Catholic Church, love and marriage. She dealt with many issues facing women in the media today, such as vocation, marriage and intimacy.

Each talk and discussion was unique and inspirational. The evenings started with a social time from 7:30-8 p.m. At 8, the speaker presents the topic of the night, with questions and discussion to follow. Often people stay after the formal session to discuss the topic further with their peers.

Theology on Tap, fall 2004, was a great success, thanks to the hard work of Father Tim McCauley and the management and staff at the Fergus Inn.

The series will resume in February 2005 with more great speakers and topics. For information on dates and times, please visit the Fergus Inn calendar of events at www.thefergusinn.com, call 731-9191 or check your church bulletin—for the Glebe, it's the Church of the Blessed Sacrament at Fourth and Percy: www.blessedsacrament.ca. Theology on Tap—come early, stay late!

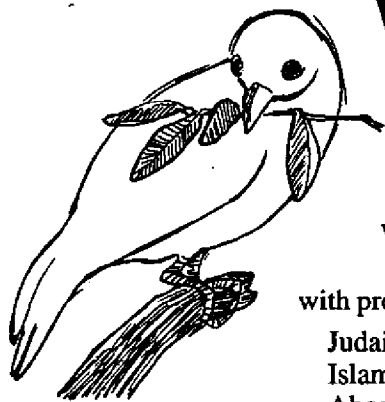


Illustration:
Gwendolyn Best

World Religions on Peace and War

World Religions on Peace and War series sponsored by the Ottawa Quakers with presentations to be made by representatives of:

- Judaism—January 26
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- Aboriginal Spirituality—February 9
- Hinduism—February 16
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