



Center for Theological and Spiritual Development

College of Saint Elizabeth
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Wednesday, February 9, 2005

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Photos - Special Assembly

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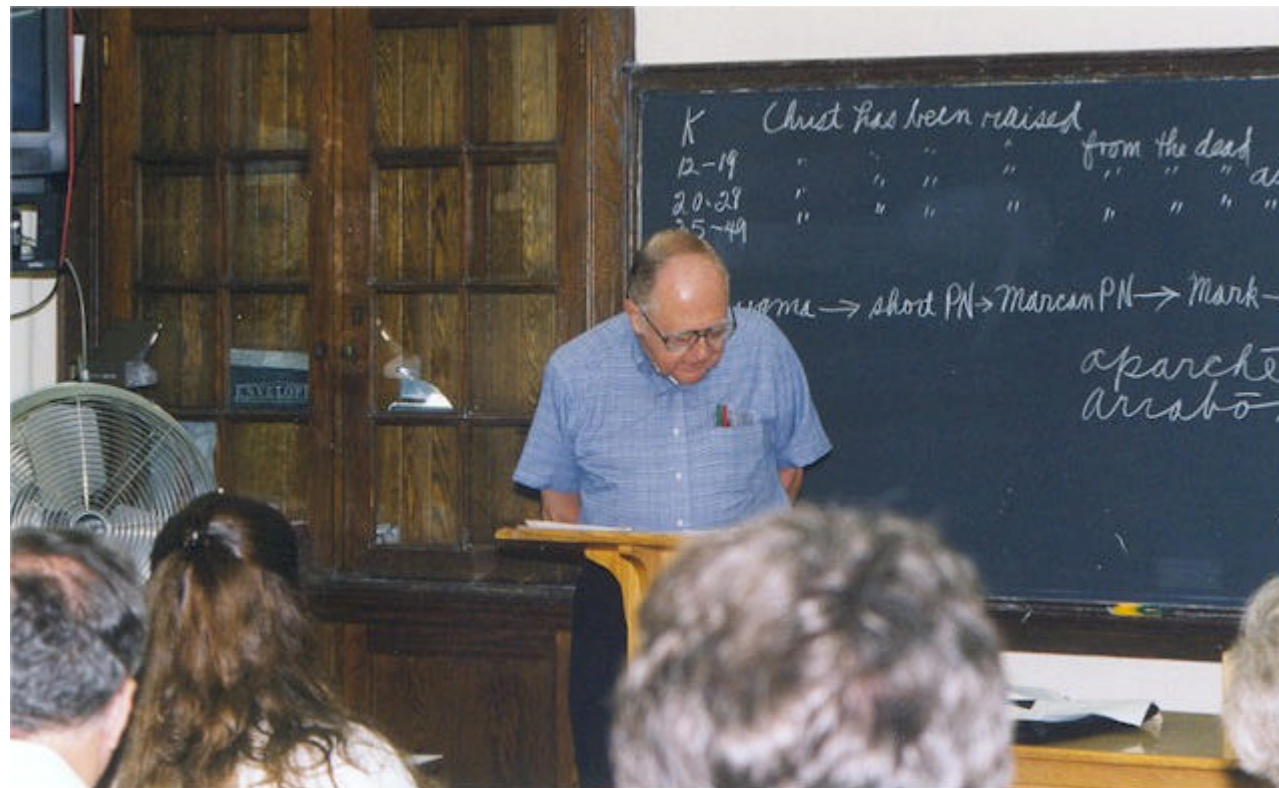
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Three keynote speakers with Sr. Francis and Bishop of Paterson: Photograph by Donna Lindemeyer, Courtesy of College of Saint Elizabeth

(Top left to right: Rabbi Terry Bookman Senior Rabbi and Spiritual Leader of Temple Beth Am in Miami; Imam Yahya Hendi, Muslim chaplain at Georgetown University and the National Naval Center in Bethesda, Md.; and Cardinal Walter Kasper, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and of the Vatican Commission for Judeo-Christian Relations. Bottom left to right: Sister Francis Raftery, President of CSE and Reverend Frank J. Rodimer, Bishop of Paterson and Chancellor, Board of Trustees)

Cardinal Walter Kasper, Rabbi Terry Bookman and Imam Yahya Hendi were the key speakers at the 2003 Summer Institute Special Assembly: "**Children of Abraham: Journeys to God**", hosted by the Center for Theological and Spiritual Development at the College of Saint Elizabeth (CSE) in Morristown, N.J. Each renowned religious leader discussed the need to expand upon the open-dialogue communications between the Christian and Jews with the Muslim community in promoting peace and solidarity among the three religious communities.



Summer Institute Class: Photograph by Matt Kovacs, Courtesy of College of Saint Elizabeth

Each year, the Center for Theological and Spiritual Development at the College of Saint Elizabeth (CSE) in Morristown, N.J., sponsors Summer Institute, offering classes and workshops by noted theologians spiritual writers and pastoral experts from throughout the country. This year's Seventh Annual Summer Institute, July 13-24, offered 12 courses, along with a Special Assembly event, which featured three renowned leaders of the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths. Among the many theologians and authors who taught a course at the Summer Institute is Rev. Joseph Fitzmyer, Professor in the Department of Biblical Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Rev. Fitzmyer led a course on Paul's First Letters to the Corinthians which focused on the interpretation of the letter's major passages.



Harmonium Choral Society: Photo by Donna Lindemeyer, Courtesy of the College of Saint Elizabeth

Soloist for New Jersey's leading choral group Harmonium Choral Society, Kathryn Clark, performs, "Before too Long," for the more than 700 attendees of the 2003 Summer Institute Special Assembly: "Children of Abraham: Journeys to God," a Christian, Jewish, Muslim Dialogue led by three prominent faith leaders

including Cardinal Walter Kasper, Rabbi Terry Bookman, and Imam Yahya Hendi. The assembly event was held at the College of Saint Elizabeth (CSE) in Morristown, N.J., and was hosted by the Center of Theological and Spiritual Development there. The song features the words of a poem written by Holocaust survivor, Alena Synkov, expressing her desire for peace among nations. Mark Miller, composer in residence for the Choral Society, put her words to music. The Choral Society also performed, "There is No Fear in Love." This original piece was sung at the event in English, Hebrew, Arabic, French, German, and Latin to symbolize the need for peace, joy, and harmony among all humanity.



Girl Pouring Dirt: Photograph by Donna Lindemeyer, Courtesy of College of Saint Elizabeth

More than 700 attended the 2003 Summer Institute Special Assembly: "Children of Abraham: Journeys to God," a Christian, Jewish, Muslim Dialogue hosted by the Center for Theological and Spiritual Development at the College of Saint Elizabeth (CSE) in Morristown, N.J. The Special Assembly featured three renowned leaders of the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths to promote the need for peace and solidarity among the three religious communities. The Assembly began its opening by having participants from the audience pour dirt from clay cups into a glass bowl, to symbolize the common bond shared between the three faiths. According to Father Anthony Ciorra, Director of the Center for Theological and Spiritual Development, this unprecedented event is a crucial first step and an essential development in understanding the current tensions in the Middle East and in the United States, tensions primarily grounded in religion. "With the continuing crisis in the Middle East, and after the events of September 11, we must open up the Judeo-Christian dialogue to include our Muslim brothers and sisters," said Father Ciorra.



Honorary Degree: Photograph by Donna Lindemeyer, Courtesy of College of Saint Elizabeth


(Left to right: Cardinal Walter Kasper, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity & of the Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, Reverend Frank J. Rodimer, Bishop of Paterson and Chancellor, Board of Trustees and Sister Francis Raftery, President of CSE)

At the 2003 Summer Institute Special Assembly event sponsored by the Center for Theological and Spiritual Development at the College of Saint Elizabeth (CSE) in Morristown, N.J., more than 700 attendees were present as Sister Francis Raftery, President of the CSE and Rev. Frank J. Rodimer, Bishop of Paterson and Chancellor, Board of Trustees bestowed Cardinal Kasper, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and of the Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, the honorary degree of Doctor of Human Letters for his many accomplishments in ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue.



Cardinal Kasper with Audience Member: Photo by Donna Lindemeyer, Courtesy of the College of Saint Elizabeth

Cardinal Walter Kasper, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and of the Vatican Commission for Judeo-Christian Relations, meets Sarah Fasani, of the Paterson Diocese, a parishioner of Our Lady of the Valley Church in Wayne, N.J., during the 2003 Summer Institute Special Assembly. The event entitled: "Children of Abraham: Journeys to God," a Christian, Jewish, Muslim Dialogue, was led by three prominent faith leaders including Cardinal Walter Kasper, Rabbi Terry Bookman, and Imam Yahya Hendi. The assembly event was held at the College of Saint Elizabeth (CSE) in Morristown, N.J., and was hosted by the Center of Theological and Spiritual Development there. It was held to promote understanding, peace, and unity and was attended by more than 700.

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