

Island Advance

State Island Advance

Psychiatrist, Rabbi Speak In Synagogue

South Shore Alliance Leader Hits View That There Is No Evil In Man

"There need not be any conflict between religion and psychiatry if we approach the subject with an open mind and determination to improve the condition of man and make his environment favorable for his continued growth." Dr. Martin Lazaar, assistant director of Willowbrook State School, said last night. He was speaker at the Friday evening service in the South Shore Hebrew Alliance, Grant City.

In introducing Dr. Lazaar, Rabbi Herbert Berger lashed out at "one of the assertions of modern psychiatry"—"that there is no such thing as evil in a man, or in masses of men, but that if everything is explained and understood it can be outgrown."

"Both religion and psychiatry have one purpose, but approach it from opposite directions," Dr. Lazaar told the congregation. "Religion sets a goal, a lofty, noble goal, and then inspires man by appealing to his emotions and the intellect to attain it, while psychiatry accepts man on his present level and seeks through giving him understanding of himself to help him seek out his own salvation and self-improvement."

'Know Thyself,' Motto

"The motto of psychiatry is indeed the same which Socrates placed on the doors of the Delphic sanctuary: 'Know thyself.'"

The alliance's spiritual leader, however, said, "To conceive of evil merely as an illusion in an age which beheld two World Wars with the unprecedented degradation of concentration camps, with millions enslaved and persecuted behind the Iron Curtain, is as incomprehensible as a man sentenced to the electric chair reciting the Couelism, 'Every day in every way I'm getting better and better.'"

"We religionists believe that there are moments when righteous indignation is justifiable and vitally necessary if the world is to become a better place."

"Many attempts have been made to indicate that there need be no warfare between dynamic psychology and the best teachings of religion," he added. "And yet we may rightly ask whether religion and psychiatry are at loggerheads, even though superficially they may seem to be pursuing the same objectives."

The speaker added, "Nor can we accept the modern view of God", which he described as thus, "Think of an old man with a beard, then take away the beard and then take away the man and you've got God."

Cites Belief In God

"Judaism has never thought of God as an old man with a beard," Rabbi Berger declared. "He has always been the invisible Personality of the Universe. We will not allow any conjuring tricks by some would-be magician psychologists to destroy the God idea, or to relegate merely to the socially useful systems, without any basis in reality, that which can help man make an adjustment to himself in the universe."

"While psychiatry can help many of us to a happy life, it is religion and morality which represent the great quest for meaning and purpose in the life of the individual and his relationship with society."

Pointing out conflicting views among psychiatrists, the spiritual leader added, "The shallow spokesmen of psychiatry are aware only of the conflicts between psychiatry and religion, but the best, the most sensitive and social helpful of these sages and would be healers evaluate religion aright and declare that the universe stands, with us in all our frailty and grandeur as participants in its life, and that religion still gives us many valid answers to the problems of man's adjustment to this universe and the Personality within it."

Following the sermon, Michael Goldin recited the Kiddush and Bernard Rappaport chanted "Adon Olam." The service was sponsored

Willowbrook Holy Name Group Nominates Slate 3/1/53

Nomination of officers took place at the initial meeting of the newly formed Willowbrook Holy Name Society last night in Building 3 of the Willowbrook State School.

It was announced that the society is composed of employees of the school, and that any employee desiring to become a member may contact John DeMartinis, temporary secretary, The Rev. Daniel Quinn, chaplain of the school, president.

Elections will take place at the next meeting, April 2, in Building 3.

S. J. Cebrowski - 3/12/53

Willowbrook Holy Name Staff Chosen

Anthony Fontaino Heads State School Group; Breakfast Plans May 7

Anthony Fontaino of 125 Mary's avenue, Rosebank, was elected president of the Holy Name Society of Willowbrook State School at a meeting last night in Building 3 at the school.

Others elected were Robert Fontaino, vice-president; John DeMartinis, secretary, and Valentino Pappalardo, treasurer.

Joseph Pelestone, Bernard Karpis and Stanley Jakubowski were elected to membership.

It was announced that a communion breakfast will be held in the school, May 24, the breakfast will follow 7 o'clock mass, at which the members will receive communion. James Vicari is chairman of the committee on arrangements.

The Rev. Daniel Quinn, chaplain of the school, and moderator of the society, presided.

The next meeting will be May 7.