



Saint Catharine's Parish Religious Education Program

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Dear Parents and students,

As part of the Confirmation requirement all 6, 7, and 8 grade students and at least one parent will be required to attend a performance of Frank Runyeon's Gospel of Mark entitled "Afraid." (see attached) Please mark your calendars for Friday, April 3, 2009 at 7 pm. This performance is in response to the growing number of requests to bring the good news to our teens in a more exciting and interesting manner and will complete the Archdiocesan Generations of Faith Requirement for 2008-2009.

Hopefully the candidates will enjoy this unique out of the classroom experiences.

May the Spirit be with us on our journey through this special time as we take a first step toward our preparation for Confirmation.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Audrey Angelini, CRE

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What is AFRAID?

Afraid is a one-man play, staged with simple lighting and entertaining audience interaction. Its text is the Gospel of Mark, translated into contemporary American speech. As characters and settings and lights constantly shift, the Gospel engages the audience's imaginations, surprises them with flashes of humor, and drives relentlessly forward with all the dramatic suspense you would expect from great theater.

Imagine...

The floor under your feet is dirt...

The only light is coming from

Candles...

We're in the catacombs....

...underneath Rome"

He begins a spellbinding

performance of St. Mark's Gospel

acclaimed by critics, Catholic

Scholars, and Church leaders

alike... that may deepen your

parish's encounter with the Gospel

forever....

... bringing the artistry of an actor of

international reputation to your own

parish...

AFRAID is Evangelism

Every Christian has wondered what it would have been like: to have been there, in Galilee, and met Jesus... **AFRAID!** is an effort to help those in the audience have that encounter. How? By doing exactly what the evangelist Mark did: by telling the story in the present tense, here and now, from beginning to end, in everyday language--and by making the audience members part of the action....



Audience members are addressed individually as the actor roams the room... They are healed, asked for a coin, or given bread... And they are challenged to "go out" and tell the story to others--if they're not too afraid....(MK 16:8) By the time the last candle is blown out, each audience member has a sense that they are part of the story God is writing--not simply spectators... That Jesus is a very real Presence among them.... And that they are called, not to be afraid, but to follow Him.

Who is Frank Runyeon?

Frank Runyeon has gained national acclaim in recent years as a translator and performer of Biblical texts. He has performed the Gospel for tens of thousands of people in almost every state in America.

He is probably still best known, however, from his many years on TV. He starred opposite Meg Ryan on *As the World Turns*, as Michael Donnelly on *Santa Barbara*, and as Simon Romero on *General Hospital*. He guest-starred recurrently on *Falcon Crest*, *Another World*, *Melrose Place* and *LA LAW*. He also starred in the feature film *Dark Streets*.

Mr. Runyeon received his B.A. in Religion from Princeton University, and studied at Yale Divinity School before receiving his Masters, with honors, from General Theological Seminary in New York City. He continues his studies toward a doctorate while touring his current five productions:

Sermon on the Mount

AFRAID!--The Gospel of Mark

What Are You Doing?--The Letter of James

The Gospel of John and

The 3 1/2 Stories of Christmas.