

Family Awareness Network (FAN) and Church of the Holy Comforter present:

The Mystery of the Child: A Celebration of Wonder

Martin E. Marty, Ph.D.

Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago

Monday, March 12, 2012, 7:00 PM
Church of the Holy Comforter
222 Kenilworth Ave., Kenilworth

RSVPs required; overflow seating available.
This program is free and open to the public.

INFO/RSVP: FAN-NTTS.ORG





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Evening presentation sponsored by Family Awareness Network of New Trier Township Schools (FAN) and Church of the Holy Comforter.

Monday, March 12, The Mystery of the Child: A Celebration of Wonder, 7:00-9:00 PM, Church of the Holy Comforter, 222 Kenilworth Ave., Kenilworth, 60043. **Martin E. Marty, Ph.D.** is **Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus** at the **University of Chicago**, where he taught in the Divinity School for 35 years, and where the **Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion** is located. A renowned historian, theologian and interpreter of religion and culture, with over 60 books, 5,000 scholarly articles, and 75 honorary Ph.D.s to his name, Dr. Marty was in residence at Emory University for the 2003-2004 academic year to co-direct the “Child in Law, Religion, and Society” interdisciplinary project, which brought together two dozen senior faculty to focus on children. Out of that work came his elegiac, erudite book, *The Mystery of the Child*.

In Dr. Marty's view, much of today's literature on children treats the child of any age as a problem or a set of problems to be solved, effectively reducing the child to a complex of biological and chemical factors, explainable in scientific terms, or to someone who is the object of control (whether benignly or tyrannically) by adults. In contrast, Dr. Marty here presents the child as a mystery that invokes wonder and elicits creative responses that affect the care provided him or her.

The Mystery of the Child encourages the thoughtful enjoyment of children instead of the imposition of adult will and control. Indeed, Dr. Marty treats the impulse to control as a problem and highlights qualities associated with children – responsiveness, receptivity, openness to wonder – that can become sources of renewal for adults. Indeed, Dr. Marty wishes for all adults to realize and embrace their own “childness,” to become like children – imaginative, open to ideas and experiences and to other people, always seeking how to live.

Dr. Marty's many honors include the National Humanities Medal, the National Book Award, the Medal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the University of Chicago Alumni Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal of the Association of Theological Schools, and the Order of Lincoln Medallion (Illinois' top honor).

Sponsored by the **Family Awareness Network of New Trier Township Schools (FAN)** and **Church of the Holy Comforter**. **RSVPs are required for this event; overflow seating with live video feed available at event site. RSVP to: <http://bit.ly/MartinMarty>, or via the FAN website, www.fan-ntts.org**. FAN is grateful for its 2011-12 partnerships with **North Shore Community Bank**; **NorthShore University HealthSystem**; *Quintessential New Trier* magazine; and **The Book Stall at Chestnut Court**. **CPDUs available for education professionals**. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.fan-ntts.org

