



Remember Holocaust

CHANTING HYMNS TO MEMORIALIZE the victims of the Holocaust in World War II and demonstrating their solidarity against a Nazi march in Skokie, these worshippers and more than 2,000 others packed the Niles West high school stadium Sunday, April 16, for an interfaith service. (Photo by Lisa Ebright) See story on page 3.



RESIDENTS OF ALL FAITHS (above) turned out Sunday, April 16, for an inter-denominational service at Niles West high school to memorialize victims of the Holocaust in World War II and indirectly to dramatize their opposition to a Nazi march in Skokie. Liturgical selections were read by clergymen of various faiths and hymns were led by others, including Cantor Schlome Shuster of Niles Township Jewish congregation (right). (Photos by Lisa Ebright)



Holocaust rites draw 2,000

By MARY ELLEN COHON

Correspondent

SKOKIE— In a moving statement of unity, worshippers and clergy of all faiths joined in a prayer service Sunday, April 16, to open Holocaust Remembrance week.

Although the proposed June 25 neo-Nazi march in Skokie was never mentioned during the service, there was obvious community sympathy for the agony of its Jewish population both for its World War II ordeal and in face of the threatened Nazi march this year.

DESPITE CHILLING winds, the service drew a crowd of more than 2,000 persons who filled the west stands of the Niles West high school athletic field for the hour-long ceremony.

On the platform, the bright vestments of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish clergy had a common bond in the black armbands bearing the yellow Star of David also worn by many members of the audience. Prominent on the platform and on programs distributed

In conjunction with Holocaust Week, The LIFE has excerpted letters received from throughout the United States concerning the planned Nazi demonstration in Skokie. See Editor's Mail, section 4, page 1.

to the audience was a circular motif bearing a cross and a Star of David with the words "Pax, Shalom, Peace."

The service, in which the congregations and clergy of 15 religious groups participated, began with "Praise the Lord: to Whom our praise is due," "Borchu et Adonai Hamvorach," and ended with the benediction familiar to all three faiths beginning "May the Lord bless you and keep you," "Yevo-re-cha-cha Ado-nai v'yishme-re-cha."

NO FORMAL sermon was delivered, but there were readings from Elie Wiesel's "Night" and from an interview of Dr. Matthew E.S. Spetter by Studs Terkel, titled "Survival: Two Men, One Child and Love." Both are memories of the Holocaust.

The only reference to present problems came in a responsive reading, "Litany for God's which called upon the God of Moses, Aaron, Miriam, and the God of Anne Frank, Martin Luther, Pope John and Martin Luther King to "give us vision that we may see the truth and dare to dream in Your name." It ended with "We are Your sons and daughters, brought together in this community of faith...we are all Your children."

Commenting on the service, Rabbi Neil Brief of Niles Township Jewish congregation, said he was thrilled with the response, the genuine concern and sense of commitment" shown by both clergy and worshippers.

HE SAID HE felt the service set the "reverential mood" needed for viewing the television series "Holocaust" and "prepared us emotionally and spiritually for a very deep and necessary experience."

Clergy and congregations cooperating included:

Rabbi Brief; the Rev. Harry Conner, Central United Methodist church; the Rev. Gene Faucher, St. Martha's Roman Catholic church; the Rev. William Galaty, Holy Trinity Episcopal church.

The Rev. Lee Gallman, Crawford Ave. Baptist church; the Rev. Phyllis Koehline, Evanshire Presbyterian church; the Rev. Louise Mahan, Central United Methodist church; the Rev. Robert Mair, St. Peter's Roman Catholic church; The Rev. Carl Miehlike, St. Luke's United Church of Christ.

The Rev. John Mittermaier, Trinity Lutheran church; Rabbi Bernard Mussman, Congregation Kol Emeth; the Rev. Thomas O'Connor, St. Peter's United Church of Christ; the Rev. Conway Ramseyer, Morton Grove Community church; the Rev. Richard Scheuf, Trinity Lutheran church; Cantor Schlome Shuster, Niles Township Jewish congregation; the Rev. Warren Thummel, St. Timothy's Lutheran church; and Rabbi Karl Weiner, Temple Judea Mizpah.