

Actress explores death penalty, grief issues in morality plays

By Paula Doyle
STAFF WRITER

What is the purpose of capital punishment? Does it create healing for victims' families? Does it reflect justice for all?

thoughts about death and loss.

"I feel people heal each other by talking," said Scherer, a parishioner and lector at Blessed Junipero Serra Church in Camarillo. The actress, who co-starred on several

inside job," she added.

Scherer's performance at St. Monica Church Nov. 7 will take place in the parish auditorium following the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Tickets

are \$8 each and can be purchased at the door. "A Prison of the Mind" will also be performed at the St. Joseph Center Auditorium in Orange on Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. (call 714-633-

8121 ex. 7702) for information). In addition, Scherer will present her play at the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress on Feb. 19, 2005. ❖



PERFORMANCE
— Marion Scherer plays numerous roles in "A Prison of the Mind," her one-woman play. "I feel people heal each other by talking," says the Blessed Junipero Serra Church (Camarillo) parishioner.



Do criminals give up their humanity when they commit violent crimes?

Actress Marion Scherer tackles these questions in her provocative one-woman play, "A Prison of the Mind," which will be performed Nov. 7 at St. Monica Church in Santa Monica.

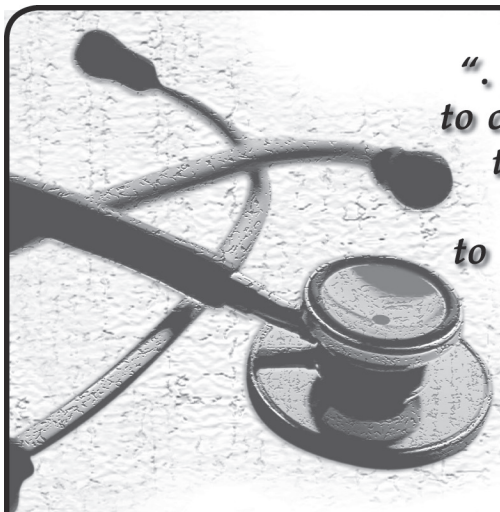
Scherer, who spent two years writing the play after interviewing teenage and young adult inmates at the California Youth Authority, says the work was meant to be an impetus for audience discussion and reflection. She performs an entire cast of characters, switching voices and changing body movements, to impersonate prisoners, chaplains, lawyers, victim's family members and relatives of the incarcerated.

"I want people to say, 'It made me start thinking,'" said Scherer, who was encouraged to write a play about the death penalty by a former Catholic priest-chaplain at CYA. Scherer had already penned a play for St. John's Hospital exploring end-of-life issues that allowed audience members to express their

made-for-TV movies and appeared in recurring roles on daytime soap opera dramas including "Days of Our Lives" and "The Young and the Restless," returned to the Catholic Church of her youth five years ago.

"The Catholic Church is just as mystical as anything New Age," declared Scherer. She is happy that church audiences have been animated by her "morality plays," and feels "exhilarated" during the post-performance discussions. She estimates that 800 people have seen the play, which she's performed at over a dozen churches and the Ventura chapter of Amnesty International.

In spite of the seriousness of the death penalty subject matter, Scherer says performing the play has given her a positive feeling about the future of mankind. "I feel we are at the dawn of a new spiritual level, but we're only going to get to this higher place when we take each other by the hand and go together," said Scherer. "Healing yourself is an



"... as you ought not to attempt to cure the eyes without the head or the head without the eyes, so neither ought you to attempt to cure the body without the soul."

— Plato
from *Charmides*

"Studying the art of medicine without an understanding of human nature is much like building a house without blueprints."

— Francis J. Milligan, M.D.
Family Physician • Class of 1985

For 33 years, young men and women from around the country and abroad have been coming to Thomas Aquinas College in pursuit of Truth and Wisdom.

In small seminars, they analyze and discuss the great books, seeking to discover the truth through the original writings of the greatest thinkers of Western Civilization.

Enlightened by the wisdom of the Church, guided by the teaching of St. Thomas Aquinas, and nourished by a rich sacramental life, students at Thomas Aquinas College begin to know the world, mankind and the God Who made them.

THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE
California

800 • 634 • 9797 www.thomasaquinas.edu



Help Yourself While Helping Our Catholic
Schools, Charities & Ministries

- Capital Gains Problems?
- Unwanted or Difficult Income Property?
- Downsizing Your Home?
- Lack of Liquidity for a Donation?

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE
FOR THOSE IN NEED**

Call

Admiral Ray Smith, USN (Retired)

President

(213) 270-6204

Seraphim Realty Foundation is A 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation.
The Foundation works in cooperation with Charles Dunn Company.

**DONATE
YOUR
REAL ESTATE
TODAY**

**SERAPHIM
REALTY
FOUNDATION**

Charles Dunn



Seraphim Realty Foundation is A 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation. The Foundation works in cooperation with Charles Dunn Company.