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March 2, 2001
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NEWS TIPS

BROTHER RAYMOND FITZ TO TALK ABOUT LOCAL CHILD PROTECTION EFFORTS AT SATURDAY LUNCHEON

Anyone who knows Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., knows he has compassion for children.

In the 1990s, following several highly publicized deaths of local children from abuse, the University of Dayton's president devoted countless hours to working with Montgomery County elected officials, professionals and citizens to improve the region's child-protection system. He'll talk about those efforts during a **12:30 p.m. luncheon on Saturday, March 3**, in the Kennedy Union ballroom on campus. (Please note that the talk has been moved to a larger room because of response).

The talk is titled "Protecting Children: Social Justice and Community Building." Fitz currently serves on the executive committee and school readiness committee of Montgomery County's Family and Children First Council, which is working to create a seamless human services system.

Fitz's talk is part of an all-day international conference on children's rights, "A Question of Conscience: Making a Better Life for All Children." The conference runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Kennedy Union ballroom.

From the murder of street kids in Latin America to the enforced or coerced prostitution of teens from Eastern Europe, scholars will examine the worldwide experiences of children not protected by law or custom. They will address advances and shortcomings of children's rights since a world summit on the child 10 years ago and the debate in the U.S. about ratifying the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child.

"We will call attention to the real tragedies around the world," said Mark Ensalaco, organizer of the conference and director of the human rights program at UD. "But we're not doing it to be dramatic or to shock, although some people will be shocked. We want to collaborate and examine the situations, offer a frank assessment of what the current state is and devise ways to confront the problems."

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