

FR. ALBERT SHAMON

Word For Sunday



In the infancy of the human race man's belief in the presence of God on earth was a very dim one. Greeks pictured their gods in far away Olympus, looking down on earth in amusement at man fumbling and stumbling through life.

At the Exodus, God taught Israel that He was not a God way out there, but a God right down here; a God who cared, who took on Pharaoh for the sake of His people. To keep this fact ever alive, He ordered the Ark of the Covenant built and over the mercy-seat there blazed the Shechinah, the visible sign of His presence. The Temple replaced the Ark, but the message was ever the same: God delights to dwell among His people. Moses could ask: "What great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the Lord, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him?" (Deut. 4:7).

But then Israel did a foolish thing. She became guilty of secularism in reverse. Secularism will not let God into the marketplace. Israel would not let God out of the Temple. Israel localized God! He whom the heavens could not contain, she boxed in a building. So God destroyed the Temple.

Only centuries later, when there was no longer any danger of localizing the presence of God, did churches tabernacled the Blessed Sacrament come into being. The church templing the Blessed Sacrament made visible God's presence on earth; and the multiplication of them.

Deacon Ordained In New Orleans

Shortsville—Rev. Mr. August John Deasio, son of Mrs. Elvira Deasio of Manchester, was ordained a deacon by Archbishop Philip M. Hannon, D.D., of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, La., on Saturday morning, May 8, at Hope Haven Chapel in Marrero, La.

In 1967, he organized and directed the Marian Residence in New Orleans, a home for underprivileged teenage boys. And in 1970, he was promoted to the directorship of Hope Haven, a large home for boys which is

made clear He is not so localized as to be tied to any one place or building.

Though the soul in grace temples God, yet man has need of visible signs of God's presence, for nothing enters the mind of man unless it first passes through the avenues of the senses. Man cannot think a single thought unless one of the five senses furnishes the food for thought. A man born blind cannot conceive of color. What is true of learning, is equally true of religion. Will religion not also benefit from external things? God Himself acted as if it would. Else He would never have become incarnate. Whenever He desired to reveal Himself to man, He did it through the ordinary channels of signs and symbols: words, actions, and gifts. St. John defended His Gospel by saying he was writing about the things he had seen and heard and handled.

So all the outward trappings of religion — structure, song, rite, and ritual — all are necessary, not because God needs them but because we do. The danger, however, as always, is to tie God down to a particular place or rite or ritual — to make a religion of things. God is not a thing or action. God is a trinity of Persons inviting us to friendship. Signs are meant to deepen and strengthen this relationship. When they no longer do, then the signs need to be changed. They are the scaffolding to God. When God is possessed as in heaven, no need for the scaffolding. "I saw no temple in the city" (R II).

sponsored by the Catholic Charities of New Orleans.

Rev. Mr. Deasio returned to his home parish, St. Dominic's Church here, on Sunday, May 9, to assist his pastor, Father John F. Woloch in the celebration of the 11:30 Mass. He preached the homily and distributed Holy Communion to the parishioners and his family.

Following Mass, Rev. Mr. Deasio was honored by a reception at the American Legion.

After a trip to the Holy Land, Rev. Mr. Deasio will return to the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

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Courier-Journal

Science Fair Held in Hornell

Hornell — Primary and intermediate grade pupils of St. Ann's School evidenced their scientific interests last weekend at a Science Fair in the school's assembly hall.

More than 100 children prepared exhibits which were viewed by hundreds of parents and friends; Sister Mary Jude of St. Ann's faculty was coordinator.

The first grand award went to a second grader, Mary Koehler, for her vegetable garden. The variety of plants, raised from seeds, were explained, by diagrams, through each stage of their development.

Rosemary Colomai, a fifth grade student, won the second grand award for her exhibit showing the water cycle. She, and all exhibitors, were questioned by the judges on their specific subjects before the awards were decided.

Judges were Sister Marie Stanislaus, SSJ, of Elmira, coordinator of science instruction for parochial schools in the Southern Tier; Mrs. Mary M. Kinnerney, Mrs. Harold Apel, Sister Mary Louis, Mrs. Edward Deegan, Mrs. Florence Mehlenbacher, Miss Michelle O'Neil, and Mrs. Andrew Lamb.

The children's science teachers are Sister Marie Margaret,

Mrs. Elizabeth Schmeiske, Mrs. Raymond Rahmlow, Mrs. James Murphy, and Mrs. Robert Bishop.

First prize awards in each grade presented by Father Robert C. MacNamara, pastor of St. Ann's, went to:

Grade 1 — Scott Nolan, for his exhibit on springtime buds.

Grade 2 — Mary Koehler, a vegetable garden.

Grade 3 — Francis Argentieri, static electricity.

Grade 4 — Elizabeth Dierl, solar system.

Grade 5 — Rosemary Colomai, water cycle.

Father Steger

To Conduct

Scandinavian Tour

Father John T. Steger, pastor of St. Jude's in Gates, will lead a three-week tour of Scandinavia in July, under the auspices of the Automobile Club of Rochester.

The travelers will leave here by plane July 3, and visit Norway, Sweden and Denmark through July 24. Reservations may be made with Father Steger through May 15.

2 Communion Breakfasts Set

Apalachin—Two Communion breakfasts are scheduled this month in St. Margaret Mary Church here. One breakfast will be for members of the Rosary Society, while the second is for Holy Name members.

The Rosary Society Communion breakfast is for mothers and daughters and will be held after

the 8 a.m. Mass May 23 in the church hall on New St.

The Holy Name Society communion breakfast will be for fathers and sons. It will be after the 8 a.m. Mass this Sunday in the Church Hall.

Father Collins

Speaks in Hornell

Hornell — Father Robert Collins, diocesan director of the Family Life Bureau, was principal speaker at a Cana conference for married persons last Saturday in the assembly hall of St. Ann's School.

The conference included talks by Father Collins on "Talking About Talking" and "Talking About Loving" also a film, a discussion, and a coffee hour.

SUSSKIND SPEAKER

David Susskind, the television discussion program moderator, will be the speaker at the State University College at Brockport commencement at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 16, in the Rochester War Memorial. About 1,200 students will receive bachelor's degrees and another 300 master's degrees from Brockport this year.

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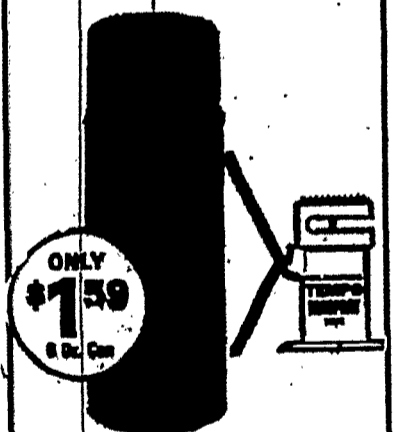
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Page 2-B