



"IT WAS SUGGESTED TO ME BY A PARISHIONER DURING MY BUILDING FUND DRIVE, AND I FIND IT RATHER FUN!"

FR. ALBERT SHAMON

Word For Sunday



Not too long ago, there appeared an article about a lovely young actress with a bright future in the movies.

In 1963 she turned her back on Hollywood to become a cloistered nun at Regina Laudis Monastery in Bethlehem, Conn. This past year she took solemn vows. Her name is Dolores Hart.

"The essential reason why I became a nun," said Mother Hart, "is that I wholeheartedly believed I had the vocation for a way of union in love that, to many, is unreasonable — a calling that is a response to God in faith. When someone asks, 'Why did you marry this particular man?' all you can say, is 'Because he loved me and I loved him.' Why am I a nun? 'Because He loves me, and I love Him!'"

Sunday's Readings are on Vocation: religious and lay. Elijah, the prophet of fire, throws his cloak on Elisha, the gentleman farmer, calling him for God to put on the mantle of prophet (R.I). Paul describes the Christian vocation in general as a call to freedom, not to indulge oneself but to serve others in love (R.II). Our Lord points out the demands of the Christian vocation (R.III).

In the Gospel three candidates come to Christ. The first and third came on their own initiative. The second was called. All three had only the vaguest concept of what it means to follow Christ.

The first candidate boldly, impulsively said, "I will be your follower wherever you go." Pretty presumptuous fellow! To follow Christ means sacrifice. We cannot be delicate members of a crucified body. After the siege of Rome in 1849, Garibaldi said to his followers: "I have nothing to offer you but hunger, thirst, hardship and death; let all who love their country follow me." Churchill promised the English nothing in World War II but "blood, sweat and tears." How like Christ's was their challenge: "The foxes have lairs, the birds of the sky have nests, but the

Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." The first candidate is a type of those who are Christians as long as it costs them little or nothing.

The second candidate was called. "Come after me." The man replied, "Let me bury my father first." Jesus refused, not because He was hardhearted. For it was an Eastern proverb: "When I have buried my father, I will do so and so." It was an expression used to put off matters. The man did not say his father was already dead. Were that the case, the man would not have been with Jesus — for interment among the Jews had to take place before sunset of the next day on which one expired. In this context, therefore, the expression meant, "I will follow you at my own leisure." He is the type of those Christians who want heaven in their own time and on their own terms. When grace was grappling for the soul of Augustine, he tells us in his Confession that he would say, "I'll follow you, Lord, but not yet — not yet."

The third candidate said, "I will be your follower but first let me take leave of my people at home." Elisha desired the same privilege, not as an excuse for delay, but to publicize the privilege of his being called with a farewell feast, like the banquet Matthew threw after Christ had called him (R.I). Our Lord alluded to this example of Elisha in His words, "Whoever puts his hand to the plow." The third candidate is the type of the Christian who has a divided heart, the conditional Christian who says, "Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but

God still calls all to the religious or lay apostolate. What is lacking is not His grace but our generosity. A generosity that can turn its back on a promising career or can leave great wealth at the drop of a cloak — like a farm so large as to need twelve yoke of oxen to plough it. A generosity that does not count the cost when it comes to following Christ.

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Courier-Journal

LETTERS

Letters to the editor should be addressed to the editor, Courier-Journal, 35 Scio St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. They should be no longer than 1½ pages, typed double-spaced. Names and addresses should be included. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.

Guidance Needed

Editor:

I agree with Mrs. Enrico Martino of Corning. There is need for more guidance from the Rochester Diocese concerning Birth Right services in each county seat.

Mrs. Martino's idea of linking up Right to Life and Birth Right Services is a grand idea.

Mrs. Walter Slocum
Groton

Murder vs. Murder

Editor:

During the past few weeks, everywhere you went you would hear people saying, "Isn't it terrible about the mass murder in Yuba City, Calif.?" Murder like this becomes news bulletins on the radio and television. It appears on the front pages of all the newspapers. Everyone is shocked that something like this could happen in this country.

Yet every day mass murder takes place in New York State, in abortions, and no one bats an eyelash. It doesn't make any news bulletins on the radio or television, it doesn't make the front pages of our newspapers. This type of murder is legal because a few of our irresponsible legislators considered it the right thing to do and to keep peace in the family.

So why is one against the law and the other legal?

MRS. JEAN SCALA
Westlake Ave.
Auburn

Request For Coupons

Editor:

Last year I cut a letter from the Courier requesting Betty Crocker coupons to help Lakemary Center School of Special Education, Paola, Kan., to acquire a passenger van, to use for transportation of children. I have been sending Mrs. Walter Vitt the Betty Crocker coupons since that time and grad-

ually she is getting closer and closer to the 800,000 points necessary to receive the van from General Mills Co. According to the latest count, she needs 20,000 points by Oct. 15, 1971 to complete the project.

Most housewives use box cereals, cakes, etc. The coupons are simple to clip from these various boxes and it wouldn't take long to complete the 20,000 points needed.

Could your readers take a little time to clip a few coupons and send them on to Mrs. Walter Vitt, Route 1, Box 5; St. Paul, Kansas; 66771.

Mrs. T. Ryan
Normandy Ave.
Rochester

She Seconds The Motion

Editor:

In response to the editorial by Father Richard Tormey in the Courier-Journal (6-9-71) titled: "Hollywood Ratings Can't Be Trusted Anymore." "How true!", were my first words, even before reading any further down the column.

This matter was especially called to my attention a few days ago, when my 23-year-old daughter was spending the weekend at home, from her work and apartment in a near-

by city. She is expecting her friend home from Vietnam for a leave, and she said, "Mom, there is one thing we won't do, and that is, go to the movies—they can't be trusted."

My daughter and her girl friend had attended a "GP" rated movie and walked out soon after the middle of the picture. This was not only a "GP" rated film, but a much publicized recipient of Academy Awards in several different fields. Many of us, I'm sure, would not even give this film an "M" rating. Perhaps because we are old-fashioned enough to believe "there is a time and place for everything", and most of what is on the screen today is in very bad taste.

How glad I am that I read the "Courier" while having my lunch today and "hurrah" for the Catholic and Protestant film reviewing agencies for speaking up to Hollywood.

Another "hurrah" for Bishop Hogan's attack on the National "Curse of Pornography."

As a member of the Altar and Rosary Society of St. Joseph's Church in Weedsport, and speaking for many of us, we would like to actively help in cleaning up at least a corner for our youth of today and tomorrow.

Mrs. Albert Mazzell
Horton Street
Weedsport



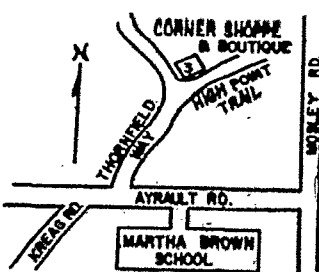
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