

FR. ALBERT SHAMON

Word For Sunday



Sunday's Readings: (R1) 2, Sm. 5:1-3. (R2) Col. 1:12-20. (R) Lk. 23:35-43.

From now on, the last Sunday in the liturgical year is always the feast of Christ the King. The First Reading reminds us of Israel's greatest king, the lowly and holy David—type and symbol of Christ the King. The Second Reading tells that the subjects of the King are rescued from the kingdom of darkness and brought into the kingdom of light through the blood of His cross. Luke's Gospel dramatically describes the King shedding His blood to save us for His Kingdom. With the sign "King" hanging over His head, Christ is asked by a criminal, "Remember me when you enter upon your reign." Jesus answers, "This day I will take you to my Kingdom."

I see controversy waging over a rock opera called Jesus Christ Superstar. It could be called Jesus Christ SuperKing. For the constant theme of Superstar is the concept of Christ as King. The Gospel at Mass uses the king idea in a sarcastic, ironic way. The soldiers standing around the cross mock, "If you are the King of the Jews, why don't you save yourself?" The cross and the thorns are ironic emblems of throne and crown. The inscription is sarcastic, "This is the King of the Jews."

The rock opera plays on the irony of the king-concept in the same way as the Gospel narrative. In the opera Herod sings a bouncy song in vaudeville style challenging Jesus to prove His kingship. He sings:

"You are Christ, the Great Jesus Christ—

Prove to me that you're no fool:

Walk across my swimming pool.

Prove it to me,
And I'll let you go free!
Come, on King of the Jews."

To Herod, Christ's divinity and Kingship were ridiculous. But were they more so than to modern man in our affluent, sceptical society?

I remember seeing Superstar played by the original cast: Fenholt, Elliman, and Anderson. It was reverently done. In the audience of 10,000, it was perhaps for some the first time an evening was given to anything about Christ.

As I left the auditorium after the production, some young men were passing out leaflets. They read:

"Superstar asks a lot of questions—about the man who called himself God. And the collective voice of society answers back. JC was a great man but he had no plan.

He was Superstar but he carried it a bit too far.

He doesn't relate and he never will.

Problem Pregnancy?

For free confidential help call Birthright: 716-328-3700.

Office Hours: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., weekdays; 24 Hour record-a-home to receive messages.

LETTERS

Letters to the editor should be addressed to the editor, Courier-Journal, Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced. Names and addresses should be included. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.

Sacrifice Is The Key Word

Editor:

Guest columnist Msgr. McGhan (Courier-Journal 11/3-71) has said the secret word, sacrifice, regarding the support of Catholic schools. If we really want them we must be willing to open wider our own, not the state's, wallets.

Thomas R. Knapp
Rockingham Street

Priest Has 'Cultic Role'

Editor:

Bishop Hogan's article "The Priesthood in Crisis" (Courier-Journal, 11-3-71) leads me to the following dilemma: Today's priest must either keep his 'cultic role' or lose it.

His primary function has to be preparing his fellow Catholics for "eternal life." He surely cannot do this for those who neither possess the Catholic faith nor wish to. Concern for non-Catholics would reveal his secondary function, namely, to assist these non-Catholic brethren that they might get ready in this world for "eternal life." The "cultic role" of today's priest includes those two functions and excludes every other.

On the other hand, should today's priest seek or find any other than his "cultic role," he is surely losing or abandoning it. A physician or psychiatrist or the member of any other secular profession plays no "cultic role" per se. It is not the obligation of those occupations to replace those that prepare souls for "eternal life." Our Blessed Lord answered the dilemma for me. "No man," He said, "can serve two masters." How can any priest faithfully play his exclusive "cultic role" which no other man can play and still serve as God wants him to? Or why should a priest want to share such a role with

those worldly other roles that do not fit his?

John J. A. Overlander
Wimbledon Road
Rochester

'Music Bag' Defended

Editor:

In the (Courier-Journal 11-10-71), Father Cuddy, in his column OTRS, made a slighting reference to the Mission Singers. In defense of the "Music Bag" I should like to say that I see a greater manifestation of the Christian virtues of humility compassion, and love in just one column by the Mission Singers than I do in 25 of Father Cuddy's reactionary rambles. As far as I'm concerned, "The Music Bag" is the Courier's finest column, and I hope you continue to carry it.

Mary Lu Walker
Brown Road
Corning

COURIER-JOURNAL

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan
President


Anthony J. Costello
General Manager

Carmen J. Viglucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

Volume 84, No. 31 Nov. 17, 1971

Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 15c; 1 year subscription in U.S. \$6.00; Canada and South America, \$8.50; other foreign countries, \$9.50. Offices, Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y., 14604, (716) 454-7050. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.



"Services at Hedges Memorial Chapel"

Words you see so often because we serve so well...

770 East Main at Alexander • Dial 454-7070

attention thankful people

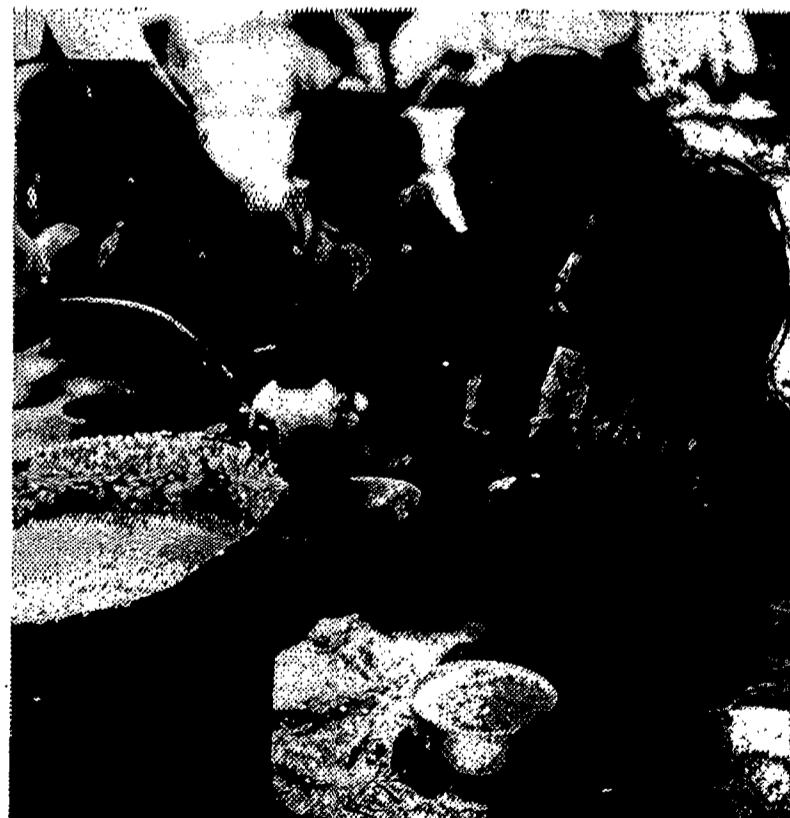
In gratitude for my many blessings, I wish to share this month of Thanksgiving with the world's poor and the missionaries serving them. Enclosed is my special sacrifice for the missions.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____



Salvation and Service are the work of

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Send your gift to:

11/17/71

Rev. Msgr. Edward T. O'Meara
National Director
Dept. C, 366 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10001

OR

Rev. Joseph F. Reinhart
Diocesan Director
50 Chestnut Street
Rochester, New York 14604