



Children's Festival A Sell-Out

Sister Leonarda, librarian at Holy Family School, takes a break from her usual duties to enjoy the Children's Festival. The festival, with its white elephant and cake booths, was held Tuesday, April 3, in the Holy Family School auditorium.



WORD FOR SUNDAY Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R1) Acts 10:34, 37-43. (R2) Col. 3:1-4. (R3) Jn. 20:1-9.

Like the Northern lights, the seven Readings for the Easter Vigil send out a hundred bright beams into the dark. Of the seven Readings, at least three must be read; and of these three one must always be the Exodus account of the crossing of the Reed Sea. For it symbolizes the freedom Jesus' death and resurrection brings to us through the sacrament of baptism. The Vigil Gospel shows Mary Magdalene and the other women beginning to discover the great truth — He is risen!

The Easter Sunday Readings stress again the same theme: He is risen! Mary Magdalene is again the first witness. All the Gospel accounts of the first Easter day have only one aim: to trace the progress from unbelief to belief for all those who had followed Jesus. Mary Magdalene had only one explanation for the disappearance of Jesus: His body was stolen. So Peter and John, whom St. Paul called "the pillars of the Church," set out to the tomb. These two leading apostles felt somehow accountable to the rest; they had to see for themselves.

Contrary to what we might expect, the contemplative John arrived at the tomb first; however, he waited for the impetuous Peter to catch up. When Peter did, Peter entered first. Some think John put in this apparently insignificant detail for a very significant reason. At the end of the first century, some churches in Asia Minor held John in such esteem that there was danger of his overshadowing the Pope at Rome. With characteristic Johannine delicacy, John tells of his own deference to Peter on Easter morn to teach that Peter's successor in Rome was still to be given primacy over even an apostle like himself.

Simon Peter entered the tomb. He mentally photographed the interior. Everything was in order. The head cloth was neatly rolled up. The wrappings were on the ground. There was no evidence of a robbery. Why would anyone, friend or foe, strip a lifeless body of its grave cloths? When Lazarus came out of the tomb, he was still wrapped in his winding sheets. John preserved this evidence to answer detractors who in his day might still claim that the body of Jesus had been stolen or hidden away.

What effect this evidence had on Peter, then and there, we do not know. Faith is a personal thing. So John does not speak for Peter on this matter, but he speaks only for himself. To John the neat arrangement of the grave cloths was clear evidence not only that robbers had not emptied the tomb, but that Jesus Himself must have arranged the grave cloths. John knew Jesus: His love for order, His methodical

attention to little things. He remembered when Jesus had fed the five thousand how He had arranged for the crowds to sit down in groups of fifties and hundreds with clear aisles between them, how the food had been distributed methodically, and how attention had been given even to the fragments. On the cross, John remembered how Jesus had arranged for the care of His mother; how He had taken pains to see that all the prophecies were fulfilled to the last one. The attention given to little things in the tomb had the signature of Jesus. John "saw and believed" in the resurrection. He was the first to believe.

God is a God of order, not of confusion. He has a place for everything and puts everything in its place. Otherwise we should not be able to get on at all. If summer came whenever it would, and spring and autumn and winter appeared willy-nilly, the farmer would not know when to sow seed. We would starve. God always puts things in their proper place — even grave cloths. He even left the tomb, because that is one place God does not belong, neither do we.

Christ is risen! Christian, rise
From all-sorrow; dry thine eyes;
Sin and sadness now must flee,
Christ has gained the victory!

Christ is risen! With the Spring
Rise thou, too, to greet thy King.
Deck thy heart with virtues gay
And receive Him thus today.

Mercy Senior Takes Award In Journalism

Elaine Schott, senior at Our Lady of Mercy High School, has been declared a national winner in Quill and Scroll's National Writing Contest-Editorial Division.

As a winner Elaine receives the Quill and Scroll's National Award Gold Key. In addition, she is eligible to apply for one of the Edward J. Nell Memorial Scholarships in Journalism.

Miss Schott is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Schott of 25 Sunset Blvd., Pittsford.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Simon E. Viza will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on April 24.

They were married in Holy Family Church in 1923. They have three children, Mrs. Leonard (Dorothy) Yeager, Harold Viza, and Edward Viza, and seven grandchildren.

They now reside on Arnett Boulevard and are members of St. Augustine's parish. A Mass will be celebrated for them at St. Augustine's on the day of their anniversary.

EASTER LUNCH

The Rochester Policewives Auxiliary will sponsor an Easter luncheon for children Saturday noon, April 21, at the Police and Fire Academy.

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