



WORD FOR SUNDAY  
Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday Readings: (R1) Am. 7:12-15. (R2) Eph. 1:3-14. (R3) Mk. 6:7-13.

Sunday's readings deal with ministry: with a prophet's ministry (R1), with the Christian people's (R2), and with the apostles' ministry (R3). Since of late many questions have arisen about the priestly ministry, it might be well to re-examine two of the new insights Vatican II has offered us regarding the priesthood in the Decree on The Ministry and Life of Priests.

For years, for instance, Catholic theologians defined priesthood in terms of worship and, specifically, of sacrifice. How often have we heard that a priest is a man empowered by God to offer the Sacrifice of the Mass — as if that were all he is and has to do.

Vatican II rejected this exclusively cultic and sacrificial view: it is altogether insufficient to think of a priest primarily as a "Mass-priest" and only secondarily as a preacher of the word and a leader of the Christian community.

To underscore this point, Vatican II stressed a second, often neglected, aspect of the priesthood. For centuries, we tended to define Holy Orders in terms of the simple priest. Then, almost as an afterthought, we used to explain the ministry of the Bishop as that of the simple priest with additional "powers," especially of jurisdiction. The simple priest, and not the Bishop, was the supposed central figure in the sacrament of Orders. Some theologians even went so far as to question the sacramentality of episcopal consecration. The teaching of Vatican II is quite the reverse. It stressed that the priesthood is fully realized only in the Bishop! It is the Bishop who is "the" priest. And the simple priest shares in the Bishop's powers and not the other way around.

Since the Bishop's power is a threefold one, like Christ's, so the ministry of the simple priest is of necessity, not solely cultic, but also a threefold ministry: to preach the word, to offer sacrifice, and to shepherd God's people. St. Mark in today's

Gospel stressed, not the sacrificial aspect of the apostles' ministry, but rather the ministry of the healing word.

From the beginning of its deliberation, Vatican II strove to reinstate the word of God in its rightful position in the life of the Church. Our centuries-old partial neglect of the word of God in favor of the sacraments has been overcome, in principle at least, by the many declarations since Vatican II on the ministry of scriptural preaching. "Word" and "Sacrament" belong together. Word without the sacrament [the Protestant temptation] becomes mere moralizing. Sacrament without word [the Catholic temptation] begets a view of sacraments bordering on magic. So Jesus sent the Twelve out two by two to preach the word.

However, the priest is not just a preacher. He is called, as was Amos (R1); and he is sent to call God's people to the Lord Jesus. And since the Lord Jesus is uniquely present in the Eucharist, the priest calls God's people to the Eucharistic sacrifice to the Father, and in communion with Him become more fully a community of love.

Finally, the priest, like the Bishop, is to be a shepherd. Vatican II did not put emphasis on the power of the priest to rule the local community, but rather upon his task as leader of a family. His role, it would appear from the Decree, is to help others realize their own capacities as free, mature members of the Church. "It is the priest's part to see to it . . . that the faithful are led individually in the Holy Spirit to a development of their own vocation . . . to a sincere and active charity and to that freedom with which Christ has made us free" (#6). The picture painted by Vatican II is that of a priest who, though fully aware of his authoritative position in the Church, is yet filled with a keen sense of reverence for the individual person who forms the Christian community.

Indeed, this is a herculean task. What prayers are needed so that the priests (our Bishops) and simple priests, in communion with them, exercise the threefold ministry of the Christian priesthood: to teach, to guide, and to sanctify.

regional news reports

Ithaca

KNIGHTS

Ithaca — Knights of Columbus, Ithaca chapter recently held election of officers for the coming year. Claude Colleyacme of 312 Esty St. is the new grand knight. He replaces Don Bennett of Trumansburg. Other officers are Peter Potorti, deputy grand knight; Robert Johnson, chancellor; Ed Walczak, inside guard; Bill Kenney, outside guard; Neil Howard, warden; John Herson, recorder; George Kleeman, financial secretary; Ernie Jackson, treasurer; J.J. Clynes Jr., advocate; Hart Scofield, Don Bennett and John Barrett, trustees; and Father Albert Ryan, chaplain.

RECEPTION

Ithaca — Father John Glowowski, new associate pastor at Immaculate Conception was honored last weekend at coffee hours held after each Mass. Parishioners met and welcomed him into the parish and community.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Ithaca — The following weekend dates are available to any married couples to make their Marriage Encounter. In Syracuse, July 27, August 24, Sept. 7. For information and questions call Mr. and Mrs. Orville Curtis at 273-8460.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Ithaca — The barbecue, beer tent, concessions stand and craft booth are in need of chairmen for Immaculate Conception's parish festival, Sept. 29. If you can help call Ted or Louise Matosich at 273-7906.

BROTHER CASIMIR

Watkins Glen — Brother Casimir, who assists Father Joseph Dailey, pastor at St. Mary's of the Lake, will be on vacation during the month of July.

CHAIRLADY

Ithaca — For the first time, St. Catherine of Siena Parish Council has elected a chairlady, Mrs. Francis (Cully) Fox. Walter Schwan will be vice-chairman.

Hornell

RENEWAL 'SHELVED'

By PEG PEASE

Canisteo — According to Patrick Connor, head of the liturgy committee and all-round helper at St. Joachim's, "the Time of Renewal here has been shelved!" A parish library has been set up offering books galore on such faith-related topics as prayer and contemplation to Zen Buddhism.

Patrick says, "although the bookcase itself is just four by four — hardly enough for books galore — it's momentous in the eyes of the people who carted their books to the church. Each book was stamped 'St. Joachim's Church' and quickly catalogued and shelved."

The books will continue to increase, according to Patrick, with donations continuing from people so inclined to give. New books and old ones are welcome,

he says, though the preference is to avoid the "religious novel." He says, "We're trying to get established as an information center until we become more experienced. The library is also on a Catholic book club mailing list to keep up with the times."

Patrick concludes, "Whatever, this endeavor looks promising though it remains to be seen how much renewal will be 'booked up' here in St. Joachim's."

REGISTRATION

Bath — Registrations are now being taken at St. Mary's for the opening of school in September. Three newcomers to the faculty were welcomed recently: Sister Carol, Sister Joan of Arc and Sister Patricia.

ANNUAL FAIR

Bath — St. Mary's Annual Fair will be held on the church grounds August 4. Workers and ideas are needed.

AWARDS GIVEN

Hornell — Three area student nurses have received scholarships at St. James Mercy Hospital's School of Nursing in Hornell. Mrs. Elizabeth Day was awarded the Arthur R. Foreman Sr. memorial merit scholarship of \$100. Receiving scholarships of \$150 from the Reidman Agency, Inc., were Miss Susan Payne of Woodhull and Miss Deborah Wood of Alfred Station.

CDA ELECTIONS

Hornell — Officers of Court St. Ann No. 194, Catholic Daughters of America were installed recently at the Sons of Italy Hall here. They are Mrs. Margaret Haley, regent; Mrs. Daisy Sherman, first vice regent; Mrs. Antionette Daniels, second vice regent; Mrs. Irene Griffin, monitor; Mrs. Lucy Daniels, financial secretary; Mrs. Betty McKinley, treasurer; Mrs. Mary K. Cartella, recording secretary; Mrs. Carolyn K. Kelly, lecturer; Mrs. Cynthia Green, organist; Mrs. Irene Morris and Mrs. Carolyn Giglio, trustees; Mrs. Bertha Logan, trustee six years. Miss Josephine FitzGerald, supervising deputy was the installing officer. Miss FitzGerald was honored by the group in observance of her retirement as supervising deputy, a special representative of the state regent to the local court, a post she has held for four years.

Auburn

NURSERY SCHOOL OPENS THIS FALL

By Mary Ann Ginnerty

Auburn — A new nursery school will open this fall and will meet daily from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the kindergarten room of the former Sacred Heart School.

The Sacred Heart Nursery School is accepting enrollments of preschool children. They may be enrolled for three or five days a week.

Persons interested may contact Mrs. David Martin, Franklin Street Road, or Miss Francine Ruschak, 20 Anna St. Enrollment is open to families from the entire community.

Mrs. Frank Delfavero, a certified kindergarten and nursery school teacher, will head the staff, assisted by Mrs. David Martin as teacher's aide.

The facilities and program have been inspected, reviewed and approved by representatives of

the State Education Department according to Mrs. Creston Munger, who set up the curriculum and will serve as advisor-director of the nursery school.

Mrs. Munger holds a B.S. degree in elementary education from Brockport State College and an M.S. in school psychology and counseling from the University of Illinois. She has taught in elementary grades, and presently teaches nursery education at Auburn Community College and is school psychologist for the parochial schools in Auburn.

Mrs. Delfavero has taught music at St. Mary's and Sacred Heart Schools and is certified as a kindergarten and nursery school teacher. She holds a B.S. and M.S. in elementary and early childhood education from the University of Vienna and studied music at the Conservatory of the City of Vienna, Austria.

Mrs. Martin, teacher's aide, attended Albany State College, and has worked with music in the preschool Sunday school at Sacred Heart.

The staff will accept any donations of materials and supplies for use in the program. The program has been approved by the Sacred Heart Parish Council. The parish will provide the facilities and some services, at no cost, but staff salaries will be on a self-supporting basis from tuition fees.

SISTERS MOVE

Auburn — Sister Mary Faith, principal of Holy Family School since 1969, joins the staff of Our Lady of Mercy High School with the closing of Holy Family School in Auburn.

Holy Family, Sacred Heart and St. Alphonsus have consolidated and will open in September as Blessed Trinity School located in the former St. Alphonsus School property.

Sister Ann Cullen, who joined the staff of Holy Family in 1969 and was named vice-principal this year, has accepted an appointment as child care worker at Holy Angels School in Rochester.

Sister Celine of the Holy Family School staff has also accepted an assignment in Rochester.

ROSARY, ALTAR OFFICERS

Cayuga — Newly elected officers of the St. Joseph's Rosary and Altar Society were installed at the recent annual banquet held at Michael's Restaurant. Installed as officers for the coming year were: Ann Salato, president; Carolyn Erving, vice-president; and Jean Gaffney, secretary-treasurer.

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Deaths

Father Fischer Dies,  
43 Years a Priest

Father George B. Fischer, CSC, a Holy Cross missionary who once lived in Rochester and led parish missions throughout the diocese and western New York, died July 6, 1973, at the Holy Cross Mission House in North Dartmouth, Mass. He was a priest for 43 years.

Father Fischer came to Rochester with his parents in the early 1900s. He graduated from Blessed Sacrament School and old Cathedral High School. He also attended Mechanics Institute, now Rochester Institute of Technology, and was a member of the Class of 1922. He entered the novitiate of the Holy Cross Fathers later that year and was ordained in 1929.

Survivors are a brother, Robert J. Fischer; a sister, Mrs. Frances F. Snow; and several nieces and nephews.

Sarah L. Comeau

Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated July 9, 1973, for Mrs. Sarah Landry Comeau at Holy Rosary Church. Mrs. Comeau died July 5.

She is survived by three daughters, Sister Aloysia Comeau, SSJ, Mrs. John (Fern) Crowley, and



FATHER FISCHER

Mrs. Edwin (Eva) Nymen of Hawthorne, Calif.; two sons, Lee and Aurele Comeau; 17 grandchildren and 35 great grandchildren; one sister, Mrs. Edward Leger of New Brunswick, Canada; and several nieces and nephews, all of Canada.