



WORD FOR SUNDAY
Fr. Albert Sharron

Sunday Readings: (R1) Dt. 4:1-2, 6-8. (R2) Jas. 1:17-18, 21-22, 27. (R3) Mk. 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.

In his farewell address to the Israelites, Moses told the people to observe the commandments of the Lord, and he added, "You shall not add to what I command you nor subtract from it." (R1)

Sunday's gospel reveals that by the time of Christ the law of God had not only been added to, but that it had been virtually overthrown by man-made traditions. So Jesus blistered the Scribes and the Pharisees with, "You hypocrites. You disregard God's commandment and cling to what is human tradition."

Then Jesus summoned the crowd. They were always waiting in the wings, as it were, to be summoned on stage when needed. To them he stated a principal shocking to Jews. It regarded eating without first observing the customary ritual purification. Jesus said, "What a person eats cannot defile him." This was as revolutionary as the Church's decree not so long ago that Catholics could eat meat on Friday. Jews during the time of the Maccabees died by the hundreds rather than eat pork. Yet Jesus stated, "Nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him impure. That which comes out of him and only that constitutes impurity."

Put in modern dress, Our Lord's words would be just as shocking now. Today, much stress is put on environment. "Man grows in community," we are told.

"Character is the aggregate of our surroundings, the sum total of parents, home, neighborhood, food, schooling, and so on." In a sense this is true. But carried to extremes, it could destroy responsibility. Environment conditions — but does not cause — character. Jesus took the disciples apart and explained the cause of character. "Wicked designs come from the deepest

recesses of the human heart." In plainest terms, Jesus said, "Sin originates in the heart, just as words do in the mind."

The new law was not a written law, for the point of reference was the heart. Nothing which does not enter the heart can defile a person. Food does not enter the heart; therefore, it cannot make one unclean. But what comes from the heart, this, and this alone, is decisive. By this gauge many things are evil. "Such obvious things as theft and murder, and such less obvious things as evil thoughts, malice, deceit." The principal here is exactly the same as that enunciated in the Sermon on the Mount. There, a harsh word was reprobated as strongly as murder, and lustful desire as adultery; there a desire for revenge is said to cut one off from God even more certainly than the more easily recognized sins. Thoughts, desires, motives — these are the first forms which defilement takes.

As the driver determines the direction of a car, so the heart determines the morality of an action. The heart is the dressing room where sin is "made up", before it appears on the stage on life.

If a ship is filling with water it is in vain to use pumps unless the leaks also are repaired. Similarly, exterior observances of religion are in vain unless the heart is first good. **In a state prison, criminals obey regulations, but their obedience does not make them less criminal unless their hearts are first changed. Evil passions when restrained only by law or public opinion and not by the grace and love of God still merit condemnation.**

Evil is not a robber that breaks into our house; it is a tenant who breaks out of our house! If we keep our hearts clean, then only shall we be truly clean and among those whom Jesus called blessed.



New Experiences
For City Youth

Children enrolled in St. Charles Settlement House Day Camp program take part in a sing-along, above. Following a morning flag-raising ceremony, the group left for a day at Letchworth State Park. Boys at left settled their differences before entering Charles House for the get together. About 150 neighborhood children were enrolled in the 6 week recreation program.



Marian Celebration

A national celebration of witness to Mary, occasioned by the 300th anniversary of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception, brought bishops and other dignitaries to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington for a concelebrated Mass. The concelebrants around the altar are from left: former Bishop John J. Russell of Richmond; Auxiliary Archbishop Nicholas T. Elko of Cincinnati; Archbishop Jean Jadot, Apostolic Delegate to the U.S.; Archbishop William Baum of Washington; Bishop Leo A. Pursley of Fort Wayne-South Bend; Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin of Cincinnati and the Very Rev. Joseph J. Sielski, M.I.C., Superior General of the Marians.

Business in the Diocese

The following have been named assistant secretaries of Marine Midland Bank of Rochester:

Charles W. Aprile Jr., a mortgage consultant and appraiser in the Mortgage Department; Richard L. Ford, manager of the Buffalo-Elmgrove Office at 1005 Elmgrove Road, in the Town of Gates; M. Elizabeth McArthur, employment and Affirmative Action coordinator in the Personal Department; Rajni K. Shah, a financial analyst in the Financial Planning Department.

Aprile joined Marine Midland in 1968. He attended SUNY/Geneseo and has successfully completed several

specialized real estate and appraisal training programs. Aprile, his wife and two children live at 24 North View Drive, Geneseo.

He is a member of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Geneseo.

Elizabeth McArthur joined Marine Midland in 1969 following her graduation from the SUNY/Geneseo. She will be enrolling in a master's degree program at the University of Rochester this September. A native of the Syracuse area, she, her husband and son, live on Gaslight Lane, Rochester. The former Elizabeth Robinson, she is a 1965 graduate of DeSales High School in Geneva.

That the Blind May Read

Volunteer work is utilized many ways in this area but one of the least publicized is the transcription of books into braille for the blind.

According to braille experts, numerous blind people, many of them students, learn best by reading braille rather than by listening to tapes, records or a reader. Frequently teachers assign reading so fresh from the press that they haven't been recorded or published in braille. Thus the volunteer is needed.

Braille may be likened to a combination of typing, Morse code and shorthand. It is done on a machine called the Perkins Braille, similar to a small typewriter. With only six keys it is able to braille any word, punc-

tuation, number, fraction, decimals, music.

Classes, usually lasting about two hours, will be held one morning a week, starting in September and lasting until early Spring.

Upon completion of the course, the student brailist submits a 35-page manuscript to the Library of Congress and if her work merits a mark of 80 or more she becomes certified.

A list of courses:

East Rochester Volunteer Braille Group — East Rochester First Presbyterian Church - 109 East Ave., East Rochester, Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 9:30 a.m. Mrs. F. S. James Daniel: 381-2781.

First Baptist Church Braille Group — 175 Allen's Creek Road, Thursday, Sept. 20 at 9:30 a.m. Mrs. Frank J. Binsack: 381-3314.

Temple B'rith Kodesh Braille Group — 2131 Elmwood Ave., Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 10 a.m.,

Council Installed

Newly elected members of the parish council at St. John the Evangelist Church in Spencerport were installed at Mass Sunday noon, Aug. 12. A social hour followed.

Mrs. Ted Mason: 586-9484; Mrs. Victor Wolkin: 381-3937.

Lions Braille Group of Spencerport — White Church, Spencerport, Thursday, Sept. 13 at 9:30 a.m., Mrs. Arthur Hinman: 352-5368 or Mrs. Raymond Spencer: 352-4214.

Bicentennial Plans Made

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — Robert N. Lynch, a leader in efforts to obtain public aid for non-public schools, was named secretary of the U.S. Catholic bishops' Ad Hoc committee that will coordinate planning of national Catholic participation in the 1976 U.S. Bicentennial. Kevin R. Farrell, a political science graduate from the University of Missouri, will serve as assistant secretary. Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for the observance of the bicentennial is Cardinal John Dearden of Detroit.

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