



WORD FOR SUNDAY
Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday Readings: (R1) Is. 53:10-11. (R2) Hebr. 4:14-16. (R3) Mk. 10:35-45.

There is a best-selling book titled *Hope for the Flowers*. It's a tale, believe it or not, about a caterpillar who had trouble becoming what he really is.

After birth, Stripe, the caterpillar, began to eat and eat. Finally, he thought there must be more to life than this. So he went in search of satisfaction. One day he came to a column of caterpillars, each crawling over the other, climbing, pushing, squeezing, crushing, trying to reach something at the top — but the top was so lost in the clouds that Stripe had no idea what was there. But everybody was struggling to get there, so Stripe thought it must be awfully good. So he plunged into the pile. He kept pushing himself upward, stepping on other caterpillars and being stepped on himself. It was a caterpillar-eat-caterpillar world.

After many weary days, and many bruises, Stripe met another caterpillar, Yellow, also caught in the climbing rush. The two fell in love. For a moment they forgot the fatiguing struggle; then they decided to give it up altogether.

Down they came from the madding throng of caterpillars and crawled to a beautiful meadow by themselves. It was so

CDA Day Oct. 21

Oct. 21 has been designated by the national board of the Catholic Daughters of America as "National Catholic Daughters of America Day."

This organization through its sevenfold program of involvement offers women the opportunity for wholehearted Christian response to the teachings of the Second Vatican Council and its directive — "that all Christians do apostolic work."

These members use their talents in the service of Church and Community, enhancing the spiritual life, intensifying patriotism, educating, and developing leadership qualities.

For seven decades, since its founding in Utica, in 1903, this organization has aided in the spiritual, material and moral development of women.

Its youth program encourages and trains thousands of girls to become vital influences in their communities and effective leaders in their adult lives.

Throughout the state and nation, Catholic Daughters of America will celebrate Oct. 21 as a special day in their individual courts by assisting at the Eucharistic Liturgy in a body led by their officers in ritualistic robes.

The national celebration will be held at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Mooney Friends Raise \$6,000

The Cardinal Century Club of Cardinal Mooney High School has given Brother Aubert Harrigan, principal, \$6,000 raised in its first year of existence. The money is for financial aid to students.

The presentation was made at a banquet and dance Oct. 6 at Alfredo's. The club consists of approximately 90 contributors.

much quieter, happier. They lived in love. For the while it was like heaven. But as time passed, even hugging each other seemed boring. Stripe became restless. "There must be more to life than that," he thought. He hankered to know what was at the top of the mountain of caterpillars which he had left. Yellow begged Stripe to be content. He could not. Finally he left Yellow for the mountain of caterpillars and began again the struggle to get to the top.

Yellow's heart was broken. One day she saw a caterpillar hung upside down, caught in some hairylike stuff. Yellow thought he was in trouble. The caterpillar said, "No, my dear, I must do this to become a butterfly."

Yellow's whole insides leapt up. "Butterfly? Tell me, sir, what is a butterfly?"

"A butterfly is what you are meant to become. It flies with beautiful wings and drinks only nectar from flowers and carries the seed of love from one flower to another. Without butterflies the world would have few flowers."

"It can't be true!" gasped Yellow. "How can I, a fuzzy worm, become a butterfly?"

"You must want to fly so very much that you are willing to give up being a caterpillar."

"You mean to die?" asked Yellow.

"Yes and no," he answered. "What looks like you will die, but what's really you will live."

So the stranger caterpillar taught Yellow how to become a butterfly. She wanted to get Stripe, but he was too high up the mountain of caterpillars to reach. So she took the risk, spun a cocoon, and emerged a butterfly.

How wonderful to fly! Happily, Yellow flew to the mountain of caterpillars in search of Stripe. At last she discovered him near the top. How worn and haggard he looked! Finally she got his eye. Stripe saw Yellow and the love in her eyes. He could not believe what he saw — she was flying! All of a sudden he realized that there was something more to life than climbing. So he started down the pillar.

As Stripe got to the foot of the mountain of caterpillars, he had misgivings. "Was he right?" he wondered. He wandered off to where he and Yellow had had such happy days and fell asleep.

When he awoke, there was Yellow fanning him with her butterfly wings. She seemed to tell him to climb once again but not to the top of a mountain of caterpillars but up a tree. He did. He seemed to know just what to do. He went out on a limb and spun a cocoon. It grew darker and darker. He felt he had to let go of everything. Yellow waited. And one day Stripe flew to her side.

Beautiful allegory. Wonderful picture, too, of today's Gospel which might be labeled — "Every man for himself." James and John wanted the top spots. They were ambitious. And like all ambition, it blinded them for a moment to what they were really meant to be. They believed that to be great meant to be on top, as though position makes a man. Like all ambition, it precipitated a quarrel among the disciples and momentarily turned them into a dog-eat-dog pack.

Once man forgets what he is really meant to be, then he becomes ambitious, and ambition breathes the violence and unhealthy competition that can turn God's beautiful world into a mad-mad world that man yearns to stop and get off from.

CUF Leaders Laud Pontiff

St. Louis (RNS) — Calling Pope Paul a "prophet" on the consequences of contraception, a leader in a lay Roman Catholic movement for orthodoxy declared here that the "credibility" of the Pope's 1968 encyclical on birth control can be proved by today's "conjugal infidelity," the "general lowering of morality," and abortion.

K. D. Whitehead, executive vice president of Catholics United for the Faith (CUF), New Rochelle, N.Y., told participants in a CUF "Thou Art Peter" Forum (Oct. 5-7) that the encyclical also foretold increasing government interference in marriage and family life.

KNIGHTS ELECTIONS

Dansville — The Knights of Columbus, Dansville Council 785 recently elected new leaders for the 1973-74 year. The officers are Richard Wirth, grand knight; John Rauber, deputy grand knight; Karl Stilson, chancellor; Joseph Amico, warden; John Stevens, lecturer; William Mitchell and William Recktenwald, guards; Clarence Gessner, Lester Gould and Richard Nagle, trustees.

He asserted that "for Catholics who reflect on the matter it can be no surprise at all that practically the whole world has fallen into the birth control trap except that moral Teacher — the Church."

Whitehead charged that the "contraceptive mentality" now prevalent in the world is the direct cause of abortion and one of the "corrosive agents" helping to destroy marriage. "We can conclude that man intends to exercise his sole control (of life) a good deal more autocratically than what might seem desirable in the light of what we know about the general intentions of the Creator," he said.

Speaking of Humanae Vitae, he asserted that while the Pope was restating nothing more than what the Church had been teaching all along, "he was restating it to a world which had long since

accommodated its moral views to take advantage of the new benefits supposedly conferred by the use of contraception."

These consequences, which have "proved Pope Paul a prophet," include a "statistically verifiable absolute increase in sexual misdeeds." These in turn have resulted in "conjugal infidelity . . . general lowering of morality . . . venereal disease of epidemic proportions" and the loss of respect for the human person, especially among youth.

He also cited the increase in divorce and the growing acceptance of abortion as other "consequences" of the contraceptive mentality. In addition, he charged that American society has moved toward institutionalizing "pre- and extra-marital sex" and to protect them by contraceptive clinics and legalized abortion.



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