



WORD FOR SUNDAY
Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday Readings: (R1) Jer. 31:7-9. (R2) Hebr. 5:1-6. (R3) Mk. 10:41-52.

In Sacred Scripture the Holy Spirit uses many images to express the natural state of man. Perhaps none is more frequently used than blindness.

The cure of the Jericho-beggar, the blind man Bartimaeus, was a parable miracle. Prior to curing Bartimaeus, Jesus had been trying to convince the apostles that the way to glory was through the cross.

As Jesus passed through Jericho on His way up to Jerusalem and His death, He gave Bartimaeus his sight. His action said in effect to His apostles, "You too are blind.

Light alone is not enough to see. Bartimaeus was as blind at noon as at midnight. And sinners can be as blind to the blazing words of the Gospel as amid the deep gloom of paganism.

Faith is a point of departure, not merely of arrival! If we are to grow in faith, then besides God's work, there must also be our work.

What a man this Bartimaeus was! He had lost his sight, but he made good use of what he had. He had hearing. "Hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth," he reacted at once.

As always, the calloused tried to silence him. But as a pebble in a rushing stream does not dam the waters but only causes them

to swirl more furiously, resistance made Bartimaeus only the more insistent. He would not be denied. Nobody was going to stop him from his one chance to escape the world of darkness.

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. His hour was drawing near, and He was hurrying to meet it. What could penetrate His preoccupation with His coming sacrifice? An emperor? A king? The cry of a poor beggar was enough to halt Him on His march.

The Master stopped. He called him who had called on Him. "What do you want Me to do for you?" Jesus asked, as if He did not know. The man knew what he wanted. His prayer was precise. "Rabboni, I want to see."

Faith is the cry for help, grace is the answer. Faith cannot scale the precipice from which one has fallen, but it can lay hold of the rope which graces let down from the top. Jesus reaches down and faith reaches out, and hand grasps hand — one in power, the other in weakness.

Well might we pray, like Bartimaeus, "Lord I want to see — to see my blindness, my spiritual poverty." Bartimaeus' discipleship began with a need. Jesus met it. Filled with gratitude, Bartimaeus then "started to follow Him." The following of Jesus begins with an awareness of one's neediness.

Baltimore See To Ordain Black Priests

Baltimore [RNS] — Two young men from this city's ghetto will be ordained next Spring to the Roman Catholic priesthood and they will become the first black

diocesan priests in the nation's oldest Catholic See.

Maurice Blackwell, 27, and Donald Sterling, 25, are now

students at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, and serve as part-time deacons at two inner-city Baltimore parishes.

JUDGE A. L. CASSETTI

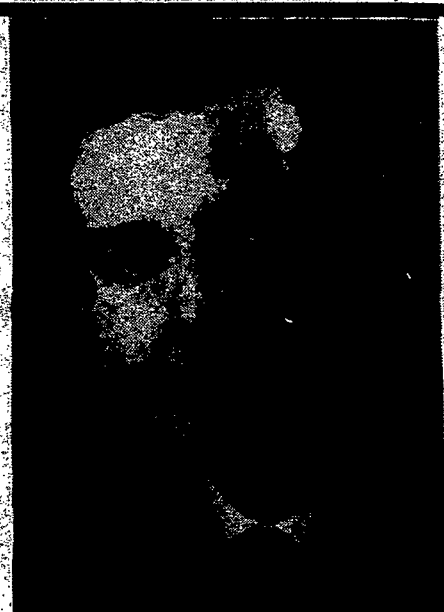
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Good News on the Air

Table with columns: RADIO, HOST, STATION, DAY, TIME. Lists various radio programs like 'Rosary for Peace', 'God in Headlines', 'Call for Renewal', etc.

Special Highlights

CALL FOR RENEWAL — Rev. Gene Ferguson, president of Genesee Ecumenical Ministries, is guest host, with Robert Bonn, from the Interfaith Jail Ministries, Saturday evening, Oct. 27. CATHOLIC NEWS AND VIEWS — Father Cosgrove will interview Sister Rene of St. James Mercy Hospital on the Meals on Wheels program for senior citizens. LOUISE WILSON SHOW — Mrs. William Sheehy and Carl Zollo will discuss the Seton Ball with Louise on Tuesday, Oct. 30, 9 a.m., WOKR-TV, Channel 13, Rochester.