



WORD FOR SUNDAY

Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R1) Dt. 6:2-6. (R2) Hebr. 7:23-28. (R3) Mk. 12:28-34.

In Judaism there were two tendencies: one to multiply laws, and the other to codify them in a sentence or two. A proselyte once asked Hillel, a famous rabbi (25 B.C.), to instruct him in the whole law — and to do this, while standing on one leg! Hillel said "What you hate for yourself, do not do to your neighbor. This is the whole law. The rest is commentary. Go and learn."

Though Jesus agreed with that statement (Mt. 7:12), He perfected it. Hillel had said, "Do not do to your neighbor what you hate done to yourself." Jesus in turn gave a positive construction, "Love your neighbor." For Hillel and the Jews "neighbor" meant fellow-Jews. Jesus broadened the term to include all men.

Furthermore Jesus appended this law to the law on love of God — the Shema (the Hebrew word for "hear!"). "Hear, O Israel! the Lord our God is Lord alone! Therefore you shall love the Lord . . ." The Shema was recited by Jews twice daily and began synagogue services, and still does. No one before Jesus had ever linked the love of God and the love of neighbor together.

Did you ever stop to think why there are ten commandments — not eight or seven or five? The Jews wished to be able to count on their ten fingers the basic laws on which rested their religious and social institutions. Five of the ten commandments, on the one hand, protect the rights of God; five, on the other hand, protect the rights of man. And when hands are folded in prayer, it symbolizes that the rights of God and the rights of man go hand in hand.

The love of neighbor depends on the love of God, as the earth's fertility does on rain. Were one able to prevent rain from falling upon the earth on the pretext of making the earth more fertile, he would only create a desert. Likewise those who would serve man and, because of their service, neglect God would soon see their love of neighbor wither away.

Moses declared, "Hear, O Israel! the Lord is our God, the Lord alone!" to safeguard the Jews against idolatry. But Jesus echoed His words as the reason for our consecrating to God all our powers of body and soul. "Hear, O Israel! . . . Therefore you shall love the Lord your God

Rochester Woman Serving in Texas

Sister Joan Cook, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Edward L. Cook of 380 Driving Park Ave., was on the planning committee for a Faith and Order Conference held in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 19-21.

Sister Joan is a member of the Victory Noll Order, Huntington, Ind. which serves in 17 states, and in Oruro, Bolivia. She works in the campus ministry at St. Philip's Community College, San Antonio, where 4,000 students are involved in the Cooperative Ministry program.

OFFICERS NAMED

Canisteo — The Women of St. Joachim's Church elected officers recently. They are Mrs. Joseph Soper, president; Mrs. Thomas Cronin, vice president; Miss Marcia Ross, treasurer; Mrs. Thomas Ryan, secretary; Mrs. Jack Ferree, publicity chairman and Mrs. Edward Rheinheimer, adult education program representative.

with all your heart . . .

Polygamy, for instance, is contrary to the true idea of marriage. Who has many wives can love no one of them as a wife should be loved. Furthermore, the ideal of marriage, is equally violated if a man will not give himself totally to one wife — will not share with her all his thoughts, affections and plans. So man's spiritual life suffers either if he has many gods; or if, having only one God, he is not devoted to Him wholeheartedly — with all his being, thoughts and strength.

And what are some signs that I love God?

First, I would like to talk with Him in prayer, share secrets as I would with a friend.

Secondly, I would like to hear from Him — a letter at least. Therefore I would read the Scriptures faithfully, for these are His words to me.

Thirdly, His friends would be my friends; I would try to love my neighbor.

Lastly, I would not mind doing things for Him, like serving others for His sake.

It is the ability of the head to reason that makes the philosopher. But it is the disposition of the heart to love that makes the Christian.

Someone said man is a tomb! When asked why, he answered, "Something is buried in him."

When asked what this might be, he answered, "Love."

Resurrection means bringing our love to life — our love of God and our love of neighbor.



HOFFMAN

New Coordinator

Auburn — St. Alphonsus has opened its 1973 religious education program under the direction of Robert Hoffman, the parish's first full time religious education co-ordinator.

Hoffman, married and the father of a month old daughter, Lynn, has taught in both grade and high school and CCD at all levels. His educational experiences include four years of theology at St. Bernard's Seminary.

Hoffman's initial area of concentration will be the junior and senior high school curriculum and the exploring avenues of adult education.

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