

WORD FOR SUNDAY Fr. Albert Shamon

**Sunday Readings:** (R1) Dn. 7:13-14. (R2) Rv. 1:5-8. (R3) Jn. 18:33-37

The last Sunday of the Church year celebrates the Feast of Christ the King. "I am a King," Jesus told Pilate. Then He explained what kind of a king He is — "the reason why I came into the world is to testify to the truth." He came into the world as a king of truth. His subjects would be all those "committed to the truth."

Look at the world into which Jesus had come. It was split into three main parts. Thus the title Pilate nailed to the cross of Christ, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews," was written in three languages: Greek, Latin and Hebrew. All these peoples claimed to be seeking the truth.

The Greeks sought it in philosophy, culture, and art. In the time of Paul, Athenian philosophers debated in the Areopagus about truth. Their architecture followed rigid laws as to proportion. Their Parthenon, for instance, would never have been a "true" building with one less curve. In drama they insisted on "the unities." They had "the line of beauty" for every feature of a statue, and the "tone of color" for each shade of the painter's picture. They even counted the digits, and called only the threes, sevens and tens perfect.

But when they came to conduct, they had no such thing as truth. When Aristides strove more and more—for justice, they banished him. When Socrates got close to morality, they made him drink the hemlock.

The Romans, too, sought truth. They looked for it in inexorable law. They compelled human beings to become true by conformity to laws. The populace grew rigid and machine-like; the higher classes reacted with vice and ingenious forms of immorality. In the end they got nothing but a code of laws and phalanxes of soldiers to enforce them.

Finally, the Hebrews sought truth through ritual. They had Scripture, but exalted the letter above the spirit. Then the "traditions" — their own human interpretations of God's laws — took precedence over everything. Their religious leaders displayed God's word on their foreheads

## U.S., Vatican Aides Meet

Vatican City [RNS] — Joseph J. Sisco, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East Affairs, met here with Archbishop Agostino Casaroli, secretary of the Vatican's Council for Public Affairs of the Church, on the morning of Nov. 12.

His visit with the Vatican's equivalent of "Foreign Minister" strengthened speculation among diplomats in Rome that a representative of Pope Paul will take part in a proposed international conference to bring about peace in the Middle East.

## Crossword Answer

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but never carried it in their hearts — phylacteries took the place of principles. Hence the people became lip-worshippers — "This people honoreth Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me."

Into a world, therefore, that had not discovered truth, Jesus came. He came "to testify to the truth."

And two thousand years later, the world still has need of truth. Bigotry, prejudice and hatred still distort the truth. Not even the Supreme Court of the land has been immune. Witness its iniquitous, Herodlike decree on abortion, and its denial of aid to private schools, prompted largely by bigotry and prejudice.

Nor is the crucifixion of truth limited to the highest court of the land. Weekly, every Saturday at noon, a radio station near my own parish in Waterloo broadcasts a program purporting to give religious "information" by none other, mind you, than an avowed atheist. One Saturday I listened to this broadcast and shades of Paul Blanshard rose. The "informational" program was gutted with so much innuendo and half truths that I could think only of those convex and concave mirrors in amusement parks that distort you all out of shape. Such dishonesty in an age that claims great learning saddens, if not sickens, one

Regardless, man's inclination to error points to a need now, more than ever before, because of the mass media, for truth, for allegiance to One Who died, not because He claimed to be a King, but because He claimed to be the King of truth. In Him alone, Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews, rest the hopes of Twentieth Century

## Missioners Balk At Junta

Notre Dame, Ind. — Inless the Chilean military juntal presents assurances that it will not interfere in religious personnel appointments or educational policies at St. George's College in Santiago, Holy Cross priests will not go back there, according to Father William Lewers, CSC, provincial superior of the Indiana Province.

In response to government action and Father Lewers' orders, the priests withdrew from the 2,600-student elementary and secondary school conducted by the Indiana Province of the Holy Cross Fathers since 1943.

Chilean Air Force Commander Osvaldo Verdugo, named by the military government to direct St. George's, had demanded that Father Robert Plasker Holy Cross superior in Chile, stop teaching, and that Father Gerald Whelan, director of St. George's until the seizure, relinquish all administrative duties and confine his work to teaching. Both were ordered to leave the school at the end of the term, Dec. 31. In addition, a Holy Cross seminarian and two School Sisters of Notre Dame of Wilton, Conn., were ordered to leave.

Father Lewers, who has spent recent weeks in Chile attempting to solve the problem, said in a letter to Commander Verdugo that "the school must retain independence both in the appointment of religious personnel CMMB GIFTS

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and in determining educational policies."

The 12 Holy Cross priests who were at the school already have received offers to work in other educational projects in the country and will remain in Chile, Father Lewers said.

The military assumed control of St. George's last month because of alleged "Marxist infiltration" there. Father Lewers denied the charge and noted that the authorities could produce no evidence.

He said he thought the junta intervened at the request of a small but influential group of parents. Last year, the school opened its enrollment to lower and middle class students by adopting a fuition plan scaled to

parents' income. Two-thirds of the students now come from lower and middle class families. A small group of parents have objected to this and other changes at the school, Father Lewers said.

St. George's was the first private secondary school to be taken over by the junta. The military has removed more than 35 directors of public high schools and assumed control of the country's eight universities.

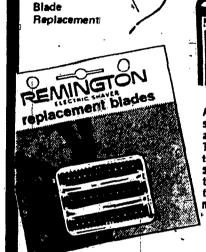
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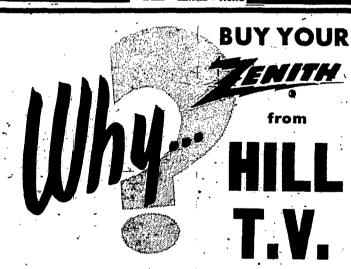
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