

# WORD FOR SUNDAY

## Faber Albert Stanton

Sunday's Readings: (R1) Is. 6:1-8; (R2) 1 Cor. 15:1-11. (R3) Lk. 5:1-11.

From each of next Sunday's Readings, there looms a great personage: Isaiah (R1), Paul (R2), and Peter (R3). The underlying theme of each reading is that of vocation or the idea that God works through men.

Interestingly enough, Isaiah, Paul and Peter balked when called by God. Isaiah groaned, "Woe is me, I am doomed!" Paul confessed, "I am the least of the apostles." And Peter begged Jesus to "leave me, Lord. I am a sinful man." **If God were to wait till He found a worthy instrument He would have to wait till the end of the world. He takes each of us as we are, and goes from there.**

To do anything successfully in life, we all need a strong purpose, a dominant goal. Just as the law of gravity keeps everything from spinning off the earth, so a strong purpose alone — like an irresistible natural law — can keep all activity from fragmenting and dissipating itself like water poured out on sand.

No one achieves success or greatness in business, art, literature, or in anything else, unless he comes under the spell of a dominant purpose. And no influence can oppose the disintegrating force of self-love and self-will and compel us to give our hearts to serve God except that which comes from God Himself. **Only when a man experiences God Himself, when God has seized him, will he leave all and follow God.**

It was some such mystical experience like this that transformed the lives of Isaiah, Paul and Peter. For all three, the call of God was a divine experience that led to total surrender. Once one of the seraphim touched the mouth of Isaiah with a burning ember, he responded, "Here I am, send me." Paul admitted that it was "by God's favor I am what I am." After the miraculous catch of fish, Peter left everything and became the follower of Jesus.

God came into their lives. All reacted in the same way: protesting their unworthiness. Yet all were changed. For them, life really began at the moment of their experience of God. That experience turned the rivers of their energy into another channel.

It is significant that for years these three men had been familiar with the most suggestive

ritual in the world — the religious worship of Judaism. Yet liturgy only touched the surface. **It had made them moral, but not apostolic.** It was the vision of God, not the sight of the temple, which had revolutionized their lives. To Isaiah the vision came in the temple. To Paul, on the road to Damascus. And to Peter, on the shore of the Lake of Galilee.

The experience of the divine is possible for all of us. That is why at baptism we were equipped with the gifts of the Holy Spirit: to render us able to experience the God who dwells within us as in a temple. The more we experience God, the more unworthy we see ourselves. Our experience can happen any time, any place — in church, as for Isaiah; during working hours, as for Paul, or after working hours, as for Peter.

Unless we experience God's presence, our lives will be little transformed, nor shall we touch the lives of others. **For an apostolic witness is one who has experienced God.** The supreme business of every man in this life is to see God and then to help others to have the vision. "Blest are the single-hearted for they shall see God."

### Impeachment Asked By S.F. Catholics

San Francisco [RNS] — The Commission on Social Justice for the San Francisco Catholic archdiocese has called on the U.S. House of Representatives to "initiate the impeachment process in relation to President Nixon."

At the same time, the commission chairman, Msgr. James Flynn, stressed that the action should "not be interpreted as a pre-judgment of the President's guilt."

"The commission considers the impeachment process a legitimate Constitutional means whereby the representatives of the people can determine whether or not there are grounds for the removal of the President from office," Msgr. Flynn said.

"At the same time, it is an opportunity for the President to defend himself before the only constitutionally recognized forum available to him as President."

#### CWV AWARD

James A. O'Connor of Sacred Heart Post 1127 was named Catholic War Veteran of the Year at the county organization's annual convention at Island Valley Country Club. Also installed was Michael Terrigno, commander.



#### No Generation Gap

No generation gap here as possibly the oldest and youngest participants in the National March for Life chat in front of the U.S. Capitol building. Ignatius O'Connor, 82, journeyed from Boston while little Robert O'Keefe, 1 1/2, came from Bowie, Md., with his parents to participate in the "Circle of Life" around the Capitol and the huge rally calling for a pro-life amendment to the Constitution. [RNS]

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#### GIVEN CURIAL POSTS

Vatican City [RNS] — Cardinal James R. Knox, Archbishop of Melbourne, Australia, has been named to head two Vatican congregations, the first Australian ever to hold a top position in the Roman Curia, the administrative arm of the Roman Catholic Church. Pope Paul appointed him prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Discipline of the Sacraments and prefect of the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship.

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