

WORD FOR SUNDAY

Sunday's Reading: (R1) Gn. 15:5-12, 17-18. (R2) Phil. 3:17-4:1. (R3) Lk. 9:28-36.

Baptism is our covenant with God. As with every covenant, it is God who initiates it. Thus God called Abraham to leave his country and follow Him. Abraham obeyed with a faith so great that he is called "The Father of Faith." As a reward, God promised to make him the father of a great nation.

To confirm His promise, God used the custom practiced at the time for making treaties. He told Abraham to split some animals in two. Then "a smoking brazier and a flaming torch appeared which passed through these pieces." The brazier and the torch symbolized God. They passed between the split carcasses as if

K of C Plans Week

The area Knights of Columbus are revving up for their annual Brotherhood Week, March 24-30. The function of the week is to promote charitable programs in the community.

At the close of the week a banquet will be held at the Towne House Motor Inn. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and State Deputy Anthony Caramelo will join other dignitaries from the Church and community at the affair.

The evening will begin with a social hour at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 and dancing at 9.

Reservations for tickets, \$15 per couple, must be made in advance with ticket chairman Timothy Halpin, 73 Kings Lane, 266-5684; or auxiliary state chairman of council activities, Thomas Grosodonia, 241 Oak Ridge Dr., 342-2514.

Deaths

John J. Feeney

Mass of the Resurrection was at St. Salome's Church celebrated Feb. 27 for John J. Feeney who died Saturday, Feb. 23, 1974.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Myrtle J. Feeney; a brother, William V. Feeney; a sister, Mrs. Norman (Beatrice) MacMillan; and several nieces and nephews.

He was a former executive vice president of General Acceptance Corp. and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

A graduate of Cathedral High School and Fordham University, Mr. Feeney was a noted speaker and world-traveler.

Nicholas Downs

Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated last Thursday at Holy Cross Church for Nicholas J. Downs who died Sunday, Feb. 24, 1974.

Mr. Downs was the director of the Third Order of St. Francis in the Rochester area; a member of the Holy Name Society and was active in work for the Red Cross.

He is survived by his wife, Marie (Beirne) Downs; three sons, Joseph, Patrick, Henry of Calif.; John Francis; twelve grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. Thomas (Kathleen) Millett, Mrs. Thomas (Eileen) James of Maryland; two brothers, Robert Emmett, James Henry of Illinois; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

to say that if God "welched" on His promise, He would let Himself be torn asunder like those animals.

The Gospel relates the transfiguration of Jesus. This incident is linked with the Baptism of Jesus by the voice from the cloud; it is also linked with the death of Jesus for His death was the subject of the conversation of Moses and Elijah.

It was fitting that Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus at His transfiguration, for one represented the Law, and the other prophets. Jesus was the fulfillment of both the Law and the Prophets. Both of these towering men of Jewish history spoke of the passage of Jesus, "which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem." The Greek word used by St. Luke for "passage" is *exodon*, for Luke viewed Jesus' death as an exodus, a passing over, through the red sea of His blood, from a state in which His divinity was enslaved by His humanity to His resurrected state in which He became free to act in the fullness of the power of the Son of God. Thus after His passage, He sent the Spirit to forgive sins. Hence the partial victory of the first Exodus from Egyptian slavery was completed by this new exodus liberating man from the more evil slavery of sin.

Moses and Elijah spoke about Jesus' passage, or His death and resurrection, for the sake of Peter, James and John. Just a few days before, when Peter had confessed that Jesus was the Son of God, Jesus had begun to teach the disciples that He must suffer and die. The disciples would not believe Him. So while the transfiguration of Jesus confirmed the confession of Peter, Moses and Elijah reaffirmed Jesus' teaching about His having to suffer and die; and the voice from the cloud not only pointed out that Jesus was greater than Moses and Elijah, but also told the disciples that they had better listen to Him. These three needed to learn the lesson of the transfiguration: **glory only through suffering!**

God often fortifies His own who are to face trial and testing for His sake with some special experience of grace, some deeper revelation of Himself. In the darkness it is well to remember what was taught in the light. Jesus wanted Peter, James and John to remember when they would see Him disfigured between two thieves that He had been transfigured between two saints.

In time of stress and distress, it is well to remember that we somehow got through past crises. One day the disciples of Jesus got into a boat with Him to cross the Lake of Genesareth. In their haste, the disciples forgot to bring bread with them. They got all upset. Would they go hungry? They began to worry and become anxious. Jesus said to them, "Why are you worrying? Don't you remember how I fed five thousand?" He who had always met their problems in the past, would not fail them now in the present. The cross is but prelude to the crown, suffering but a passage to glory, but only for those who accept the cross of suffering as Jesus did.

Retreat Schedule

Men's retreats are held nearly every weekend at Notre Dame Retreat House Canandaigua. For March 8-10, the following parishes have scheduled retreats: St. Margaret Mary, Irondequoit, 342-2100; St. Joseph, Wayland, 728-2228; St. Pius, Conocton, 364-5500; Sacred Heart, Perkinsville, 728-5414; St. Theresa, Stanley, 596-5566; St. Mary, Rushville, 596-5566.

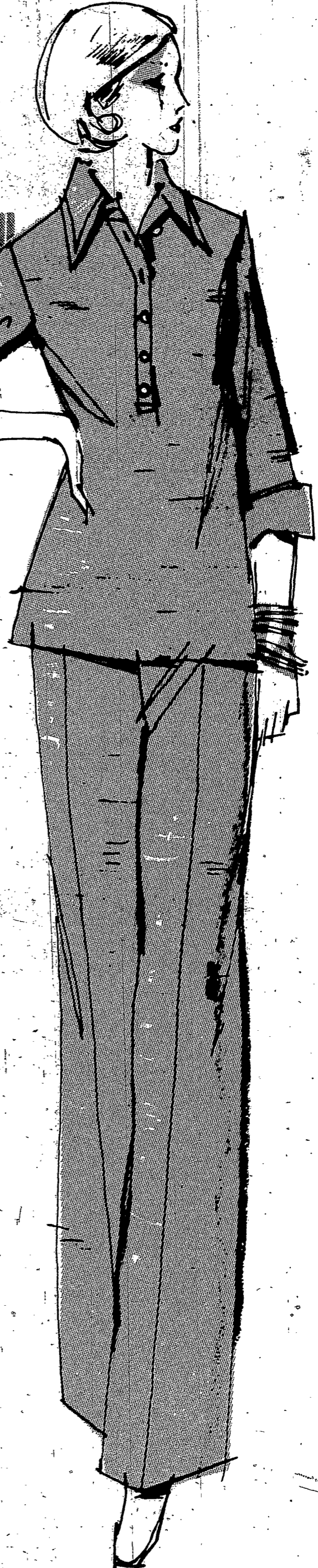
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