

WORD FOR SUNDAY

Sunday's Readings: (R1) Is. 43:16-21; (R2) Phil. 3:8-14; (R3) Jn. 8:1-11.

The theme of Sunday's Readings is confidence in the future. "Remember not the events of the past," Second-Isaiah proclaimed (R1). How wonderful God gives all of us so many, many second chances! We can start all over again, time and again! With Paul we are urged, therefore, to "give no thought to what lies behind but push on to what is ahead" (R2).

For the woman taken in adultery, her meeting with Jesus was a new start. The same grace is offered to all of us, for Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Consider this deeply moving event of the woman taken in adultery in the light of a second chance.

The woman had been caught in the act of adultery. There is something very unjust about the situation. The Law which the scribes and the Pharisees referred to ordered that both the man and the woman, caught in the act, should be stoned. Yet it was only the weaker person who was made to stand in front of everyone. This simply underlined the malevolence of the enemies of Jesus. Zeal for the Law was not what had made them act, but hate — hatred of Jesus.

"Jesus bent down" — what a gentleman He was! He would not inflict pain on this poor woman. And He started tracing on the ground with his finger. What a withering response to their question! Jesus doodled on the ground, like a man scratching on a pad when he has to listen to someone whose talk bores him to death. But the scribes and Pharisees persisted. So our Lord straightened up and suggested, "let the man among you who has no sin be the first to cast a stone at her." A second time He bent to the ground and doodled to release no doubt the anger that must have been mounting in Him against these brazen hypocrites. They slunk away one by one.

The story, calculated to arouse our pity, tells us that the poor woman remained there standing before Him, waiting for the accusation that never came. Only when He was alone with her did Jesus straighten up and speak to the woman. He spoke, not words of condemnation, but of forgiveness. He did not gloss over her sin. He forgave it and exhorted repentance. "Nor do I condemn you," He softly said. "But from now on, avoid this sin." And she went away with a song in her heart. "The Lord has done great things for me; I am filled with joy." She was given another chance.

Of all the sins that man falls prey to, the sin involving the

Mercy Hosts Art Week

April 1-5 is Arts Week at Mercy High School. Part of the students' voluntary participation in the event will include foreign language, singing, dancing, pottery and art work demonstrations.

In addition, artists and students will perform in the auditorium. An art exhibit and displays in the gym are also planned.

Guest artists for the week will include Glenn Wyand, a jazz blues pianist, members from the Rochester Shakespeare Theater and students from McQuaid Jesuit High School.

strange, fascinating, and often overwhelming attraction of sexual desire must be a painful story in almost everyone's life. Rare is the man or woman who does not have moments in private places or in imagination that he is not ashamed of. If we have succeeded in using our bodies well, let us not glory but humbly thank God who has shielded us from temptation. We have all been tried, and we know that but for the grace of God, there go I.

Therefore, when another sins through sins of the flesh, a truly humble person will be slow to judge or to condemn. We need not approve of sin, but surely we must love the sinner who so often turns to sexuality precisely because true love has often been denied him by those who profess to be followers of Christ.

Walk for Water Set March 31

A three-pronged expansion campaign designed to aid Delta Laboratories, Inc. only non-profit research environmental organization in the country, got underway Wednesday, March 13 when new facilities were dedicated at 44 Elton St.

Applications for the fourth annual "Walk for Water" will be accepted in all city and county public and parochial schools. The walk begins at 11 a.m. Sunday, March 31, at the War Memorial, passing through Highland and Cobb's Hill Parks before concluding a 10-mile trek back at the Memorial.

The third phase of the expansion consists of a low-keyed fund-raising drive for \$350,000 designed to cover increased staff needs and laboratory equipment over the next three years. Joseph N. Capretta, vice president of manufacturing operations for Xerox Corporation's information technology group, is general

chairman. The help of corporations, foundations and individuals will be sought, he said.

Delta Laboratories is funded by donations and not affiliated with any governmental agency. It was founded in February 1971 by a group of public-spirited citizens concerned about water pollution and other environmental abuses. Wayne M. Harris, local lawyer, is president, and E. Grant Pike, research scientist, general manager. Until recently the foundation operated at 18 Main St. West, Webster.

The "Walk for Water," which numbered more than 10,000 youngsters and adults a year ago is led this year by co-chairmen William Hutchinson of Fishers and William Nojay, a Harley Allendale School student. The 1973 walk raised \$100,000, all of which remained in this area, Capretta noted, and enabled Delta to conduct tours and environmental education classes

for more than 500 visiting high school students.

Folk singer Pete Seeger of the Hudson River Sloop will walk with the volunteers.

Capretta has designated divisional chairmen of the capital-fund phase of the campaign as Joseph Bagale, Horace Becker, Raymond Shaheen, James Stuber, Dr. Myron Tribus, and Lyndon Wells.

SENIORS' ART SHOW

A two-day sale of art and craft work done by senior citizens will take place this weekend at Eastman House, under the auspices of the Arts Council of Rochester and the Genesee Conference of Senior Citizens Directors. Continuous demonstrations of various craft techniques are scheduled for both days, Saturday, March 30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, 2-5 p.m.



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