

WORD FOR SUNDAY

Father Albed Skamon

Sunday's Readings: (R1) Acts 13:14-17, 43-52; (R2) Rv. 7:9, 14-17; (R3) Jn. 10:27-30.

The Responsorial refrain Sunday is: "We are His people: the sheep of His flock." Why are we His people? Because we hear His voice — "My sheep hear my voice" (R3). Where will hearing His voice lead? To a place John likened in splendor to a kingly throne, in sublimity to the Temple, one of the wonders of the world, and from the viewpoint of man's desires to a Utopia where life-giving waters would satisfy all man's wants, where tears and thirst and hunger would be no more (R2).

In the Sundays after Easter, the liturgy dwells on the Church's rapid missionary expansion — on those who hear the Shepherd's voice and those who do not.

One Sabbath day Paul, as was his custom, preached in the synagogue at Antioch, a town situated in what is modern Turkey today. His sermon converted

many Jews. One fire lit another, for the converts left the synagogue and themselves became apostles. They talked so much about what Paul had said that on the following week "almost the entire city gathered to hear the word of God" (R1).

There is a saying that the same cause will produce the same effect. Will it? The sun shining on the Alps, for instance, may melt a mass of snow and cause it to cascade down the mountainside in refreshing streams that ultimately beautify and nourish the valleys below. Yet the same sun acting on another mound of snow may loosen it and cause an avalanche, bringing death and destruction to all in its path. The same sun may soften wax, but harden mud. More true is the saying that the same cause often produces contrary effects. Thus at Antioch the preaching of Paul filled the Jews with envy, but thrilled the Gentiles with delight.

Inflamed with envy not only at Paul's success, but enraged that he had dared to put the Gentiles on an equal footing with themselves, the Jews contradicted Paul with violent abuse. But this did not silence the great apostle. A high-blowing wind might snuff out a tiny fire, but not a large fire — it will only fan that into greater flames. In the face of peril, the fiery Paul grew only more eloquent and spoke out the more fearlessly.

The Jews, therefore, had recourse to violence. They stirred up influential women, who in turn stirred up their husbands, the leading men of the town. Persecution resulted: How often women are used as tools in the hands of wicked men! How often, too, the Gospel succeeds only by struggling with evil! We know of no place where the Gospel has entered and succeeded that it did not first encounter opposition. Mother Cabrini used to say whenever she founded a new hospital in the United States that, if she had met with no opposition nor problems she knew that her venture would fail.

From Antioch, Paul and Barnabas moved on. They had done what they could there. **Man is free, God will never force Himself on anyone.** As a warning, however, to those who reject the invitation of God, Paul and Barnabas shook the dust of Antioch from their feet and went elsewhere. **A gift needs to be accepted as well as given.** If it is refused, it is given to others. Lost opportunities are never found again.

Shakespeare expressed this truth, as usual, in his own inimitable way in Julius Caesar. Cassius was for delaying engaging Marc Antony in battle at Philippi. Brutus, on the contrary, wished an immediate confrontation. He said in effect, "We are strong now, Antony is weak. We will get stronger with time. So it is to our advantage to strike now." Said Brutus:

There is a tide
in the affairs of men
which, taken at the flood,
leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the
voyage of their life
is bound in shallows
and in miseries.

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Academy Alumnae Plan Celebration

Nazareth Academy alumnae will gather Monday evening, May 6, at Logan's, 1420 Scottsville Rd., to celebrate class anniversaries ranging from the fifth to the 60th year. All alumnae are invited.

the banquet honoring Sister Annunciata, former principal who now is on the Nazareth College staff. Festivities will begin with a cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m.

Myra Wahl Zink, 225-8413. She pointed out that the special anniversary classes are those of 1914, 1919, 1924, 1929, 1934, 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964 and 1969.

Retired Bishop James E. Kearney will be a special guest at

Betty Schuler Shea, chairman, said reservations would be taken through May 4 by class leaders or

Marion P. Hart of Lexington Parkway is president of the alumnae association.

Deaths

Sr. Helen Barry

Funeral Mass for Sister Helen Patricia Barry of the Sisters of St. Joseph took place in the Motherhouse Chapel April 9, 1974.

Father Joseph Reinhart was celebrant. Also present were Msgr. William Naughton and Fathers Frederick Walz and Donald J. Murphy.

Sister was engaged in food service in various convents of the diocese for more than thirty years. She served at Holy Rosary, old St. Patrick Cathedral, Immaculate Conception, Corpus Christi and St. Francis Xavier in Rochester, at St. Mary's, Canandaigua, and St. Joseph's, Wayland.

Born in Ireland, Sister Helen Patricia entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Immaculate Conception Parish, Rochester, in 1922.

Surviving are a sister, Mrs. Nellie Mason, a brother, Edward Barry, and many nieces and nephews.

Anna O'Malley

Geneva — Anna M. O'Malley, a resident of Geneva for many years, died April 12, 1974, in a Fairport nursing home, at the age of 81.

She was the wife of Walter J. O'Malley and the mother of Sister Walter Anne O'Malley, SSJ, principal of Blessed Trinity School in Auburn.

Bishop Lawrence B. Casey of Paterson concelebrated the Mass of the Resurrection April 16 in St. Stephen's Church with the pastor, Father Richard Torrey, and five other priests of the diocese. Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty gave the homily and Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, the blessing.

Five of Mrs. O'Malley's grandchildren took part in the offertory procession, and the sixth was a bearer. Blessed Trinity eighth graders formed an honor guard at the church.

Surviving besides Mr. O'Malley and Sister Walter are another daughter, Mrs. Joseph (Grace) O'Loughlin of Fairport, and the six O'Loughlin children, Eileen, Timothy, Kathleen, Walter, Joseph and Mary Beth; a sister Mrs. John Forde of Chicago, and several nieces and nephews.

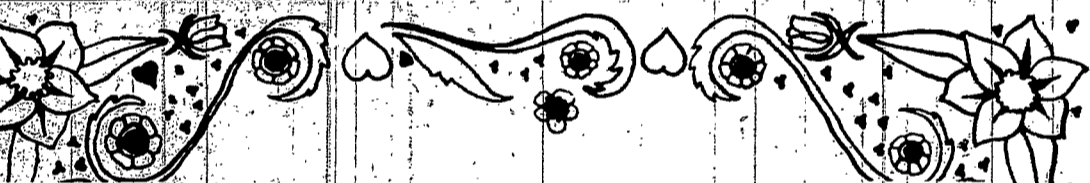
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