

WORD FOR SUNDAY

Father Albert Stanton

Sunday's Readings: (R1) Gn. 18:1-10. (R2) Col. 1:24-28. (R3) Lk. 10:38-42.

Sunday might well be labeled "Hospitality Sunday."

Abraham must be the model not only of faith, but also of hospitality. When one considers the quantity and quality of food he served to three travelers, one would have to conclude he was the "host with the most." The warmth of his hospitality won for him the realization of a great desire: to have a child of his own.

In the life of Jesus three of His closest friends are remembered for their hospitality. Jesus must have gone often to the house of Lazarus, Martha and Mary just to rest. Though Mary enjoyed His conversation and company, I'm sure Jesus enjoyed Martha's cooking and hospitality.

In the Middle Ages, Bishops were obliged by Church law to practice hospitality. They were to have a hospice or hostel (from which the word "hospitality" comes) for travelers, attached to their residence. For ailing or sick travelers, a hospital also was to be part of the Bishop's complex of buildings — not to mention an orphanage for foundlings and waifs.

Monasteries too had their "guest houses" for weary travelers. Everyone has heard of how Cistercian monks sent massive St. Bernard dogs to save travelers snowbound in some Alpine pass and lead them to the safety, food and warmth of a monastery.

But have hotels and motels, planes and cars all but eliminated hospitality?

Hospitality means to receive visitors graciously — not only to our homes, but to our school, community, and country. It is a form of brotherly love and so a virtue basic to our Christian faith.

Hospitality can be practiced in many ways. Inviting friends, neighbors, and relatives to your home is one way. But what about strangers? What of inviting a poor family for dinner, a lonely person for supper, a retiring or shy renter for a cup of coffee or a game of cards? To give to those who cannot return the gift is hospitality indeed!

Today exchange students, away from home, would enjoy a weekend with a homey family. City children love to spend the summer on a farm or at a cottage near a lake. Many a girl working out of town would appreciate her girlfriend's invitation to a family reunion or Sunday picnic. An apartment may denote freedom to a young person, but it also brings loneliness and boredom, which could lead to drink and drug addiction.

Adoption is another hospitable gesture. Abortion is wiping out infant adoption. But what about older adoptable children whom nobody wants — the black, Indian, Chicano, Vietnamese, Korean. There are also the crippled and otherwise handicapped children in need of love — and hospitality.

Home masses can enliven hospitality. What a wonderful opportunity to invite your neighbors, especially non-Catholics, to share the Mass, dine and dialogue in your home!

Hardest perhaps of all forms of hospitality is to let children enjoy

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themselves at home. For instance, opening up your home for a pajama party. So your children and their friends take over the playroom, rock the house with rock, devour your cookies, coffee and Kool-Aid. At least you know where they are, and they can ventilate in a healthful way the creative feelings pent up in adolescents.

Hospitality means inconvenience, means more mouths to feed, more dishes to wash, more home to clean. It means invasion of your privacy, and intrusion on your peace, an involvement with "strangers."

But above all, hospitality means being neighborly for the sake of Christ.

If you have a friend worth loving, love him. If you hear a song that thrills you, praise it.

If you hear a prayer that moves you, join it. If you see hot tears falling, share them.

If silvery laughter ripples on another's face, laugh with him.

If your work is made more easy by a friendly helping hand, say so.

Scatter thus your seeds of kindness enriching all as you go. And in the end He who had no room in the inn and nowhere to rest His head will receive you in that haven of hospitality, which is heaven.

Organists' Training To Open

A new diocesan program will start up in September that, its organizers hope, will upgrade the quality of music in Catholic and Protestant churches throughout the area.

The program consists of a training course in organ technique, with an emphasis on hymn-playing, and lectures in liturgy.

The training program has been designed by a committee within the Diocesan Music Commission, and will be given in various areas in the diocese.

The program is divided into two sections. The first will enable the musician to play any hymn, simple preludes and postludes. The second will qualify the student to perform music for any liturgy and establish competence to enter college level work.

Chairman of the program is Donald Meminger, organist at the Cathedral. Parishes have been asked to meet the \$256 tuition per enrollment. Other, smaller, fees are also involved.

Inquiries about the program should be sent to Organists' Training Program Office, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Pk., Rochester, 14615.

Deaths

Kathryn Reardon

Kathryn I. Reardon, 358 Euclid Ave., Elmira, died July 3, 1974, at St. Ann's Home, following a short illness. She was the sister of Sister Mary Ursula Reardon SSJ, a teacher at Nazareth Academy.

A Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated July 6, at St. Patrick's Church in Elmira by the pastor Father Joseph Egan. Father Michael Connors was also present. The Sisters of St. Joseph formed a guard of honor.

Miss Reardon served Nazareth Hall for 34 years as a receptionist, playground, and study hall supervisor, tutor, and school librarian. A graduate of Genesee State Teachers College, she previously had taught at Port Chester and Valley Stream, L.I.

Surviving besides Sister Mary are another sister, Mrs. Mary Claire McGill; a brother, I. James Reardon, and several nieces and nephews.

J. E. Sullivan

Stanley — A Mass of Christian Burial for James E. Sullivan of Gorham was celebrated July 1 at St. Theresa Church with burial at St. Ann's Cemetery, Palmyra.

Mr. Sullivan died June 28 in Geneva General Hospital after a brief illness. He was a life resident of Gorham and vicinity. A retired farmer and carpenter, Mr. Sullivan was active in the Senior Citizens of Geneva and Canandaigua Council, Knights of Columbus.

Survivors include two daughters, Margaret Marie Sullivan and Mrs. Eleanor Bramer; a son, James Jr.; a brother, Patrick J. Sullivan; five grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

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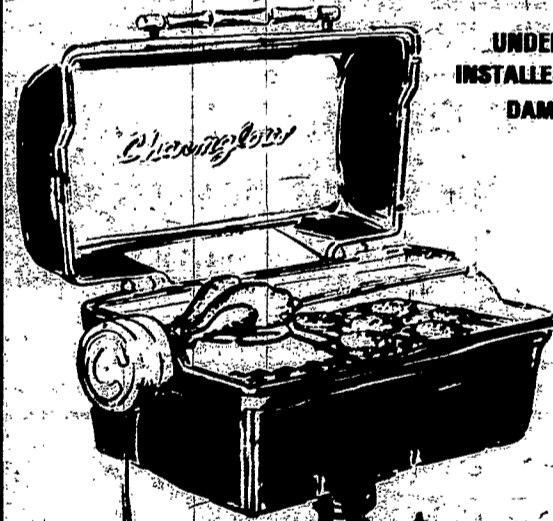
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