

WORD FOR SUNDAY

Sunday's Readings: (R1) Hb 1:2-3, 2:2-4; (R2) 2 Tm. 1:6-8, 13-14; (R3) Lk. 17:5-20

The theme of Sunday's Readings is faith.

What is faith?

It is hard to say. It is like trying to define any other elemental thing, for instance life. What is life?

Jesus knew faith was hard to define so He asked His followers to be witnesses of their faith in Him, to live the faith, for faith is not taught, it's caught.

Faith, however, in the Scripture is basically trust in God. When we have faith in a person, we mean we trust him. Long ago there was a book which a priest friend gave me when I entered St. Bernard's Seminary. The book was titled "Twenty Thousand Years in Sing Sing. I got the implication. But St. Bernard's was never Sing Sing to me nor I am sure, to the rest of my fellow seminarians. Our memories of St. Bernard's were always happy ones, that was why we liked to joke about our days at the "Rock" as other seminarians used to refer to St. Bernard's.

But to get to the point of this reference. The book was written by Warden Lawes, one of the great penologists of our times. In the book, Lawes tells of his appointment for this job.

Alfred E. Smith was governor at the time, he had appointed one warden after another for the job. Each had failed. Finally Governor Smith called in Lewis E. Lawes for the position. Lawes said that when he went in for that interview, he was determined to decline the position.

Lawes walked into Smith's office and the Governor greeted him with, "How about going to Sing Sing and taking charge? They need a man up there with experience."

Lawes said he squirmed uneasily and chatted evasively. Smith parried patiently, then with a twinkle, he drawled, "Young fellow, it's all right with me. It's a tough spot. I don't blame you for being scared. It will take a big man to go up there and stay. I believe you are the man."

That did it. Smith's vote of confidence in Lawes swept aside all his objections. "I went there."

President Promises World Food Help

United Nations, N.Y. (RNS) — President Ford told the U.N. General Assembly that contrary to reports which claimed the U.S. would cut back on its food shipments to needy nations, this country plans to increase its assistance this year.

"To help developing nations realize their aspirations to grow more of their own food, the United States will substantially increase its assistance to agricultural production programs in other countries," Mr. Ford said.

"Next, to insure that the survival of millions of our fellow men does not depend upon the vagaries of weather, the United States is prepared to join in a worldwide effort to negotiate, establish and maintain an international system of food reserves."

President Ford said that finally, to make certain that the most immediate needs for food are met this year, the United States will not only maintain the amount it spends for food shipment to nations in need, but it will increase this amount this year.

confessed Lawes, "vowed to succeed." He did. He became one of Sing Sing's most famous wardens. "Proper faith," Jesus had promised, "could make even a tree jump."

Faith is a vote of confidence in God. It wins for us the God-given helps needed to be faithful. "This is the victory over the world — our faith" (1 Jn. 5:4).

When we talk of faith, there are two extremes to be avoided. The first is to reduce faith to a purely intellectual virtue. Faith is more than believing in a lot of propositions. It is true that faith is based on the word of God — but the purpose of the word is to build up a relationship of love and trust and confidence in a person. A boy, for instance, meets a girl. They court. Each speaks to the other about themselves. Their self-revelation is meant to lead them to the knowledge that ends in love. So faith is first a belief in a person that leads to believing him. The Creed begins with the words, "I believe in God," not "I believe God." We believe God, because we first learned to believe in Him.

The other extreme is that of making faith so completely a trust in God that we feel that we have to do nothing at all. This was the optimism of Luther. Belief alone sufficed. Faith, on the contrary, is an exacting virtue. Where it exists, it demands great things. When a boy and girl have faith in their love for each other, they are willing to take the risk that is marriage. And if their faith in each other endures, they work to make their marriage succeed. So the just man lives his faith.

If faith is to take root in us, we must dispose our hearts to listen to God's word. Faith comes from hearing the word of God. How important then are the Sunday Readings, for they are not so many words about God; they are "the word of the Lord." When early Christians tried to explain why some of their members fell away from the faith, they recalled the parable of our Lord about the Sower and the Seed. The word of God is like seed. The heart of men is the soil. The fructification of the seed depends on the soil. "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

That we may never do that, we must with the apostles pray constantly to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

GREECE KOF C

Edward C. Miller was installed as grand knight of Greece Council 3892, Knights of Columbus, at a dinner Sept. 18 in Holy Name parish hall. William P. Reynolds is his deputy. Other new officers are Dr. Howard Genano, chancellor; James J. DeMarle, advocate; James P. Morris, warden; Martin J. Kolb, treasurer; Paul C. Rombaut, financial secretary, and James F. Wenzel, recording secretary.

Homell

RIGHT TO LIFE

Homell — Right to Life group met Sept. 18 at St. James Mercy Hospital. The charter was approved and it was voted to purchase a dictaphone for the Emergency Pregnancy Service. According to the president, Tom Gibson, an education team will be set up to coordinate programs with the high school students enrolled in the CCD program at St. Ann's.

GOLDEN WEDDING

Canisteo — A 50th wedding anniversary open house hosted by friends and relatives honored Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wilson at their home in Stephens Street Sept. 15.

FAMILY STUDY

Rexville — Family Religious Education, a program that brings adults and children together in the study of common themes, will be offered at St. Mary's tonight, Oct. 2; Oct. 23; Nov. 13 and Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. The first theme is Penance.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Bath — Father John Walchors, SJ, author and retreat master, will give a retreat for the women of St. Mary's at the Cenacle in Rochester, Oct. 4-6. Reservations should be made with Mary Smith, 776-4717, or Martha Stenta, 776-4257.

PILGRIMAGE

Bath — Sister Patricia and Olga Keefe have charge of the Holy Year Pilgrimage of St. Mary's parish to be held Sunday, Oct. 13. Leaving Bath at 2:30 p.m., the pilgrims will travel to St. Mary's Church, Corning.

MASON - KNIGHT BALL

Dansville — The Masons-Knights Ball will be held Saturday, Oct. 12 from 9 to 1 a.m. at St. Mary's Auditorium, with music by the Larry Hartman Trio. The price is \$5 per couple.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Dansville — Couples interested in making a World Wide Marriage Encounter Weekend are asked to call Dick and Mary Knapp, 987-6188, or Joe and Anne Niezgoda, 987-8334.

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES

Homell — A general assembly meeting for the newly created Homell Ecumenical Ministries (HEM) will be held at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 8 at St. Paul's United Church of Christ. The group will take the place of the Homell Council of Churches, which disbanded last March. The organization will revolve around three terms: Kerygma or proclamation of worship; Diakonia or service and Koinonia or fellowship. Each joining church will have five delegates, including a minister, two lay adults and two youths.

The Kerygma division will work on programs for worship for Thanksgiving, Good Friday service and to promote a sense of community among churches in worship. Members of the Koinonia division will plan projects for youth work, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), cystic fibrosis fund raising and other community needs. Diakonia members will attempt to promote additional housing for the elderly and programs for the elderly as well as other service projects.

Auburn Women Invested In Eucharistic Ministry

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn — "The expansion of the ministry of distributing the Holy Eucharist to others should not be a source of wonder, but rejoicing," Msgr. Joseph G. Gefell, said as he formally recognized 25 women as extraordinary ministers of the Holy Eucharist.

Msgr. Gefell, pastor of St. Alphonsus, explained that while priests and deacons have been the ordinary ministers of the Eucharist since about the 9th Century, new pastoral needs have arisen today. In March 1971, Pope Paul VI granted the United States permission for members of the laity to distribute Holy Communion under certain conditions. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has encouraged the practice throughout the Diocese of Rochester.

The parish community had been prepared for the introduction of the special ministry through its experience with the service families who take

communion to local nursing homes on a weekly basis and through several regular Sunday homelies.

The Sept. 8 ceremony expressing the community's understanding and the acceptance of the special ministries become an occasion of prayer. The lay ministers received a cross and chain as a symbol of their special commitment to administer the Holy Eucharist in St. Alphonsus parish. They are members of the liturgy committee and catechists.

Invested were Sue Barker, Judy Boedicker, Meg Brown, Judy Davis, Betty Drake, Diane Del Piano, Pat Donley, Alyce Dzedzic, Maureen Godlewski, Colleen Hoffman, Margaret Kolo, Barbara Lee.

Also, Sherry Lubanski, Catherine Morris, Jean McCarthy, Christine Nagle, Mary Perriello, Chris Pinckney, Patricia Raith, Stasia Sage, Ann Scanlon, Christine Stephens, Sophie Szeuogiel, Carol Westmiller and Freida Zammatt.

Families especially are urged to make the trip, which will include an evening tour of Albany. The bus fare is \$10.50, roundtrip, and overnight lodging prices range from \$17 to \$23, the committee reported.

Elmira

ROSARIANS

Van Etten — An Altar-Rosary Society has been organized at St. Pius X, with Janet Sullivan, president; Hazel Givens, vice president; Melba Lakin, treasurer; Florence Cotton, recording secretary, and Diane Miller, corresponding secretary. Meeting date is the third Monday of the month.

CONFIRMATION

Van Etten — Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will make his first visit to St. Pius X parish on Sunday, Nov. 3, to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. Father Bernard Kuchman announced. Candidates are being prepared in Wednesday evening classes by their parents and the pastor.

AURIESVILLE PILGRIMAGE

Elmira — St. Patrick's parish is sponsoring a pilgrimage Oct. 19-20 to the Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville. The dates were chosen to include the memorial day of the martyred Jesuits and also because October is a month dedicated to the Blessed Mother, who is honored at Auriesville as Our Lady of Martyrs.

Oct. 1 is the deadline for making reservations, with Florence Weingart, 733-7886.

PROBLEMS?
Don't Complain. Do Something!
 Drug and Alcohol Council Announces A Counselor Workshop beginning in the city on Tuesday morning, October 15. (Evening Workshops also available.) Interested? Write or Call:
Counselor Workshop
 9 Lawrence Street
 Rochester, New York 14607
 Telephone: 454-2535