

WORD FOR SUNDAY

Father Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R1) Wis. 11:2-12:1. (R2) 2 Thess. 1:11-2:2. (R3) Lk. 19:1-10.

An ambitious young man asked a banker for the secret of success in business.

The banker said, "There is no secret. You simply jump when the opportunity comes."

"But how," asked the young man, "can I tell when the opportunity comes?"

"You can't," answered the banker. "You've got to keep jumping."

Zacchaeus was a wealthy man. He had climbed the ladder of worldly success. In a rich town he must have been among the ten richest, for he was "the chief tax collector." That was like having bought a franchise from the United States Government giving one the right to collect all the income taxes in Rochester. It was a bonanza! A guy could get to the top in such a profession only if he knew how to make the best of opportunity. Zacchaeus was an opportunist. He knew enough to open the door whenever opportunity knocked.

Apparently, however, money wasn't everything. Zacchaeus' job had gotten him thoroughly detested by the people. Every "good" Jew literally "hated his guts." Ostracized by his countrymen, he must have been lonely. Burdened with the guilt of a dishonest profession (for he was a Jew, knowing the true God), he must have had no peace of heart. Guilt, loneliness tormented him. Then came an opportunity to rid himself of this inner torment. And Zacchaeus, used to seizing the opportune moment, jumped at this one. Jesus was passing through Jericho. Zacchaeus certainly had to know all about Jesus. Businessmen know current events.

Another trait about this Zacchaeus that made for his success was his determination. He had to be a persistent man. He revealed his persistency on this occasion. There is a song about Zacchaeus written by the Medical Mission Sisters. One line in it goes like this: "The Hebrews, they were tall, but Zacchaeus, he was small, yet the Lord loved Zacchaeus, better than them all." Zacchaeus was small. Jesus was passing by. Two things militated against Zacchaeus' seeing Jesus—his smallness and the throng. Instead of giving up, Zacchaeus ran on ahead to search for a better vantage point. He found a sycamore tree. Climbing its low-hanging branches, Zacchaeus had the best view of all. He always seemed to know how to come out on top!

How did Jesus react? "He looked up and said, 'Zacchaeus, hurry down. I mean to stay at your house today.'" Jesus addressed Zacchaeus and meant to heal them. "Hurry down," He said, "I mean to stay at your house today." Again Zacchaeus seized the opportunity. He quickly descended and welcomed him with delight."

Here we have re-enacted in life two of the parables of Jesus. First, the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Jesus banqueted with Zacchaeus, the prodigal, and the Jews, like the elder brother, murmured, "He has gone to a sinner's house as a guest." Secondly, the parable of the Pharisee and Publican (Last Sunday's Gospel). Zacchaeus, like the publican of the parable, is justified. "Today salvation has

SPECIAL MASS

Mass will be celebrated at 12:05 p.m. on All Saints Day, Friday, Nov. 1, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Father Henry Atwell will preside at the liturgy.

come to this house" the self-righteous Jews are not.

Jesus' friendliness and His willingness to be Zacchaeus' guest—a shocking thing for a religious person to do—touched the heart of Zacchaeus and melted it. His conversion was so complete that the stranglehold riches had on him was broken: he makes restitution. Again, Zacchaeus is no procrastinator. He does this, not tomorrow, but today. He acts immediately: "I give half my belongings, Lord, to the poor."

The coming of Christ is always unexpected. His stay is brief. He is passing by and may never come this way again. Lost opportunities can never be found again. Long ago, Juvenal wrote: *Carpe diem*—"Seize today." Now is the opportune moment to find Christ. Never will there be a more opportune one than now! Wait 10,000 years, your sins will not be fewer; nor will God's mercy be greater. Seize, therefore, the coming holy year. When better to be renewed and reconciled than now. To delay is to play the fool who sat on the bank of the river, waiting for the river to run past before crossing it.

Political Advertisement

CYO Slates Pilgrimage

A youth pilgrimage by bicycle to Holy Trinity Church in Webster is being planned by youth and youth group advisors in the Northeast region.

The event will be held Sunday, Nov. 3 and each parish youth group will gather that morning at their parish center. The groups will head, first to Holy Spirit Church, on Plank Road in Penfield, for lunch at 1 P.M.

From Holy Spirit, the cyclists will head for Holy Trinity Church where a youth Mass will be

COURIER DEADLINE

The Courier-Journal deadline is noon Thursday for articles intended for the following Wednesday edition.

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celebrated centering on the theme "Life Is a Journey"

Arrangements will be made to ship all bikes back to the home parishes following the event. A \$2 donation is requested from each participant to cover the cost of lunch and shipping of bikes.

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IRONDEQUOIT TOWN JUSTICE

Honorable

RICHARD J. ELLIOTT

and Family

Graduate: Irondequoit High School-1950, Niagara University-1954, Syracuse Law School-1959

Admitted to practice in the State of New York-1960. Admitted to practice in Federal Court, Western District, New York-1960. Admitted to practice United States Court of Appeals-1964. Admitted to practice United States Military Court of Appeals-1966. Admitted to practice Supreme Court of the United States-1966.

Past President of the Monroe County Trial Lawyers Assoc.; Presently District Governor, 7th Judicial District, New York State Trial Lawyers Assoc.

RETURN RICHARD J. ELLIOTT TOWN JUSTICE

FISCAL INTEGRITY: Instituted by Judge Elliott since his appointment, November, 1973

- * Monthly report to the Supervisor and Town Board of bails and fines received
- * Bank account reconciled monthly

JUDICIAL INTEGRITY: Instituted by Judge Elliott since his appointment November, 1973

- * Plea bargaining in open court
- * All recommendations and pleas taken by a Court Stenographer for public record
- * No appearances in Monroe County Town Justice Courts

Formerly Town Attorney under Republican & Democrat Administrations

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