

WORD FOR SUNDAY



Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 5: 13-16. (R1) Is. 58:7-10. (R2) 1 Cor. 2: 1-5.

In the last act of Shakespeare's **The Merchant of Venice**, when Portia and Nerissa are returning home to Belmont at night, a candle is burning in one of the windows of Portia's house to light her way home. By a legal technicality, Portia had just saved the life of Antonio, the Merchant of Venice. Seeing the lighted candle, she remarks to Nerissa: "How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world."

In the Gospel our Lord says, "You are the light of the world." Note that Jesus did not say you must do good works to become the light. You are the light already! Good works, He said, merely confirm the fact that you are the light.

There is this about light: you don't see the light, but the light enables you to see. The sun, for instance, lights the earth and fills it with beauty. But who looks at the sun? Should one try, the sun would fire burning darts into his eyes. Rather, the sun illuminates the earth that we may rejoice in the earth's beauty and in her bounty. So it must be with the Christian. His light must so shine that men turn, not to him who is the light, but to Him who lit the light — that seeing your goodness, they may praise your heavenly Father.

What is the light that must emanate from Christians? Isaiah tells us in the first reading. It is **Christian concern for the poor — not just the economic poor, but especially the spiritual poor.**

What is the darkness that the

light must dispel? Darkness, as we saw last week, is a figure of speech that Scripture uses to describe sin as more than doing a no-no action. Darkness is a state or condition of being; as such, it is a good picture of the environment created by sin. Zechariah at the naming of his son, John the Baptist, exulted because his child was to herald "the dawn from on high that would shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death and guide our feet on the road to peace."

Habitual sins create darkness. Darkness thwarts vision. In an essay, *Of Unity in Religion*, Francis Bacon wrote that "in the dark all colors look alike." That is the consequence of the sins of modern man: he has lost his sense of sin. He can hardly tell the difference between truth and error, good and evil — all look alike. For him, as for the witches in *Macbeth*, "fair is foul and foul is fair." All moral values are topsy-turvy. Thus we have philosophies couched in glittering phrases which parade evil as virtue. We have Situation Ethics, a euphemistic term for "you can do as you please." Or Playboy Philosophy, old Fanny Hill's hedonism: "Pleasure is the universal port of destination, and every wind that blows thither is good." That is the darkness which the light must dispel — error and false morality.

In his very first encyclical, *The Function of the State in the Modern World*, Pope Pius XII pinpointed the cause of the breakdown of society to the rejection of "a universal norm of morality." He wrote: "Before all else, it is certain that the radical cause of evils which we deplore in modern society is: the denial and rejection of a universal norm of morality as well for individual and social life as for international relations" (#23). This denial began with the rejection of the Church and her teaching authority. Cut off from the teaching of the Church, not a few denied the central dogma of Christianity: the Divinity of Christ. Without the way and the truth, there is no life — only darkness and death. When Jesus was crucified, "There was darkness over the whole earth" (Mt. 27:45).

Joseph, died in 1923.

On her 100th birthday Mrs. Graffley received a congratulatory letter from President and Mrs. Richard M. Nixon.

Survivors include five daughters and a son: Clementine and Ernestine Graffley of Fairport; Eugenie Krumenacker, Moselle, France; Mrs. Edwin (Joan) Reichenecker, Boynton Beach, Fla.; Florence C. Tosch, Kenmore; and Joseph J. Graffley, West Henrietta; also, seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

R.W. Langworthy

Robert W. Langworthy of Thurston Road, died unexpectedly Jan. 20, 1975, at the age of 57.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at our Lady of Good Counsel Church by Father Paul Wohlrab, Msgr. Richard M. Quinn and Father Richard Crumlish of Buffalo. Bishop Dennis W. Hickey was present in the sanctuary.

Mrs. Langworthy was the brother of the late Father Charles C. Langworthy, who died last November. He was the supervising auditor for Monroe County and a member of the board of directors of the Civil Service Employees Association. He was a graduate of Niagara University and a veteran of World War Two with the rank of first lieutenant.

Surviving are his children, John and Suzanne Langworthy of Bemidji, Minn.; Robert, Jerry and Mary Kathryn Langworthy of Rochester; his mother, Kathryn Langworthy; two aunts and an uncle, Ann, Evelyn and George Cassidy, and several cousins.

Mrs. Graffley, 103 Years Old

Mrs. Marie Graffley of Fairport died Jan. 8, 1975, at the age of 103.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 11 at St. John of Rochester Church by Father Vincent Collins.

Mrs. Graffley was born in Alsace-Lorraine. She came with her family to Rochester in 1913 and lived in St. Peter and Paul parish until 1967. Her husband,

Right to Life Airs Radio Show

By PEG PEASE
Hornell Area Correspondent

Hornell — January 22 was the second anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision on abortion and the Hornell Area Right to Life Group observed it by having two of its nurse-members appear on Kevin Doran's radio station WLEA morning program called "Sound-Off."

Mary Hanrahan and Donna Kull gave descriptions of the three procedures to abort a fetus. According to Mrs. Donald Koehler, vice president of the group, "with the mixed reaction according to the calls received at the radio station after the program was aired, we have at last been heard by a large portion of the area population. It's too

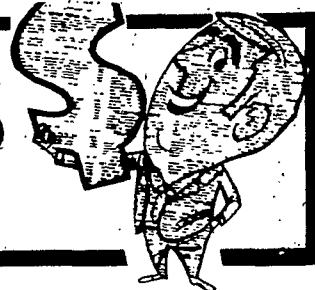
bad we aren't federally funded, we could do a better job but will continue to get as much publicity as possible; and with the placement in store windows of the graphic view of babies in their stages of development, we will make people aware of the stark realities of abortion."

Previously, delegates from the Right to Life Group have spoken before CCD classes the Catholic Daughters of America and the St. Ann's Mothers Club. Father William Spilly, associate at St. Ann's, Hornell is scheduled to speak on "Human Development" the aged, infirm, mentally and physically handicapped, Feb. 19, at the group meeting to be held at St. James Mercy Hospital at 8 p.m. At the April 16 meeting, Father Leo Mans, pastor of St.

Ignatius, will speak to the group on "Life Projects", that is, abortion in foreign countries as well as the United States. "Up until now," Mrs. Koehler said, "we have been in the organizational stage but with the Emergency Pregnancy Service sessions nearing completion, and the help of our Board of Directors, we're on our way."

The newly acquired members of the Board of Directors are Dr. Mario Argentieri, Dr. John Kelly, Lawrence Jacobson, proprietor of Card's Drug Store; Rev. Gerald Wolter, Spencer United Methodist Church; Kevin Doran, Radio Station WLEA; and Paul Shepard, St. James Mercy Hospital Administration.

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