

WORD FOR SUNDAY



Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 9:9-13. (R1) Hos. 6:3-6. (R2) Rom. 4:18-25.

The key to the theme of this Sunday's liturgy is the quotation in Matthew's Gospel: "It is mercy I desire and not sacrifice." This quotation, taken from Hosea, determined the First Reading.

We must be very careful not to interpret this prophetic utterance of Hosea, quoted by Jesus, as a condemnation of rites and rituals. What Hosea was condemning was the practice of sacrifice unaccompanied by obedience, a religious profession minus a good moral life.

When a Hebrew said, "I desire A, but not B," it was his way of saying what his priorities were: "I desire love more than I desire sacrifice." It is significant that after Hosea, Jewish sacrifices still were offered — as a matter of fact they were elaborated after the Exile. "Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you" (Response).

But to be what God wants us to be and to do what He wills us to do is humanly impossible without His help. The Abraham story (R2) illustrates a humanly impossible situation: a woman becoming pregnant at the age of 90 (her husband being a 100 years old). Yet the humanly impossible becomes possible through faith in God.

Again in the Gospel a similar point is driven home. Matthew is a social outcast. Yet Jesus calls him, and Matthew becomes one of the Twelve. It is the evangelist's way of saying, we become what we are solely through the grace of God. He calls, not the self-righteous (for no man can merit salvation), but sinners. "I am what I am by the grace of God" — His free choice.

Such election calls for celebration. Matthew responded with a banquet. So did the early Christians: They celebrated the Liturgy of the Lord precisely to give Him thanks for the gift of faith and divine life. They caught this idea from St. Paul. Paul begins each of his letters with a thanksgiving. Again and again, he starts each letter by giving thanks to God for the precious gift of

Hospital Wives Set Luncheon

The Staff Wives of the Rochester General Hospital will hold their spring luncheon at the home of Mrs. John Robert Bosco on June 3. Following the luncheon, Mrs. Richard J. Hanratty will preside over a brief business meeting at which time the following officers will be installed: president, Mrs. Ralph Stoll; president-elect, Mrs. Richard Gangemi; treasurer, Mrs. Salvatore Dalberth; recording secretary, Mrs. Karl Wickstrom, and corresponding secretary, Mrs. Philip G. Clarke.

HEALING RITE AT MT. MORRIS

Mt. Morris — About 150 persons were anointed in St. Patrick's Church Sunday, May 25, during a Mass for the Healing of the Sick. The program was arranged by the parish liturgy committee, the Legion of Mary and the Holy Name Society. Fathers John Whalen, Dominic Grasso and George Gauthier officiated.

faith to his converts, and he urges them to do likewise. The reason, he says, is because God has called you from darkness to light, from death and life (Col. 1:12; Eph. 5:20). He has done this through no merit of your own — when we were sinners. As a consequence, by the end of the first century, the Liturgy of the Lord was no longer called "the breaking of the bread," but "the Eucharist" (which is the Greek word for giving thanks). For that can be the only fitting response to the gift of faith.

One of the great dangers of a revealed religion is formalism. Formalism means doing things mechanically, going through motions and not being aware, doing the right thing for the wrong reason. The result is that the Liturgy of the Lord is too, too often boredom — anything but celebration.

What can be done to banish formalism, which breeds a hohum attitude at the Eucharistic liturgy?

Some mistakenly think speeding up the celebration can. That would only shorten the time of boredom; and, in fact, increase the ennui because of the restlessness engendered.

Vatican II answered this problem when it decreed that "in the restoration of the sacred liturgy full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else. They should participate knowingly, actively and fruitfully" (Const. On Lit. #4 & 48). Conscious participation in the Liturgy — that is the answer!

Players, taking part in a game, generally do not get bored; spectators can. Taking part in the Liturgy knowingly helps make it an experience of joy. Taking part in it actively crowds out tedium and lends to the zest of the celebration. The result will be fruitful participation. For it is in giving, the giving of ourselves, we shall receive — receive the joy and exhilaration that must come from the Liturgy of the Lord. "You shall glorify me."

St. Pius X Auction Scheduled

The 22nd Annual Country Auction of Saint Pius the Tenth Church at 3000 Chili Avenue, has been planned for Monday, June 16, at 6:30 p.m.

Co-chairmen for the event are Lynn Enright and May Timpani from the Rosary Guild and Dick Measer, president of the Holy Name Men.

St. Bernard's Sets Fest

Scipio Center — Plans have been completed by the Holy Name Society of St. Bernard's Church, for the 13th Annual Father's Day Festival and Chicken Barbecue, to be held on the church grounds, Sunday, June 15.

This year, the Barbecue will feature salt potatoes with drawn butter. Serving will be continuous from noon until 5 p.m. Take out service will be available.

The Committee is headed by Paul E. Ferrari, as general chairman, with Father Robert M. Egan, pastor, as honorary chairman. They will be assisted by Anthony Borza, chairman of grounds; Paul D. Yates, chairman of entertainment; Thomas W. Costello, as chairman of games; William E. Dugan, as finance chairman and Francis J. McGarry, as advertising chairman.

Judge Gabrielli Is Honored

Court of Appeals Judge Domenick L. Gabrielli of Bath received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Siena College, Loudonville.

Recipients of similar degrees are Maureen Stapleton and Dr. Vincent Schaefer. Miss Stapleton won Tony Awards for the best dramatic actress performances in "The Gingerbread Lady," and "The Rose Tattoo."

During the commencement exercises, more than 500 Siena students received bachelor of science and arts degrees.

Judge Gabrielli, a graduate and member of the Board of Trustees of Albany Law School, has previously been awarded honorary degrees of Doctor of Laws from Union College, Albany Law School, and St. Lawrence University, his alma mater.

SACRED MUSIC

Naples — A concert of sacred music, vocal and instrumental, will be presented at 8 p.m. tomorrow in Naples Central School under the auspices of the Naples Council of Churches. The performers are six students from Eastern College, a Baptist institution in St. David's, Pa. The group, known as Turning Point, has given more than 100 concerts in its two years, and has 90 engagements in nine states for this summer. The Thursday concert is open to the public free of charge.

ALL IN THE FAMILY



Sarah Child

The Times travel section on a recent Sunday carried a story on where one should go to find silence. The writer, bemoaning the fact that canned music has made its way into the Sistine Chapel along with other traditional spots of quiet repose and uninterrupted reflection, listed a number of sites where one may still find a dearth of sound.

Among those he listed: the sandhills of Nebraska, Fontaine de Vaucluse, France where Petrarch went to write about Laura, and the D.H. Lawrence Shrine near Taos, N. Mex., where the writer found "thin, pure air to sooth his tubercular lungs" as well as silence for his soul.

All this sounds exactly what the doctor ordered for my memory lapses, flights of irrationality chronic hypochondria, to say nothing of the continual buzzing emanating from my left elbow. (My version of writer's cramp.)

The problem is, however, I've been having trouble finding time to go to the store for orange juice and band aids much less checking my schedule against the airline's direct route to the Vatican.

All is not lost. I have discovered that actually I have been enjoying solitude and a reasonable facsimile of silence in mine own house. The trick is to know when and more importantly where. In order that readers may discover tranquility in their own abodes and share in the bliss of dinless moments I herewith list the times and places I have found mine:

* At 5:45 a.m. on the back porch. You must creep quietly from bed, however, or a sleep-ridden child will likely follow you down to twist the TV knob looking for the test pattern.

* At two minutes after the dinner hour directly in front of the kitchen sink.

* In the living room immediately after a great crash when you, in another part of the house, yell to find out what part of the ship was torpedoed.

* Confronting your child after perusing a cryptic note from his teacher.

* And finally after asking your husband whether he wants meat loaf for supper or would he prefer taking everybody out for a hamburger.

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