

WORD FOR SUNDAY



Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 13:44-52; (R1) 1 Kgs. 3:5, 7-12; (R2) Rom. 8:28-30.

Suppose God appeared to you in a dream and said, "Ask something of me and I will give it to you." What would you ask for? Solomon had such an opportunity and asked for wisdom.

Wisdom among the Greeks meant philosophical speculation; among the Hebrews, however, it meant practical know-how, *savoir-faire*, regarding life, God, good and evil.

The first book of Kings (3-11) demonstrates Solomon's wisdom: as practical psychologist in the case of the two prostitutes, as administrator, as builder, as merchant. Sunday's first reading tells us how Solomon acquired this wisdom: through prayer to God.

Solomon was ready to sacrifice everything — long life, riches, the life of his enemies — provided he could reign wisely and graciously over his people, could be the kind of king God wanted him to be. Solomon felt the man who had wisdom had everything; whereas the man who had everything but wisdom had nothing. To the ancient, wisdom was the supreme value of life.

It is this attitude of Solomon that links the first reading with the twin parables of the Gospel. The parable of the treasure found in a field illustrates that faith often comes "by accident," when one is not even seeking it — as to Paul on the road to Damascus or to Matthew himself. The other parable about the pearl teaches that faith is often the result of a strenuous search as, for instance, in the case of Andrew: "We have found the Messiah"; or in the case of Cardinal Newman: "Lead, kindly light."

But the point common to both parables and the first reading is this: **no sacrifice is too great, no effort too demanding, to achieve a supreme goal** (the man in the parable of the treasure found in the field even resorted to cheating). Solomon bypassed everything to get wisdom; so should every man to secure his Faith.

Life can be frequently frustrating and difficult and drive people almost to despair at times. We need to pray for an understanding heart and learn to believe that "God makes all things (even evils) work together for the good of those who love Him" (R2). Need we prove this? There is the Joseph story in the book of Genesis.

On Sept. 14, 1975, Pope Paul VI will canonize the United States' first native-born saint. She is Elizabeth Bayley Seton, known to Americans as Mother Seton. She was born just two years before the American Revolution. The spirit of independence rubbed off on her, for one day she followed her star — **cost what it did.**

She had been an Episcopalian, a widow with five children. Becoming a Catholic meant rupturing relationships with New York's first families and joining an immigrant religion whose congregation was composed of the city's lowest elements. Like Solomon she prayed for light and prayed — and light came, and she sold all to follow it.

Similar is the story of another American woman — Rose Lathrop Hawthorne, daughter of the great American novelist, Nathaniel Hawthorne. Through sorrow, pain, and suffering, she found Catholicism. Sorrow built a bridge to the Faith. She crossed it even though it meant unspeakable sacrifices. Brought up

among gentility, surrounded in childhood with warmest love and tenderness, with a native abhorrence for all that was ugly, unclean, repulsive, she overcame her deepest feelings to do the work she felt God was calling her to do. She gave up her life to caring for the destitute afflicted with incurable cancer. She settled down in the lower East Side slums. "I set my whole being," she wrote, "to endeavor to bring consolation to the cancerous poor." Read her fascinating life in **Sorrow Hath Built A Bridge.**

There is also Dr. Tom Dooley, whose cause for canonization is already begun. And the list could go on and on. Today the media headline only the worldly great. For instance, had it not been for some Catholic papers, I would have hardly known that that giant of a man, Cardinal Mindszenty, had died. How tragic if we deny our children or ourselves the example of the truly great. One way to celebrate our Bicentennial would be to read the lives of those American Catholics who purchased the pearl of sanctity, no matter the cost. Lives of great men all remind us We can make our lives sublime, And, departing, leave behind us Footprints on the sands of time.

Ecumenical Summer School

Lansing — One of the firsts, for All Saints of Lansing, was an Ecumenical Summer School. Sister Elaine Theresa said that All Saints and the Methodist Church of Lansing opened their initial double session on July 14 and it ran through the 18th. Pre-registration students numbered 40.

All Saints Church has been conducting summer school for the past four years.

SPECIAL STUDY

Penn Yan — From July 13 to 18 Father Paul J. Ryan, associate pastor of St. Michael's Church, will be studying at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. as part of the priest-intern program. All priests must participate in such a program for the first three years of their work in the ministry. This session will offer Father Ryan the opportunity to study with many of the leading theologians in the U.S.

St. Michael's, Penn Yan

From Barn to Busy Church

By LORRAINE DRAZEK

Penn Yan — An interesting item being presented to members of St. Michael's parish is a brief historical background of the Church. In a little notebook written in long hand and presented to Father Gommenginger by his good friend, Walter Wolcott, the Yates County historian on September 27 of the year 1917 is the following:

"The first Catholic Church in Yates County was commenced in Penn Yan in the year 1849. Rev. John Timon, Bishop of Buffalo, directed and authorized Thomas Hendrick of Penn Yan to solicit and collect subscriptions to build here. At that time there were not over fifteen Catholic families in and about Penn Yan. Mr. Hendrick went zealously to work in full hope of seeing a Catholic Church soon erected. His first move was to collect what Catholics he could, in a barn on Sunday, and addressed them on the bright prospect before them, of having a church, where they

could adore their Creator, in a land of liberty, without hindrance. No Penal laws of Parliament to interfere with them; but where they could adore God in spirit and truth, in the same forms of religious worship, as their fathers did, in the green girt Isle of the Ocean."

St. Michael's has grown from those 15 families to the 2271 parishioners who attended services July 6, while the Mission Church St. Andrew's in Dundee said Mass for 259 persons.

Their school on Keuka Street enrolls 120 pupils in grades kindergarten through the sixth. This year 15 youngsters graduated from the sixth grade having received their educational instructions from two nuns and five lay teachers.

Ruth E. Morse, secretary, says that next year they will have an additional lay teacher on the staff assisting the Sisters of St. Joseph.



shown, Heritage

Summer Sale

We have only two store-wide sales each year and this is one of them. Every item at both stores is on sale—furniture, carpeting and bedding. Besides super savings on all floor samples you can special order the finest names in furniture at bargain prices. Try Hendredon, Flair, Heritage, Drexel, Founders, Stiffel, Thayer-Coggin, Charlton and Hickory Tavern!

P.S. Our staff of IDS designers is here to help you during Summer Sale time.

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