

WORD FOR SUNDAY



Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) In. 6:1-15; (R1) 2 Kgs. 4:42-44; (R2) Eph. 4:1-6

One thing unusual about next Sunday's gospel is that it is from St. John, not from St. Mark. As you know, the Sunday gospels follow a three-year cycle. One year is devoted to St. Matthew (Year A), one to St. Mark (Year B) and one to St. Luke (Year C). The year divisible by three is the Lucan year or Year C. For instance, 1974 is divisible by 3; therefore, the gospel readings for that year were drawn chiefly from St. Luke's gospel. Matthew's gospel predominated in 1975; Mark's, in 1976. In 1977 (divisible by 3) it will be St. Luke again.

Well, what about John? John's gospel is read every year in the Lent-Paschaltide season, and for about five weeks in the Marcan year. Mark's gospel is the shortest of the gospels (only 16 chapters). So for the next five weeks (in July and August), the Sunday gospels will be taken from the long sixth chapter of John's gospel.

John's gospel seems to fill out what Mark only hinted at, but left undeveloped. In the miracle of the loaves and fish, for example, John gives many more details than Mark. He tells us that the miracle took place at Passover time. The bread is

barley loaves, not wheat. Jesus takes the initiative. The expressions used are eucharistic. Jesus gives thanks, passes the bread around.

Did what Jesus do remind the people of Elisha's miracle (R1)? Very likely, for they began to say, "This undoubtedly is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

The Response acclaims what the Lord does: "He feeds us and answers all our needs." Our needs are not just bodily ones.

One of the problems of modern life is dichotomy. Rollo May called our world a "schizoid one" that is, we tend to separate what belongs together. We drive a wedge between community and person; common good and individual good; public prayer and private prayer; action and contemplation; and so on. This divorcement wreaks as much havoc on the human family as divorce does on individual families.

The theme of the 41st International Eucharistic Congress is world hunger. The myopic again dichotomize: they think of hunger only as physical and not spiritual. Thus some would criticize spending \$100,000 for building the platform for the Congress. (Democrats are spending 3 million for their convention in New York.)

So after Christ had fed the starving hearts of the people. He would not send them away physically hungry. To be truly human, one cannot settle for truth without bread nor for bread without truth.

Of course the apostles did not know how to feed the crowds. Jesus showed them how. Start with what you've got. In this instance, it was little enough: barley loaves (food of the poor), an unnamed lad, and a couple of fish. For 5,000 people? For the apostles, it was nothing. For God, it was enough — more than enough. The key? It was Jesus. He always makes the difference!

'Passion for Justice' Noted in Auburn Talk

Auburn — "There is a widely shared and profound passion for justice in our society. This does not mean there is justice, but we are seeing groups of people coming together to face things that are wrong," said Father Charles Mulligan, director of the Office of Human Development at the commemorative banquet of the Cayuga County Action Program (CCAP).

CCAP was created and funded initially by the Office of Economic Opportunity. OEO has developed into the Community Services Administration which continues to provide most of the program's funding.

Father Mulligan served as assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish, Auburn, for two years. He served on the boards of directors of Friends In Service Here (FISH) and

CCAP, and was president of the Family Planning Center. In January, he assumes directorship of the Office for Social Ministry.

"The 60s featured high cost programs, but there was not enough compassion for one another. We look back at 11 years filled with great struggle in our society," Father Mulligan said.

He explained that cutbacks in programs are a reality and it is a tribute to the endurance of CCAP that it is still in action.

Father Mulligan noted that an action agency must have patience to build and reflect until the strength is there and the time is right to act.

Since its inception CCAP has been involved in a variety of programs including Homesite

Development Corporation, nutritional advocacy, Head Start and the Auburn Child Care Center. There is also a newly initiated consumer affairs project and the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

Money raised at the dinner and publication of a CCAP informational brochure and souvenir journal will be used to augment the limited budgets of CCAP programs, particularly the Day Care Program.

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ALL IN THE FAMILY



Sarah Child

Pet peeves took over this space a couple of columns ago. Now for the other side of the coin.

* Happiness is coming downstairs and finding your husband has already made the coffee.

* Happiness is having your parents visit and your mother tires of sitting around and brings order out of the laundry room chaos and your father weeds the pachysandra-petunia-geranium bed.

* Happiness is discovering that the new pastor does not get upset when the baby chorus begins, on the contrary makes a little joke from the altar about the response.

* Happiness is seeing somebody else's kid with holes in his socks, hair in his eyes and a baseball mitt permanently attached to his body.

* Happiness is finally having your porch screened in after four years of fighting the flies.

* Happiness is hearing your oldest pounding away at the piano even during the long vacation from lessons.

* Happiness is having the sun

come out — any time.

* Happiness is discovering company is coming and for once the "guest room" bed already has clean sheets.

* Happiness is having your father, a master gardener, say your eggplant looks better than his.

* Happiness is feeling free to plant eggplant and daisies together in spite of your neighbors' raised eyebrows and little smiles.

* Happiness is singing songs everybody knows at Mass.

* Happiness is discovering your sycamore is finally casting enough shade to sit under on the rare sunny afternoon.

* Happiness is opening the refrigerator and discovering there are enough leftovers to eke out the evening meal without cooking.

* Happiness is discovering a can of silicone spray from the hardware will take the squeak out of your bike, fix a reluctant typewriter key and lubricate the front door lock for facile entry. And that's just for starters.

* Happiness is finding you gained only two pounds on vacation instead of five.

* Happiness is getting away from it all.

* Happiness is coming back home.

* Happiness is discovering that the rainiest June is responsible for the lushest foliage.

* And finally happiness is having a family that doesn't balk at hot dogs three nights in one week, and thinks sleeping bags are neater than ironed sheets.

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