

WORD FOR SUNDAY



Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 6:24-35 (R1) Ex. 16:2-4, 12-15. (R2) Eph. 4:17, 20-24.

The 41st International Eucharistic Congress begins next Sunday. The Sunday readings could not be more apposite — they are about bread.

There are three kinds of bread that feed the hunger of men.

The first reading tells of a bread for the body. Moses had just rescued the Hebrews from hellish slavery and was leading them to Mt. Sinai through the desert to Shur. On the way, they got hungry.

They grumbled to Moses. The Book of Numbers, that tells about the wanderings of the Hebrews before they reached the Promised Land, could well be re-titled the Book of Murmurings. Oh, the patience of God — slow to anger! The people actually yearned for the fleshpots of Egypt — their lentil soup and bread — and, incredibly, their terrible slavery! And yet instead of blasting them into nothingness for their rank ingratitude, God meekly acquiesced to their grumblings and sent them bread from heaven, called manna.

Because memory is short, God required that the people gather the manna daily. Day by day, He would feed them. Some in their greed tried to hoard more than a day's supply — their surplus corrupted. It is imperative for man never to forget, even for a single day, his need for God. Thus God asks us to pray daily, to go to Mass daily. He wants us to understand that He cares for us daily and that we need His care daily.

The second reading is about bread for the mind. — God's truth, the Liturgy of the Word. "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." St. Paul, interestingly enough, pointed out that the great evil of paganism is intellectual bankruptcy — "their minds are empty." Their existence is purposeless, aimless. Why? Because illusion, desire, passion directed their lives, not truth — the truth about Christ. So ennui, boredom plagued the pagan and plagues modern man. Oh, yes, modern man can claim computerized knowledge, can parade degrees and doctorates, but without the truth of Christ, his knowledge avails him not, leaves him empty and restless, for it leads nowhere. As the great St. Augustine confessed: "Thou hast created us for Thyself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee."

The gospel reading speaks of a third kind of bread — a bread for the soul, that satisfies the deepest craving of the human heart, namely, for life eternal. Jesus multiplied loaves to show He could do extraordinary things with or-

dinary bread. When He had come to Capernaum, He was asked, "When did you come here?" The people should have asked, "How did you get here?" Jesus had walked on water to show He could do anything with His body, even make it food for the soul. But a thousand years had not changed them; they too, like their forebears, yearned for fleshpots. With the patience of His Father, Jesus tried to teach them that faith in Him was more desirable, for then He could give them a bread that would assuage every hunger, quench every thirst.

Padre Pio, who died in 1968, was raised up by God to give 20th century man a realization of the profound realities of the Mass. Padre Pio got up at midnight to prepare for his Mass at 5 a.m. As dawn approached, he grew more restless, more eager, as he himself said, "I hunger and thirst so much before receiving Him that I almost die of anxiousness."

May we pray that our hunger and thirst for the Bread of Life at least match our appetite for earthly bread.



Bicentennial Float

A float depicting Mary, the Patroness of the United States; the Catholic Family and the Church in the community was prepared by St. John's Church, Port Byron, for the Port Byron Bicentennial Parade. Marie and Theresa VanDetto were chair persons and the Van-Acra sisters made over 300 artificial flowers decorating the float.

K. OF C. OFFICERS

Ithaca — The Knights of Columbus Auxiliary has installed officers for the coming year. They are Olga Porotti, president; Dinah Collins, vice president; Margaret MacIsaac, treasurer; and Irene Dunlavy, secretary. The Knights of Columbus-sponsored Clyde Beatty Circus is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 2 at the Trumansburg Fair Grounds.

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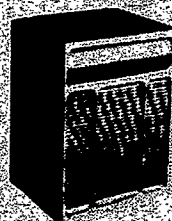


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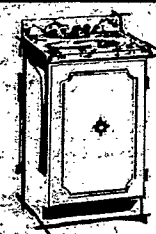


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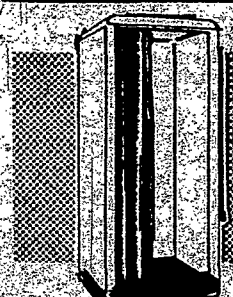
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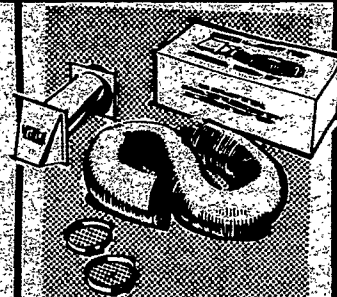
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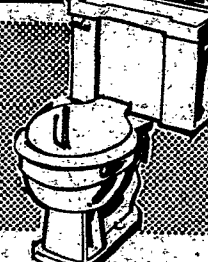
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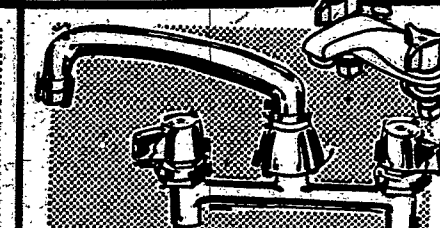
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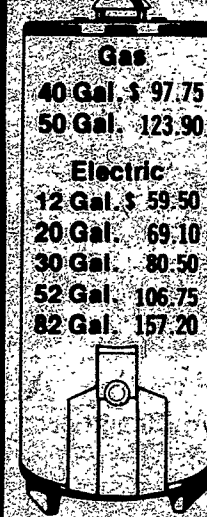


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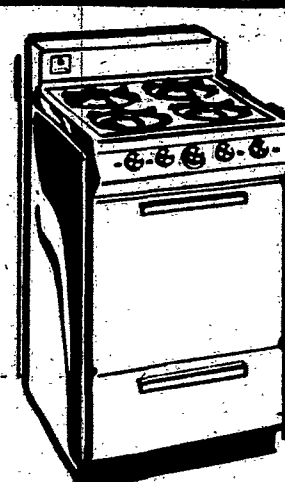
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