Helpful Neighbors

Students and faculty at Corpus Christi School were pleasantly surprised when they returned to their labors on Sept. 7. Volunteers from neighboring St. Ambrose parish spent a great deal of time and effort refurbishing the school's interior. Shown above are just a few of the many volunteers who donated their time.

Read-A-Thon To Aid MS Research

The Rochester area Multiple Sclerosis Society has joined a national reading program in which volunteer school children "read for the needs of others," according to an MS release.

Read-A-Thon, a program designed to raise funds for MS research by seeking sponsors to donate money for every book the children read, began here on Sept. 12.

Susan Tew, MS Read-A-Thon coordinator, declared that "Parents whose children join the MS Read-A-Thon will have every reason to be justly proud of these young people for their help in our fight against MS. The money they raise by reading books – and raising their own reading skills – will be used for MS research as well as patient service programs,"

An estimated $7 million has been raised by the MS Read-A-Thon since the National Multiple Sclerosis Society originated it in September, 1974.

All contributions will be divided between national research and local patient service care. A major health problem, MS is a disease of the central nervous system which affects an estimated 500,000 Americans. It usually strikes persons between the ages of 20 and 40.

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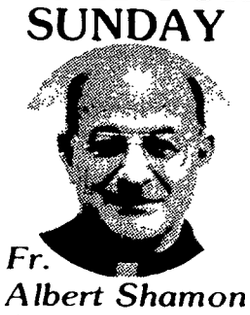
WORD FOR SUNDAY



Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 16:1-13. (R1) Am. 8:4-7. (R2) 1 Tm. 2:1-2.

Not all of us have money like the rich merchants addressed by the prophet Amos (R1). Maybe we ought to thank God that we don't, for it is too easy for money to possess a man Christ said, in characteristic oriental hyperbole, that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to pass through the gates of heaven.

Money is like poison in a bottle. It is all right in the bottle, but don't let it get into the blood stream, as did the merchants Amos denounced. The steward in the gospel was of the same ilk, and he made crooks out of his friends to save his own skin. Today money is behind the horrific drug traffic, drink and pornography.

To test whether or not money is in our blood, ask ourselves how well do we give it away to God— for the Church and the poor. I always tell my people when urging Church support, "Give not because of the Church's needs, but because you need to give"— to keep love of money out of the blood.

St. Paul says there is something far more valuable than money that is within the power of each to give. This precious gift is prayer (R2). When the Father of St. Bernard, Tecelin the Tawny, protested to his son that he could do nothing since he was an old man, St. Bernard retorted, "Father, at least you can pray." So can we all!

I think the major difference between prayer before Vatican Council II and prayer after the Council is that before the Council prayer, piety, devotions were more personal, private, individualistic, self-centered; now I think prayer is more altruistic, more outgoing, more catholic, more universal— in a word, more biblical. Our Lord's prayer, for instance, has everybody in it precisely because "you" and "I" (the words) are not in this prayer. So Paul tells us to pray primarily for others, for all men, especially those in authority. His reason is that God wills the salvation of all men!

Man may be lost, but he can be found. Man may be ignorant, but he can be enlightened. Man may be a sinner, but he can be saved. God wills that man be found, be enlightened, be saved. Hence St. Paul urged, "Pray for all." At Fatima, our Lady reechoed the same plea: "Pray for sinners."

Paul gives three reasons why prayers may not at times be answered. One reason is that sometimes we do not pray "with blameless hands"; that is, we say one thing and do another. Like the merchants condemned by Amos, who kept the Sabbath only as hollow mockery, our religion may be only outward show. Or like the roguish steward who was a "religious" Jew, though a dishonest one, our religion could be mere lipservice.

Paul's second reason is that often we are not "free from anger." We hold grudges against others. Since only the merciful shall obtain mercy, our Lord warned that "if you bring your gift to the altar and there remember your brother has anything against you, leave your gift at the altar and go first and be reconciled to your brother."

Finally, our prayers may fall on deaf ears if we are not "free from dissension." If, for instance, we habitually gossip about others, or create discord, quarrels, fights. God's children are peacemakers.

So next Sunday's readings beg us to be generous with two things: our money and our prayers. And every celebration of the Eucharist offers us the opportunity to be thus generous.

AOH Picnic Sept. 18

The Ancient Order of Hibernians has scheduled its annual picnic from 1 to 6 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 18 at Salem Park, Scottsville Road.

The Penrose Dancers will perform. Hots, hamburgers, soft drinks, beer and coffee will be available. Admission is free.

Salem Park is not far from the Route 47 intersection on Scottsville Road and AOH has advised those interested in attending the open picnic to look for road signs on Scottsville Road.

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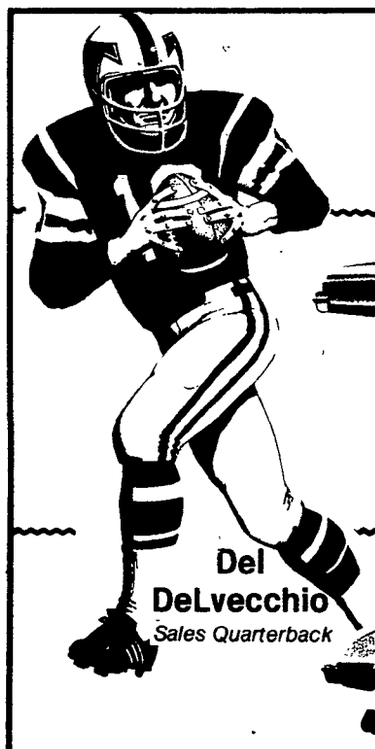

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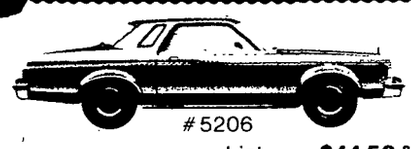

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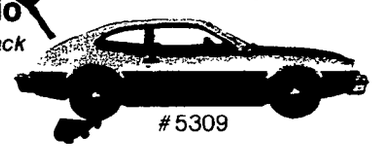

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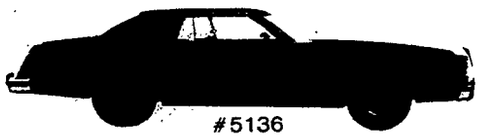

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