



With a Psalm in Their Hearts

"I will lift up my eyes to the hills from which comes my help," they said, and off they went to Sky Mountain Lodge, 2,000 feet above the Naples Valley. Eighth graders from St. Mary's School, Canandaigua, accompanied by their teachers and some parents and priests, spent two October days on a nature retreat, studying trees and ponds, practicing haiku poetry and compass reading and filling out the daylight hours with team sports, before dinner and fireplace beckoned. Shown here are Laura Smith, teacher Carol Whitmore, Michael Rennie, Barbara Boyle, Ricky Yarger, with Mike Comella behind him, Joe McMahon and Dave Noaker. Getting to know each other better, developing Christian community... Commenting on the expedition, Eugene Oberst, one of the teachers, quoted Karl Rahner that "The problem of theology is to find the art of drawing religion out of people, not pumping it into them."

WORD FOR SUNDAY



Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings:(R3) Lk. 20:27-38. (R1) 2 Mc. 7:1-2, 9-14. (R2) 2 Thess. 2:16-3:5.

The first and third readings next Sunday are about seven brothers. Both readings deal with life after life.

One of the brothers in the first reading offered his hands and tongue to be hacked off, confessing, "From God I hope to receive these again." A marvelous attestation of faith in bodily resurrection.

More wonderful than the seven brothers was their mother. Twice was she their mother: at their birth and at their death, as she stood encouraging each to die rather than break the law of God. Seven times she died as she watched each slowly die. Then she did what she had asked them to do - to die for the right.

What a contrast to those "mothers" today who would kill the children of their wombs, not in defence of God's law, but in defiance of it! How shall they avoid the frightening sentence, "For you there will be no resurrection"? (R1)

The Sadducees "poo-pooed" the idea of a bodily resurrection (R3). For them the book of Mac-cabees was not inspired. So they felt no compunction in denying its clear testimony to a resurrection. In fact, like Joseph Fletcher in his *Situation Ethics*, they too conjured up hypothetical cases, like a stacked deck of cards, to "debunk" the resurrection.

According to the Levitate Law (Dt. 25:5), if a man died without offspring, his brother was to marry the widow and name the first child after the deceased and thus preserve his name. In the case given, seven brothers, to keep the law, had married the same

woman. "At the resurrection, that question, they felt, indubitably showed the absurdity of a bodily resurrection.

Deftly, as always, Our Blessed Lord quashed the objection. In the resurrection, Christ explained, there is no need to marry. Then, too, God is love - once possessed of God and possessed by God, there's no point in making love.

Last January when I was vacationing in the Virgin Islands, I happened to be talking to a young man who questioned the existence of an afterlife. Our Lord's words came to my mind and I said, "God is not a God of death but a God of life." We were sitting on a bluff surrounded by the blue Caribbean. I pointed to the cerulean skies and the sands washed white by the surf, to pelicans dive-bombing into schools of fish for an evening meal, and said, "Look about you. Life is everywhere. The sea teems with it; the air is feathered with fowl; the land is adorned with living plants and animals. Look at those

graceful palms, the golden flowered century plants, the Turk's cap cactuses and hibiscuses showing off their flame-red flowers." As I spoke, an iguana scurried for cover, and lithe salamanders froze then darted with sudden motion.

We had snorkeled together, so I recalled the fabulous undersea world that had drawn from us so many exclamations of wonder. The rainbowed parrot fish. The delicately blue-colored tang. The mean, tiger striped sargeant fish. The longspine-black sea urchin - "Neptune's shaving brush." The fantastic coral: crinoid; sea fan, elkhorn. "You see," I continued, "there's life everywhere." Luxuriant vines clambered over walls and weeds pushed through walks of cement. "Even concrete cannot restrain life," I went on.

Then I said something that had nothing at all to do with our surroundings. "Life is so intrusive," I remarked, "that man has not even discovered a contraceptive device that is 100% failure proof. Would such a living God, whose very nature is to exude life, annihilate life?"

THE OPEN WINDOW



Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman,

Is it wrong to pray for someone to die if they are very sick? When my aunt's baby died I hated God for a couple of days. Is it wrong to feel that way? I hope you understand this little note. Thank you for everything.

Yours truly,
(Signed) B.W.

Dear B. W.,

One of the most important things that we need to know about prayer is that there is no way in the world that we can give God directions as to what to do. The natural thing when we are in need is to cry out what our need is but when we do that in prayer it is very important that we understand that we are

EAT AND VOTE!

Once again, the Bloomfield Catholic churches offer, in the words of Walter J. Sendall, "two chances in one day to get a great meal and still have plenty of time to carry out your responsibility to vote."

The traditional chicken-and-biscuit dinner will be served Election Day, Nov. 8, by the people of St. Bridget's, East Bloomfield, and of St. Joseph's, West Bloomfield. The East Bloomfield parish hall is the place; times are 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. There will be also a sale of baked goods and fudge.

FASHION SHOW NOV. 10

Elmira - The Notre Dame High School Parents Association is sponsoring a dessert-card party and fashion show Thursday, Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. Fashions will be provided by Rosenbaum's. There will be gifts for those attending to add to the evening's festivities. Progressive euchre will be available, or the game of your choice.

crying out for God's help and love whatever form that may take. It may take the form of allowing that person to live because it is better for that person to live or to die if it is better for that person to die. It would be much better if you were to pray that the sick person would have the courage to meet whatever had to be met and that you would have the courage to stand by and watch.

Your feelings of hatred for God should, I think, be simply regarded as an emotional reaction to a very sad event. It was not as though you really hated God but rather that feelings

of hurt and anger rose in you to a degree that it felt as though you hated Him. Also the fact that it lasted only for a couple of days meant that it was simply that - a feeling. Obviously if you nurtured that particular feeling and thought and really did come to regard God as hateful then it would be very definitely wrong. But I do not see that to be the case in your situation. In the long run the most important thing we pray for is that God's will be done and when His will is done we can be sure that whatever happens will be the most loving and beautiful and good happening that could possibly be.



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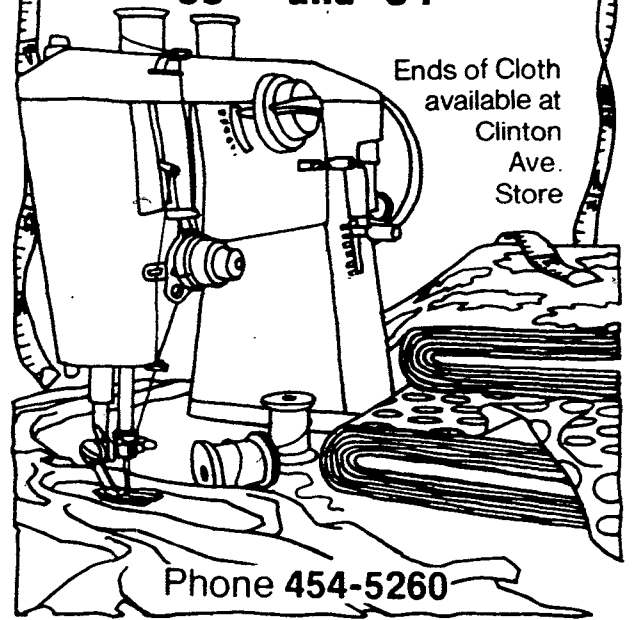
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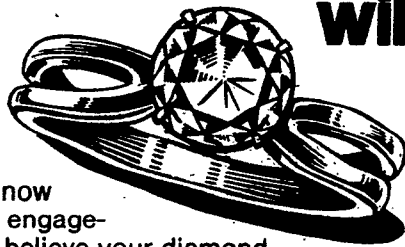
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