

Word for Sunday

By Father Albert Shamon

Let's Not Forget

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 6:51-58. (R1) Dt. 8:2-3, 14-16. (R2) 1 Cor. 10:16-17.

The sin of the angels is pride. The sin of man is forgetfulness. To help man remember, Jesus instituted the most Holy Eucharist—Corpus Christi.

Memories affect our lives. How many parents are trying to live out in a present lifestyle the home atmosphere they knew many years ago. Or maybe they are doing just the opposite, trying to make sure it is a completely different atmosphere. Many of their decisions, the place where they live, the type of home they have, the food on the table, especially

their relationships with their children, are influenced by their memories.

It can be simple things. Maybe we remember how we resented having to eat everything on our plates, so we let the kids leave pretty much what they want to on their plates.

Memories can also have an impact on how we see ourselves.

If we were an athlete, we still see ourselves as an athlete — even though we may have a 40-inch waist and haven't lifted a basketball for years. We may remember our childhood as deprived and be tremendously concerned about security or making money. Or, we can see how far we've come, and we look back and are very pleased with ourselves for having done so well, considering the circumstances.

The type of person we are, the car we drive, the clothes we wear, the food

we eat, the places we go for recreation, the entertainment we like, the songs we sing, are all very much influenced by the memories we have of our early days. Truly the child is the father of the man. Our past affects our present.

That is why Moses twice told the Israelites to remember. "Remember how for 40 years now the Lord your God has directed all your journeyings in the desert. . . Remember the Lord, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. . ." (R1) There will be no gratitude without remembering, no fidelity, no hope.

How right Sara Teasdale was when she wrote: "Oh, better than the minting/Of a gold-crowned king/Is a safe kept memory/Of a lovely thing."

Memories can do more than golden coins. "Remember the Alamo." "Remember the Maine." "Remember Pearl Harbor." Memories have carried our nation through war to victory more than once.

To keep our memories alive, Jesus gave us the Holy Eucharist.

The Eucharist is a past memory, daily remembered. Like any memory, it affects the present — affects it, even more than memories, because He who is remembered is actually present in the remembering. The Eucharist is an action which is as contemporary for each of us as the daily newspaper. Our task is to discover how Jesus is touching our ordinary lives today.

The Hebrews who gathered manna daily knew how it sustained them. (R1) Do we see the Eucharist as even more vital for our daily lives? Many grapes make the one wine and many grains of wheat the one loaf. (R2) Do we see the Eucharist as indispensable for pumping the love into our hearts that makes unity possible? Greater than the hunger for food is the hunger for a life without end. Do we see the Eucharist as the pledge of eternal lives? (R3) "If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever." Have we forgotten this?

NACEL Seeks Homes for Students

For the past 10 years, Alice and Stephen Murphy of Webster have shepherded 1,300 high school-age students from France through a summer's experience of American culture and language.

And this year they're at it again. On the Fourth of July this summer, more than 250 children will arrive at the Monroe County Airport to begin a month-long sojourn with families throughout the area.

All of the French children are conversant with English, are insured by the Murphy's organization, the North Atlantic Cultural Exchange League (NACEL), have their own spending money and are



Alice and Stephen Murphy.

chaperoned by an adult French teacher of English.

The children also will be accompanied by the group's official Catholic representative, Brother Bernard Prat.

At present the Murphys are lining up host families to

welcome and house the children during their American stay. The Murphys note that the prime requisite for being a host family is a willingness to accept the French students as real members of the American family.

Persons interested in the program have been asked to call the Murphys at (716) 265-0925.

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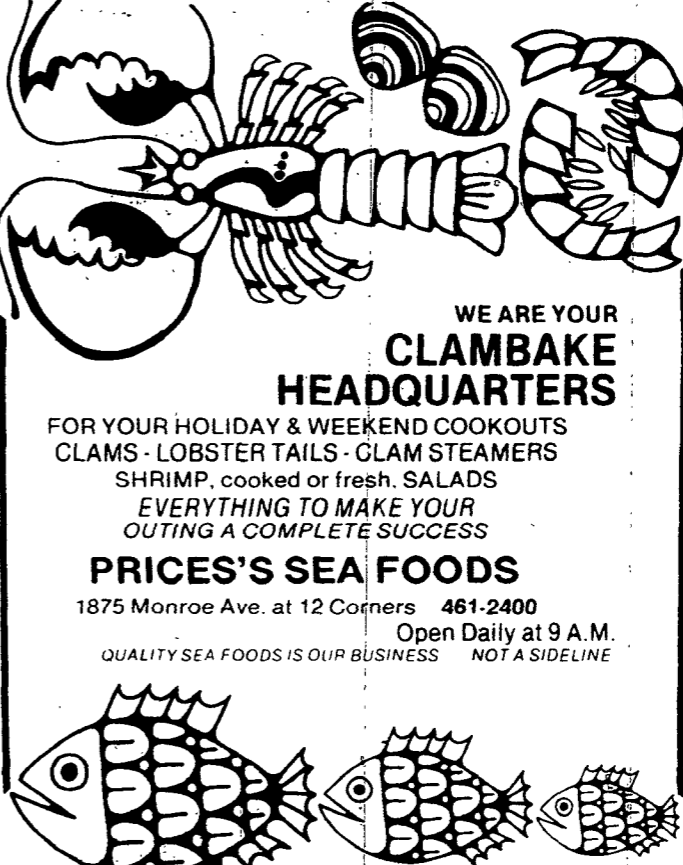


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