## Word for Sunday By Father Albert Shamon

## Faith **And Works** Are Christianity

Sunday's Readings:(R3) Mt. 7:21-27. (R1) Dt. 11:18, 26.28. (R2) Rom.

John Bunyan in his photographic Pilgrim's Progress labels one of his characters Mr. Talkative. "He talks,"

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Fr. Shamon nyan, prayer, of repentance, of the new birth, and of faith; but he knows but only to talk of them. I have been in his family, and his home is as empty of religion as the white of an egg is of flavor." Of Mr Talkative our Lord said, "None of those who cry out, Lord, Lord, will enter the Kingdom of God.'

We have one tongue in our heads and two tongues in our shoes, and no matter what the tongue in our head is saying, the tongues in our shoes tell what we are doing and where we are going. "Only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven" will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The awful truth is our actions speak louder than our words; in fact, they have

the last word. Dr. Alfred Adler contended that life happens on the level of

actions, not words. What we say is neither here nor there unless it is in agreenent with our actions. We are what we do. If the hands of our wrist watch regularly point to the wrong hour, then there is something wrong with the inner works. There

dimensions to the Christian life: faith (R2) and works (R3). Through faith we enter into a new existence in Christ: we are reborn. This is the foundational dimension. By works we grow in the life already received. This is the progressive dimension. One without the other is vain. We must work out what God has worked in us.

The Christian does not try to become what he is not. Rather he tries to become what he already is. What we are is God's gift to us; what we become is our gift to God. To become what we are requires works, struggles, fidelity and especially the

Holy Spirit. Moses held out two alternative courses for the people of God: one of obedience, doing God's will; and the other, disobedience, doing our own will. Obedience will lead to happiness, he said, as good food to good health. Disobedience will

lead to misery as poison

to death. Our Lord divided people into two classes: wise men and foolish (empty-headed) fellows. Wise men hear His word and keep it. Fools hear it and do nothing, like a man who stands by and watches his neighbor's house go up in flames and does absolutely nothing to prevent the flying sparks from setting his own home on fire.

Faith alone is talk. Works alone are humanitarianism.

Faith and works are Christianity -- building on

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TV Mass

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