



Dedication Rites

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan casts holy water within the new Resurrection Garden Mausoleum at dedication services at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery on the federal observance of Memorial Day. With him is Father Robert



Photos by John Dash

Kennedy, director of the diocesan Liturgy Office. To the right, Msgr. Frank J. Hoefen proudly points out his own space in the new facility with the words, "It's all bought and paid for."

BUSINESS NEWS

Karen A. Giancur has been elected a mortgage officer and appraiser at Security Trust Company. A Rochester native, she attended Nazareth College and Rochester Institute of Technology. She also is fifth grade teacher at the Church of the Annunciation School of Religion.

Art Fousse of Garfield Street has joined Geisler Realtors and will work out of the corporate office on Maiden Lane at Dewey, the company announced. Fousse, a former employe of Lawyers Co-op, is a graduate of Holy Family School and Edison Tech. He, his wife and three children are active in the life of St. Augustine's Parish.

Word for Sunday

By Father Albert Shamon

'Mercy, Not Sacrifice'

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 9:9-13. (R1) Hos. 6:3-6. (R2) Rom. 4:18-25.

In the Sunday liturgy the gospel determines the theme and the first reading. Whenever the gospel happens to quote the Old Testament, the first reading will be the Fr. Shamon Old Testament passage from which the quote was taken, as in this Sunday's liturgy. Our Lord quoted Hosea when He said, "It is mercy I desire and not sacrifice." So the first reading is from Hosea and the theme is about the heart of religion: love, and not just external action.

Israel was in trouble in the time of Hosea, so the Israelites went to their shrine to Bethel. There, they prayed and offered sacrifices to win God's help. But their offerings were only lip service; they were substituting acts for actions, animal sacrifices instead of change of life. They were trying to "buy"

God's help by giving things with lavish rituals, rather than by giving Him their hearts.

In disgust, Hosea blurted out, "What can I do with you, Ephraim! What can I do with you, Judah! Your piety is like a morning cloud (so quickly dissipated by the rising sun), like the dew that early passes away (with the dawn)." "Love," thundered Hosea, "is what God desires. You, not your animal sacrifices."

Eight hundred years later, the gospel presents a contrasting picture: that of an Israelite who made no pretense at practicing his Jewish faith. He belonged to a notorious infamous class — tax collectors. By all outward signs, he was a sinner, despised and avoided by all good Jews.

However, we must not be too sympathetic with this Matthew, just because people scorned him. How do we feel about a pusher of drugs? Or a collaborator with our country's enemies, a man who sells secrets to them? A loan shark who squeezes all he can out of poor people? Well, tax collectors in those days were in the same category.

But what about the Son of God?

He was able to see beneath the surface of things. He saw the heart. The Pharisees were keeping all the rules; Matthew was not. The Pharisees were whited sepulchres; Matthew was good at heart. Hosea blasted the so-called worshippers of God; Jesus blessed a non-worshipper — because He could see the heart of man and we cannot.

Therefore, we must never judge others. Rather we must judge only ourselves, for the only heart we know, or can know, is our own. And the big question is, "Do my actions reflect what is going on in my heart, or is my heart elsewhere and my religion just a surface thing, like that of Ephraim and Judah? And do I sit in judgment on others on the basis of what I see, as the Pharisees did on Matthew?"

At Mass each Sunday, we see that God still puts so little stock in appearances, that he comes under the form of bread and wine. What is important is the substance behind the appearances: the heart behind the action. In the words of St. Anthony of Padua, "A good work without the gift of heart is like a lamp without oil." "The gift without the giver is bare."

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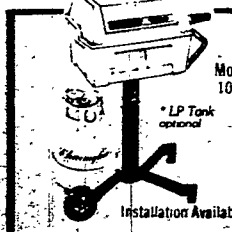
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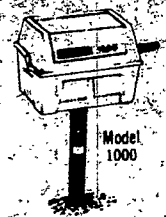
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