

Word for Sunday

By Father Albert Shamon

There Is Another World

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 17:1-9. (R1) Dn. 7:9-10, 13-14. (R2) 2 Pt. 1:16-19.

The transfiguration shows how human Christ was. This incident occurred at a turning point in His life. He had done His work as prophet when Peter confessed He was the Messiah. After that confession, His work as priest—as Victim—was about to begin. He needed courage and strength.

So He went up a mountain to pray. After John F. Kennedy was buried, his brother Robert went to a mountain alone. Jesus was even more human: He took with Him His three closest friends.

There on the mountain, His Father reaffirmed Him: "This is my beloved son"—Peter's confession was right. "Listen to

Him"—Peter was wrong in questioning His teachings about suffering and dying.

Then Moses and Elijah appeared to comfort Him. Moses reminded Jesus that, like the rock struck in the desert from which issued water, there would flow from Him, when struck on Calvary, water and blood—the twin sacraments (Baptism and Holy Eucharist) which would upbuild His Church. And Elijah was there to tell Him that His sacrifice would draw down fire from heaven to consume evil and purify hearts.

One day I visited the home of some fallen-away Catholics. When I suggested a return to the Church, the man of the house said, "I'm doing all right without the Church. I'm making a go of it. I've a fine home, job, car, wife and kids. What more do I need?"

That is the kind of answer I had been getting quite often. I began to wonder how do you talk to people like that? What arguments can you use, or answers can you give to their factual statement, "I'm making a go of it without the Church"?

Materially, yes, perhaps! I know man does not live on bread alone—but how do you convince material-minded people of that? Suddenly, an answer did dawn on me. A simple answer. So obvious.

When a person says, "I'm making a go of it in this world," I ask, "but what about the next world? Are you making, and will you make a go of it there?"

When they question the existence of another world, I tell them the story of the transfiguration. Of how Moses after 1,250 years and Elijah after 850 years appeared there with Christ, and as young as Christ, with neither one showing any of the frailties of age. Both were in the bloom of manhood.

Both were so much themselves that the apostles could tell, we don't know how, that one was Moses and the other Elijah. "There is another world," I tell them. "You can take Christ's word for it."

The last question I put to them is this: "Do you know what our Lord called the man who looked only to this world? Who thought he had it made here?"

"You fool!" (Lk. 12:20)

The Open Window

By FATHER HOHMAN

Of Women And the Diaconate

A friend of mine received a letter recently from one of her friends and I would like to share it with you.



"I was interested in what you said about 'commissioning' for all ministries. I am not sure how to express this clearly, but perhaps you will understand what I mean. I am always uneasy at the way we are thanked for CCD teaching. For an individual to thank me for the way in which I have done a particular thing is always nice. But when we are thanked—by the pastor, for example—for what we do for the Church, it bothers me a little bit. Because, I see what I do as something I do in the Church, not for the Church. I don't come from 'outside' to do something for the pastor; I do it with him in our Church. But I'd certainly like to be 'commissioned' in a way which would assure me of the loving and prayerful support of my special ministry—just as I would enjoy the opportunity to offer my loving and prayerful support of other special ministries to which other members of the church have been called. Does that make sense?"

I do not feel I have been called to the diaconate, permanent or otherwise, as it has been described. And, although I find it a flawed concept, I do take it seriously. Thus, I felt disturbed recently when I found myself discussing it with a group of CCD

teachers whom I did not know personally. I said I was uncomfortable with the concept of a ministry which excluded women and was asked if I thought women should be deacons. I said I didn't know whether anyone should be a deacon, but I just didn't feel that if the diaconate existed at all it should automatically exclude half of the Church. And a man said he thought women should be deacons, "because women have more time for that sort of thing, anyway."

I overcame the temptation to go off in a corner and found a church of my own."

I share this letter with you because I feel so strongly about what it has to offer. The Pope and the bishops of the world are going to have to come up hard against this whole question of the meaning of diaconate and the relationship of women to that office. The last paragraph contains what I regard as an important insight into the a problem that we all face. And I agree with the writer. The man who thought women should be deacons "because women have more time for that sort of thing, anyway" made one of the most horrendously male chauvinist statements that I have heard in a long time. It demeans women and it demeans the work of the Church.

SUMMER CLEAN-UP



OF USED CARS

1977 FORD PINTO

Runabout, red with black vinyl interior, bucket seats, 4 cyl, stick shift, 25,000 miles, AM radio, tape deck, clean inside and out.

\$3450

1976 OLDS DELAT 88 ROYALE

2 dr HT Red with white vinyl interior, white top, 350-V8 automatic, P.S., P.B., radio, only 39,277 miles, must be seen. Looks & runs like new.

\$3250

1974 PLYMOUTH SCAMP

2 door, hardtop, red with black vinyl interior, white vinyl roof, 6 cyl., auto., PS, radio, one owner, must be seen.

\$2475

1975 DATSUN 710 WAGON

4 dr. Red with black vinyl interior, 4 cyl. automatic, radio, only 21,084 miles. Looks good, runs excellent.

\$2850

1974 OLDS OMEGA

4 door, cream with brown vinyl interior, brown vinyl roof, 6 cyl., auto., PS, PB, radio, economy plus, only 30,970 miles, Real clean.

\$2650

1977 BEAUVILLE VAN

8 cyl., two tone brown/beige with cloth interior, 11 passenger, automatic, PS, PB, radio, tilt wheel, only 20,000 miles, absolutely new.

1974 FIAT 124

Convertible, Maroon, 4 speed, black vinyl, radio, runs great, AS IS.

\$850

1975 OLDS 88 ROYALE

2 door, HT, beige with brown velour interior, brown vinyl roof, 350 V8, automatic, PS, PB, air cond. AM/FM radio, 4 new W/W tires, just 40,858 miles. Must be seen.

\$3675

1977 AMC GREMLIN

6 cyl., hatch back, brown metallic with brown vinyl interior, gold stripes, automatic, PS, AM radio, rust proofed, only 7,620 miles, absolutely new, real sharp.

\$3450

1978 CHEV. BLAZER. 4x4.

White with Buckskin cloth interior, 350-V8, automatic, P.S. P.B., air cond, AM/FM rad., power windows, tilt wheel, cruiser control, deluxe wheels & tires, only 7,500 miles absolutely mint.

\$9500

1974 VW Dasher

4 cyl., blue with grey vinyl buckets, automatic, rust proofed, excellent economy car, one owner, just 46,811 miles.

\$2650

1975 PLYMOUTH DUSTER

Copper metallic with white vinyl interior, 2 dr., Coupe, 6 cyl., auto., PS, PB, 29,000 original miles.

\$2950

1974 CHEV MONTE CARLO

2 dr., beige with beige vinyl interior, white vinyl top, 350 V8, automatic, PS, PB, air cond., AM/FM radio, TH wheel, only 38,262 miles, real sharp.

\$3650

1977 DODGE ASPEN WAGON

Dark Blue metallic with blue vinyl interior, 4 speed over drive, AM radio, luggage rack. Just 10,900 miles. Excellent condition.

\$3450

1973 OLDS CUTLASS SUPREME

2 door, HT, green with beige vinyl interior, beige vinyl top, 8 cyl., automatic, PS, PB, radio, just 13,175 miles, absolutely cherry, one owner, ladies car.

\$3200

1978 PONTIAC SUNBIRD

2 dr., hatchback, red with black vinyl interior, 4 cyl., 4 speed, AM/FM radio. Rust proofed, chrome wheels, white lettered tires, only 7,700 miles, almost new.

\$4150

1975 CHEV MALIBU CLASSIC

2 door, HT, brown metallic with brown vinyl interior, 8 cyl., automatic, PS, PB, radio, 4 new steel belted W/W radials, one owner, looks and runs like new.

\$3200

1974 CHEV IMPALA

4 dr., sedan, brown with beige vinyl interior, 8 cyl., automatic, PS, PB, only 34,142 miles, looks and runs like new.

\$2475

1974 OLDS DELTA 88

Blue with blue cloth interior, 4 dr., 8 cyl., auto., PS, PB, good condition, 1450 inspected.

\$1450

1974 CHEV CAPRICE CLASSIC

4 door, red with black cloth interior, white vinyl roof, 350 V8, automatic, PS, PB, air cond., one owner, runs & looks like new.

\$2475

1974 FORD MAVERICK

2 dr., brown with beige cloth interior, 6 cyl., economy car, automatic, PS, radio, no rust, one owner.

\$2150

1972 IMPALA CONVERTIBLE

Brown with black vinyl interior, 8 cyl., automatic, PS, PB, AM/FM radio, rust proofed, only 54,000 miles, one owner, must be seen.

\$2700

1971 OLDS CUTLASS WG.

Blue with blue vinyl interior, 8 cyl., auto., PS, PB, AS IS.

\$550

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