

# Word for Sunday

By Father Albert Shamon

## We Must Don The Garment Of Good Works

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 22:1-14. (R1) Is. 25:6-10, (R2) Phil. 4:12-14, 19-20.

After Titus had destroyed Jerusalem and its Temple (70 A.D.) the Pharisees led by Rabbi Johanan ben Zakkai founded a school at Jamnia, near Joppa, and began to take measures for the survival of Judaism. This school worked at fixing the list of books that would make up the Old Testament, produced a common calendar for all Jews and established itself as the authoritative voice of Judaism.

But the school at Jamnia did more than insure the survival of Judaism. Besides setting its own house in order, Jamnia set up its defensive against what it considered to be a Jewish heresy, namely Christianity. It introduced into the weekly synagogue service a prayer against heretics. "Let Christians and all other heretics," so went the prayer, "be blotted out of the book of the living and perish in a moment."

Matthew's gospel was a Jewish-Christian's response to this condemnation and to the persecution of Jewish Christians that followed upon it.

Matthew set out to

prove that Jesus is the new Moses and His Church, the new Israel.

In the parable of the wedding feast, Matthew was warning the Jews of Jamnia that salvation can be taken away from Israel (the invited guests) and given to others (the poor Gentiles on the byroads).

To this parable, Matthew tacked on another parabolic fragment — the incident regarding the wedding garment. Originally, the story of the wedding garment probably had been a full-blown parable. It obviously did not belong to the parable of the wedding feast. For if people had been fetched off the streets, how could they be expected to be dressed for a wedding?

A solution can perhaps be found by recalling that the King orders his servants to go into the byroads to invite others to the wedding feast, because "Those who were invited were unfit to come." In other words, to receive the invitation and to accept it are not enough. What is further required is a man's fitness to sit at the table with a king. If we then see the wedding garment as a symbol for a man's fitness to be at the wedding, then the truncated parable makes sense. As in the wedding parable, judgment fell upon the Jews who had rejected Christ, so now those called in their place (all of us) are not beyond judgment. Unless we toot on the garment of good works, then the judgment of Israel shall be meted out to us also.

## Changes In Church To Be Topic Of Series In Scottsville

Scottsville — The Education Committee of St. Mary's of the Assumption Church will sponsor an adult education series on the topic "Is It the Same Church?"

The sessions to last for six weeks will begin tonight at 7:30 p.m. and continue each Wednesday through Nov. 15.

On Wednesday, Nov. 1, All Saints Day, the session will follow Mass at 7:30 p.m.

### Anniversary

The 10th anniversary of the Al Sigi Center will be celebrated Oct. 12 with tours for the public, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and a noon luncheon in the gymnasium. The center's facilities at 1000 Elmwood Ave. include also a therapy pool, library, cafeteria and media center.

The seven autonomous

agencies using the center are the Association for Retarded Children, the Hearing and Speech Center of Rochester, Mary Cariola Children's Center, Inc., Medical Motor Service, Rochester Area Multiple Sclerosis, Inc., Rochester Rehabilitation Center, Inc., and United Cerebral Palsy Association of Rochester, Inc.

Guests will include Sister Jane Geiger, Father Lewis Brown, Father Joseph DeMaio, Father Robert Kennedy and his liturgy staff, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Staropoli, and a panel of members of various parishes.

The sessions will be open to all and will take place in Hartman Hall, 99 Main St., Scottsville. Further information is available from Deirdre Hetzler at 889-9419 or Nancy Wolf at 889-4477.

## Corpus Christi Church 90th Anniversary



November 10, 1978

6:30 Mass celebrated by Bishop Hogan.  
8:30 Adult Dinner Party at Mapledale Party House.

Tickets - \$8.00  
Reservations - Send check to Corpus Christi Rectory, 80 Prince Street, 14605 or Call 325-2424

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