

Word for Sunday

By Father Albert Shamon

It's the Spirit That Counts, Not the Words

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 23:1-12. (R1) Mal. 1:14-2, 8-10. (R2) 1 Thess. 2:7-9, 13.

Who has not been accosted by a Jehovah Witness denouncing Catholics for calling their priests "Father."

One once stopped me to upbraid me for this verbal crime. "Why do you let people call you Father," he complained. "After all, don't you know what Jesus



Fr. Shamon

said — "Do not call anyone on earth your father?"

Of course Jesus said that (in fact, in next Sunday's gospel). But Jesus also said, "History has not known a man born of woman greater than John the Baptizer." (Mt. 11:11) Yet Jesus Himself was born of woman. Surely He was greater than John. You see, as always, text out of context is pretext.

Jesus' words about not calling anyone "father" were part of His attack on the Scribes and Pharisees. When the sect of Pharisees began, they were ardent champions of true religion. But, as time went on, their ardor waned; and at the time of Jesus, their religion had become hollow and they had become

abhorrent hypocrites, whose words were bold but whose deeds were few.

It is significant that the only one who ever called Jesus "Rabbi" was Judas; and the only ones who ever addressed Him as "teacher" were His enemies. (Mt. 8:19, 9:11, 12:38, 22:16)

Jesus never corrected them on this usage, for He was opposed not to titles, but to the attitude of those who sought them. I am sure you have heard someone retort like this when another tries to lord it over others, "Who does he think he is — God Almighty?" Well, the Scribes and the Pharisees acted as though they were God Almighty. They had drilled the Jews into paying deference to them: their spiritual fathers, their

rabbis, their teachers. In fact, they set their authority above that of the prophets and God's written words. Not infrequently, their regulations actually nullified God's commands. (Mk. 7:13; Jn. 7:19-23) It was against this lopsided, topsy-turvy inversion of values that Jesus inveighed.

A similar situation has confronted us in the last two decades. How many teachings of the Church have been assailed in the name of "theologians." I've often said, "Don't quote the names of theologians to me when you wish to justify your rejection of a teaching of the Church." In such instances, I too would give counsel not unlike Christ's, namely, "Avoid following a 'theologian' who does not follow the Magisterium of

the Church."

Jesus condemned not authority, but authoritarianism. He condemned anything that threw up walls between God and men; that made religion an intolerable burden, not an uplift; that deified self, not God.

Jesus was not concerned with words, the letter of the law, but with the spirit. God Himself spoke of "Honor your father and your mother." The prophet in the first reading speaks of "the covenant of our fathers." So the Church does not forbid the term to be used of God's representatives today. For a priest is called "Father" not to glorify himself, but to remind us of the Father in heaven, who gives divine life to His children at baptism.

Blue Army

The monthly all-night vigil of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima will open at 9 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 3 at Holy Rosary Church. Father John P. O'Malley will conduct the first hour. Fathers John Poluikis and Frederick Helfrich also will lead devotions during the night. The vigil concludes with a 6 a.m. Mass celebrated by Father Robert Meng, pastor of the parish.

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Assemblyman James Nagle



INAGLIE

ROW B
Republican
ROW C
Conservative

Jim Nagle Campaign Comm. '78
Frank Luellen, Jr., Treas.

Parish Sets Sacraments Workshops

Blessed Sacrament Parish will hold a workshop on the Sacraments Nov. 3 and 4.

Entitled Sacraments and Our Christian Life, the workshop is the first in a series of like events designed to update the parish's faith.

Msr. William Shannon, professor of religious studies at Nazareth College, will speak on Contemplation and Sacraments on Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the parish meeting room.

Workshops will be held on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Leading the workshops are Ruth Maier, pastoral assistant; Father John P. Norris, pastor; Father Thomas J. Valenti, associate; and Dr. William J. Sullivan, associate professor of Religious Studies at St. John Fisher College. The series is sponsored by the parish staff and the Adult Education Committee.

Glory of Yahweh

The Glory of Yahweh prayer group has scheduled three meetings for November. All are on Mondays, at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Name Church, Greece. On Nov. 20, there will be a charismatic Mass and healing service, with Father David Simon as celebrant. Other dates are Nov. 13 and Nov. 27. For more information: 352-9037 or 436-9321.

Now Blue Boy offers up to 10¢ a label.

Last year, thousands of non-profit organizations earned extra cash. Just by saving our labels.

In 1977, churches, schools, scouts and community service groups participated in Blue Boy's first Good Neighbor campaign.

They collected thousands of our labels and returned them to Blue Boy. And for every label saved, we gave them 5¢.

Now you can get more. Most Blue Boy labels are still worth 5¢. But, as a SPECIAL BONUS, you can earn 8¢ for all "Tiny Tin" 8 oz. size labels (the size preferred by singles and couples), and 10¢ for all regular-size Blue Boy green bean, wax bean, beet (in glass and cans), red cabbage and applesauce labels.





With so many delicious Blue Boy products to choose from, it's an easy way for your group to earn extra cash.

It's our way of lending your good group a helping hand.

Another good reason to buy Blue Boy, is garden fresh flavor. Blue Boy vegetables are grown in Upstate New York, and packed in cans with a special white plate lining.

Join in our Good Neighbor campaign. All non-profit organizations are eligible.

Just follow the coupon, fill it in, and mail it back to Blue Boy, along with our labels.

			
Most Blue Boy labels worth	All Blue Boy "Tiny Tin" (8 oz. size) labels worth	All Blue Boy green bean, wax bean, applesauce and beet labels worth	
5¢ each	8¢ each	10¢ each	
No. _____ of 5¢ labels enclosed.	No. _____ of 8¢ labels enclosed.	No. _____ of 10¢ labels enclosed.	

Mail to: **Blue Boy Good Neighbor Campaign**
P.O. Box 22689, Rochester, N.Y. 14692 CJ

Name of organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tax Exempt No. _____

All labels must be postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 1978. Blue Boy will forward a check as our contribution to your group's activities.

Good vegetables from good neighbors.



Blue Boy

Curice-Burns, Inc. Coast-to-coast with regional brands.

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Jack Dailey
speaks common sense



Democrat / Conservative
for State Assembly
12nd District