

# Word for Sunday

By Father Albert Shamon

## How Often Do We Help The Needy?

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 25:31-46. (R1) Ez. 34:11-12. (R2) 1 Cor. 15:20-26, 28.

One thing most of us tend to do is to judge others. We don't do this consciously; but instinctively, we are constantly determining in our minds who the good people are. We have our own set of standards, and according to this we categorize people. Sunday's gospel gives us Christ's set of standards, not to judge others, but to judge ourselves. Here is His list:

First, our Lord singled out hungry people, not starving people. We dump enough into our disposals each day to feed a starving family for a week. But hungry people—people hungering for affection; for friendship. Do we even smile to others, at a toll booth, for instance? When is the last time I paid another a compliment?

Secondly, our Lord talked about thirsting

people: Not those needing a glass of water, for water is everywhere. But people thirsting for truth, for inner peace, wandering around aimlessly in life, and seeking to allay the thirst within by excessive drink or drugs. How many converts have we brought into the Church?

Third on His list was our relationship to strangers. Strangers are people waiting to be found. Every year 25,000 kids go to Times Square in New York City. Since they have nothing to sell but themselves, easily victimized by the so-called victimless crime of prostitution. Fr. Bruce Ritter founded Covenant House on the seamiest strip of New York's Eighth Avenue to offer these youngsters sanctuary, a home away from home, and thus salvage their lives. He started alone. Now he has a staff of 130 paid and 180 volunteers. By welcoming these strangers, Fr. Ritter estimates he saves at least ten percent of them.

How many people around us, husbands, wives, children, neighbors, are strangers to us? They submerge feelings, or play games, just because they feel we would reject the real "me." Do we cause others to build walls? Or do we build bridges?

Sometimes people will walk all over us if we are kind. But, even a doormat has a welcome sign on it.

Then our Lord singled out the naked. Not those who have no clothes. Rag dealers in our country are millionaires. But those who are stripped of confidence or security, who are shivering from the cold of abandonment or misunderstanding. How do I treat people everybody else seems to avoid?

Next, the ill. Do we comfort those in a nursing home by a visit? Or a card?

Lastly, our Lord mentioned prisoners. Somebody disturbs society, so we box him where he'll no more disturb our peace. But what about him? Some women in my parish have adopted prisoners ("pen pals") in the Ohio State Penitentiary of maximum security. It is a grim place. I have been privileged to share in their correspondence. And I have seen prisoners transformed from volcanoes of hate and despair to men of love and hope.

This kind of thinking in Matthew's gospel is not meant to fill us with guilt feelings. Rather, it is meant to open up to us new vistas of how we can relate to the ills of the world. Some people just deplore them and do nothing. Our Lord says, "Look at all the things you can do 'til I come."

# Kodak Announces Education Grants

Eastman-Kodak Company has announced grants of \$2,081,200 to nine colleges and universities in the Rochester area.

Special grants totaling \$1,909,000 went to Monroe Community, Nazareth, St. John Fisher, Roberts Wesleyan colleges; University of Rochester, Rochester Institute of Technology and the Colgate Rochester theological complex. The report provided no breakdown. It listed Nazareth, Roberts, Fisher, U. of R. and RIT as participants in the new Kodak Scholars Program,

which provides tuition aid and grants to specific departments.

The Kodak employee-alumni program provided \$173,600, as follows: Community College of the Finger Lakes, \$1,200; MCC, \$17,850; Nazareth, \$5,200; Roberts, \$5,200; U. of R., \$31,850; RIT, \$96,850; Fisher, \$11,700 and SUC Brockport, \$3,750.

The total disbursed under the 1978 Educational Aid Program was \$3.9, Kodak reported, adding that since 1955 the company had given more than \$65 million to more than 850 schools.

## Criminology

"International Perspectives on Criminology" will be the subject of a talk by Jerzy Jasinski, director of the Institute of Life Science of the Polish Academy of Science and vice president of the International Sociology Association, at 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16, in Basil Hall at St. John Fisher College. The lecture, open to the public, is sponsored by the school's sociology department.

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Fr. Shamon

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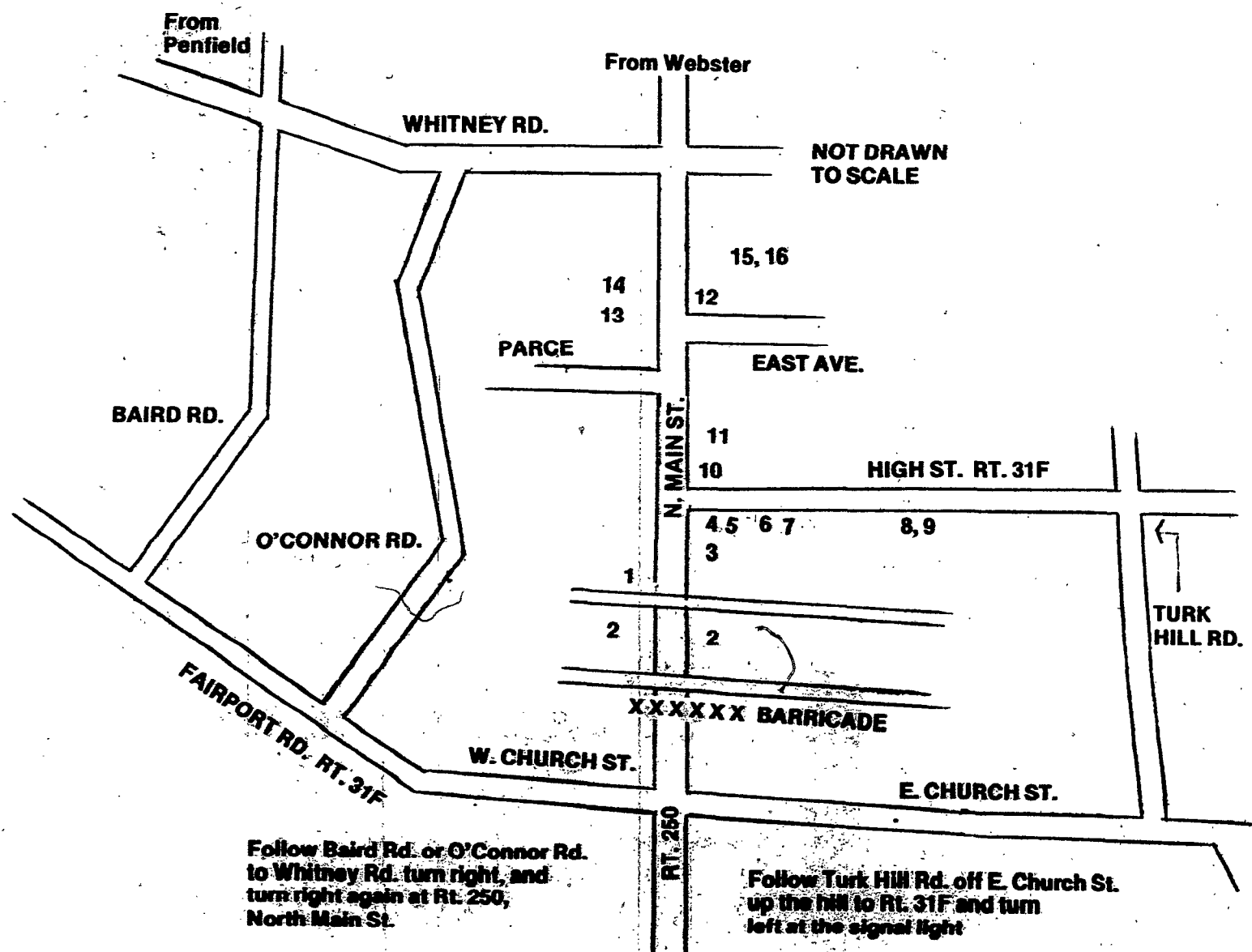
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