

# Word for Sunday

By Father Albert Shamon

## God Demands Very Little Of Us

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 3:14-21. (R1) 2 Chr. 36:14-16, 19-23. (R2) Eph. 2:4-10.

Back in the 30s Marc Connelly wrote a Pulitzer Prize play called Green Pastures. It was a black man's version of heaven. God was pictured as concocting one plan after another to try Fr. Shamon to win man's love. He fails every time. Finally, Hosea the prophet suggests that He try a plan He'd never tried before — namely, mercy through sufferin'. The play concludes with God adopting this plan.



With Noah, with Abraham, with Moses' God tried to woo a people. He fails. "All the princes of Judah, the priests, the people added infidelity to infidelity." (R1) Finally, love

drove God to extremes. "God so loved the world, He gave His only Son." He who would not let Abraham sacrifice his own son, let His own Son be sacrificed so great was His love for us. He let Him be hanged on a cross, like the bronze serpent Moses hung on a tent pole. As looking on this serpent saved all those bitten by the deadly saraph snake, so all who look on Jesus crucified look with faith on Jesus crucified would be saved from the bite of deadly sin. "Whoever believes in Him may not die but may have eternal life."

St. John in the Sunday gospel uses that word "believe" five times.

Belief, to help us, must be more than acceptance of a lot of truths. I believe that my next-door neighbor exists, but he will be no help to me, he will not relieve my loneliness, nor my fears, if I don't believe in him. If a person is to affect my life, I've got to let him in — into my life! I must change mere acquaintanceship to relationship, I must move

from being a next-door person to being a friend. Only then can there be communion, sharing, caring, helping.

The same thing is true about Jesus. It is not enough to know that He exists, to know some facts about Him — some miracle stories, some of His teachings. That is quite easy to do: simply read the gospels. Rather we must get to know Him, as a husband, his wife — intimately, lovingly, experientially; and our relationship has to grow over the years, deepen through new experiences. This is not so easily achieved, because it demands that we let Jesus in — into our lives.

One of the biggest obstacles to doing this, I think, has been the "merit system." You know what I mean. We sort of felt we had to win God's love. That we had to pile up good deeds to be sure we got to heaven. We made salvation depend on what we did, rather than on what God does.

Haven't we often let Christ's teachings get between us and the Teacher? I have. I used to concentrate so much on what Christ

wanted me to do that I was actually missing Christ. I was not letting Him in — only His teachings!

How wrong this is! Jesus pointed out God loved us even before we existed. (R1) St. Paul used the rhetoric of repetition to pound home the same truth: it is by God's mercy, God's love, God's favor (used three times), God's kindness, God's gift, that we are saved. "This (salvation) is not your own doing." (R2)

John Paul I, in a letter to G.K. Chesterton, says many people today fight against God. What they are fighting, he says, is not the God, but the false idea of God they have formed — a God, they think, who only asks and demands, who observes sins and punishes them, who lets people hunger and die.

This Sunday's readings show us truly who God is — One who loves us so much as to die for us, God does not want to harm us. He wants to do us great good. It is not true that He makes excessive demands of us; on the contrary, He is satisfied with little, because He knows very well that we do not have much.

# BASH Scheduled For March 31

BASH, the major fund-raising event for the benefit of McQuaid Jesuit High School, will take place March 31.

BASH means Building a Scholastic Heritage. Since tuition covers just over half of the cost per student, the school must rely on other sources of income.

The setting for BASH '79 will be a canopy of color using pure color and graphics. Invitations, catalog and decorations all use a circle with the six primary and secondary colors.

Cocktails begin the evening's activities at 5:30 p.m., followed by a formal dinner and oral and silent auctions. Irish coffee at 12:30

a.m. will conclude the festivities.

The community is invited to a BASH preview from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on March 30.

Anyone wishing to attend who has not received an invitation should contact 473-9058. Cost is \$125 a couple, \$30 of which is returned as scrip to be used the night of BASH. Reservations are limited to 500.

**Chocolate Easter Bunnies & Novelties**

Hand Dip Cluster  
Chocolate Castle  
404 Empire Blvd.  
654-9194  
Tues.-Sat. 11-5



## MR. DOMINIC'S (Formerly Cinelli's)

STEAMED CLAM SPECIAL

Mon. and Wed. 6 to 10 p.m.

EVERY SAT. EVENING  
PRIME RIB SPECIAL  
24 oz. \$9.00  
16 oz. \$6.75

Complete Dinner

Do you need a party catered — Call us!

Dinners Served 4-10 P.M. 7 Days  
4699 Lake Ave. 663-9848



## Bridal Corner



BAKERY 1688 CLIFFORD AVE.

3 tier serves up to 100, \$29  
4 tier serves 175 to 200, \$45  
4 tier fountain cake, \$80  
3 tier whipped cream, custard filling serves up to 100 \$45

Decorators cakes, whipped cream & strawberry, lemon, pineapple, custard filling: 1/4 sheet, \$5.00; 1/2 sheet, \$8.00; full sheet \$15.00; Decorator cakes, butter cream frostings, half sheet \$7.00, full sheet \$13

BURT SHAPIRO  
Photography Studio  
WEDDINGS  
from \$99  
Phone 244-3554

FOR RATE  
INFORMATION  
CALL 454-7050

## Margaret Comin, R.N. Takes Mercy Vows

Sister Margaret Anne Comin, a nurse at Highland Hospital, will make her first profession of promises as a Sister of Mercy this Sunday afternoon, March 25.

Father Robert Kennedy will concelebrate Mass with Father John Mulligan at 3 p.m. in the Mercy Motherhouse Chapel, Blossom Road. Sister Michael Lappetito, novice director, will preach the homily. The theme of the celebration is "Lord, my hope, in You I trust."

Sister Margaret is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter G. Comin of Demarest Parkway, Elmira. She was graduated from Elmira Free Academy in 1967 and from Alfred University in 1971, with a B.S. degree in nursing. Before entering the Mercy congregation, in September 1976, she worked at Genesee Hospital, as head nurse at Park Ridge Hospital and as nursing instructor at Roberts Wesleyan College. During her postulant year she continued as head nurse at Park Ridge. She lives at St. Cecilia's Convent on Culver Road.



Margaret Comin

## Education Forum

The "basic competency test — what does it mean?" is the subject of the Education Forum on March 29. Mary Alice Kendall, a member of the State Board of Regents, will be among the speakers. The meeting, noon until 1 p.m., in the auditorium of Hochstein Music School, 50 N. Plymouth, is one in an alternate-Thursdays series sponsored by the Education Resource Network of Genesee Ecumenical Ministries. The next in the series, April 5, concerns the "magnet" school. These meetings are public. Everyone is invited to bring lunch; tea and coffee will be offered.

# Classified

### WANTED TO BUY

ELECTRIC TRAINS — All kinds. Catalogs. Cast Iron toys — also trade. 342-2608.

FAMILY CLOTHING — new & used. On consignment, all sizes. Connie's Wear House, 1690 St. Paul St., 544-3331 after 1 p.m.

ORIENTAL RUGS — any size, any condition. Cash, call PEGGY, 885-1053.

COLLECTOR WILL pay CASH for political buttons. Call 381-8161.

DON'T THROW IT AWAY, SELL IT. I will buy your accumulations or manage your household sale. Nancy Flaherty. 533-1746.

STAMP COLLECTIONS — foreign & U.S., old post cards. Flower City Stamps & Coins, 1575 Dewey Ave., 647-9320.

SONNY'S NEW & Used Furniture and Appliances; bought, sold. 509 Portland Ave., (daily 9-9) 266-7424.

COIN-OPERATED, slot and penny arcade machines. (716)544-4184; 266-9640.

STAMP COLLECTIONS — foreign & U.S., old post cards. Flower City Stamps & Coins, 1575 Dewey Ave., 647-9320.

U.S. COINS and U.S. stamps. Rev. Kuchman, Montezuma, N.Y. 13117. 315-967-5755.

WANTED!  
OLD COINS, OLD STAMPS  
Free Appraisals  
Bauer Coins  
Anru Philatelics  
337 E. Main St. Cor. Stillson  
546-2763

### Subscriber Special

\*1.50 for a 10 WORD WANT AD

Only with this Coupon

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR ORDER  
10¢ Each Additional Word — Deadline Friday Noon  
PLEASE PRINT

Enclosed Find \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please run my Want Ad for \_\_\_\_\_ Weeks

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: COURIER JOURNAL WANT AD DEPT.  
67 Chestnut St., Rochester, New York 14604  
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO COURIER JOURNAL

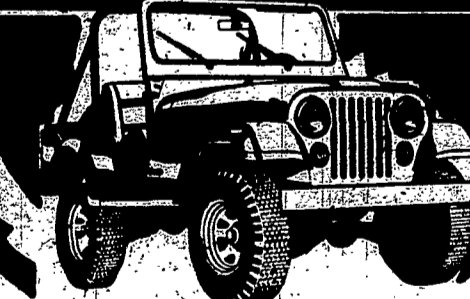
Valuable Coupon



## Seton Fashions

St. Mary's Hospital will benefit from the proceeds of the ninth annual Seton Fashion Show and Luncheon, slated this year for March 27 at Monroe Golf Club. The social hour begins at 11 a.m. Lunch at noon will be followed by a show of spring fashions from McCurdy's. Planners of the event are (left to right), Mrs. John Stampfli, Mrs. Edward Norton and Mrs. Robert Nemes, all of Fairport.

## JEEP CENTER U.S.A.



FACTORY DIRECT TO YOU!

## JEEP DISCOUNT CENTER

• CJ-5's • CJ-7's • Renegades  
• Wagoneer Limiteds • Jeep Honchos

1979 JEEPS

IMMEDIATE DELIVERY on Most Models

Southtown AMC/Jeep

1 MILES PAST SOUTHTOWN PLAZA

3955 W. Henrietta Rd. 359-1700