

Word for Sunday

By Father Albert Shamon

Christ Conquered Death

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 20:1-9. (R1) Acts 10:34, 37-43. (R2) Col. 3:1-4.

Charles Dillingham and Florenz Ziegfeld, eminent producer of the Ziegfeld



Follies that glorified the American girl, were pallbearers at the funeral of the great escape artist, Houdini. As they

lived the heavy, beautiful casket, Dillingham whispered to Ziegfeld, "Suppose he isn't here."

Houdini was there all right! He could not escape death. Nor could he keep his promise to communicate after death. For every man death is final — except for one Man, Jesus Christ. He came back from the dead as He had promised. And He communicated with his

friends, not because He was some trick artist, a Houdini, but because He is God!

In fact St. John in the gospel tells of our Lord's resurrection in a rather strange way. He wrote: "Jesus had to rise from the dead." That is odd, isn't it? The more natural expression would have been — had Jesus been only a man — that Jesus had to die. We all have to die. Because Jesus was a man He had to die. But because He was God, He had to rise! God is life. In Him there can be no death, as in light there is no darkness.

In recent years thanatology (the study of death) has become quite popular. We read of people who have apparently undergone clinical death, and then returned to tell tales of wonder, comfort and delight as they seem to leave their bodies. Some, however, narrated frightful and painful post-mortem experiences. While these accounts can bolster one's belief in the afterlife — even in a heaven and a hell — they are not proof positive of

an eternity that we are destined to share. Only one Man tasted death, not clinical death, for He was entombed.

Only one Man came back and told us of the life beyond. He is Jesus Christ.

When a biography is written of a person, it begins with his birth and ends with his death. The gospels do not end with the death of Jesus, but with His resurrection and a promise to be with us all days even to the end of the world.

This is the joy of Easter. Jesus is not dead, but alive. Not living in some far-off country, but present in the midst of His people. What are sacraments? Are they not encounters the risen Christ through the ministry of the Church? What is Mass? Is it not the celebration of the mystery of Christ's presence in the midst of His people? What is God's Word? Is it not the Lord speaking to us here and now? That is why we are an Alleluia people from head to toe. We are destined for life, not death. We have as a friend and brother, Him whom death could not conquer. "Death and Life were locked together in a unique struggle. Life's Captain died; now he reigns, never more to die."

With Him we die in baptism. With Him we have been raised up through new life poured into us by the Holy Spirit at baptism. Therefore, says Paul, "Set your heart on what pertains to higher realms . . . Be intent on things above rather than on things of earth. After all, you have died to sin in baptism!" Yes, let us walk with the risen Lord. Then we shall appear with Him in glory.

Christ had died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! Alleluia!

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Festival Choir Easter Concert Adds 2 Groups

The Concert Chorale and the Gregorian Choir have been added to the program for the fifth annual concert of the Diocesan Festival Choir scheduled Sunday, April, 29, at St. Thomas More Church.

The DFC performs a concert in keeping with the Easter season annually. This year it will sing Rejoice in the Lamb by Benjamin Britten and Christ Lag in Todesanden by J.S. Bach. The choir, under the direction of Sister Virginia Hogan, will be augmented by a string ensemble.

The Gregorian Choir with Father Benedict Ehmann directing will sing the Gregorian chants Victimae paschali laudes and Regina coeli.

The Concert Chorale will do several Eastern season pieces. Sister Virginia, who also directs the chorale, said that for the first time the group includes Sisters from all local communities.

"Until now," she said, "we were made up of just Sisters of St. Joseph but this year we have Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of Notre-Dame and one Sister of the Cenacle."

The Diocesan Festival Choir consists of 80 members. A smaller group, the Liturgical Choir consisting of 28 members, sings at weekend liturgies at churches throughout the diocese.

Soloists for the April 29 concert are Sister Barbara Staropoli, a doctrinal candidate at the Eastman School and a member of the faculty at Nazareth College; Sister Eileen Conheady; Dr. Bruce Purrington, head of music for the Brighton Central Schools, and Paul Rowe, a doctrinal candidate at the Eastman.

The concert will begin at at 4 p.m. at the East Avenue church. Tickets at \$3 each are available from members of the choir or at the door.

Volunteer Program Scheduled

The recruitment of volunteer visitors by the Make Today County program will culminate in a Visitor Training Program April 19 and 21.

The program, in existence for three years, has been successful in efforts to provide emotional support, according to a release from the United Cancer Council. The program attempts to meet the needs of seriously ill persons and their families.

Make Today Count utilizes area professionals in the training of persons interested in going into the community to visit with patients and family members.

Topics for the program will include the interaction between the professional and volunteer in providing support, and understanding the needs of the terminal patient. A segment on "Creative Listening" will be presented by Sister Gratia of St. Bernard's Seminary.

Registration deadline is April 12. Forms may be obtained by calling United Cancer Council at 473-8230.

Deaths

Mrs. Calimeri, Priest's Mother

Funeral rites were conducted yesterday, April 10, for Mrs. Josephine Calimeri, at St. Alphonsus Church, Auburn. Mrs. Calimeri died April 8, 1979, in Auburn Memorial Hospital.

She is the mother of Father Anthony Calimeri, pastor of St. Jerome's Parish, East Rochester.

Surviving Mrs. Calimeri are her husband Anthony Calimeri, a daughter Mrs. Helen Napoli and Father Calimeri.



Living Stations

Living Stations of the Cross will be depicted by eighth grade pupils at Our Lady of Perpetual School at 7 p.m. Good Friday, April 13, at the church, 1089 Joseph Ave., according to Sister St. Luke Hardy, principal.

EDUCATIONAL CONGRESS DOME ARENA EAST HENRIETTA RD. THE FAMILY
MAJOR ADDRESS

FRIDAY, MAY 11
10:30 Rev. Edward Farrell — "Spiritual Formation Through Dialogue Within the Family"
2:00 Maureen Gallagher — "The Faith-filled Family"
7:45 Dr. Elinor Ford — "It Takes Three to Teach"

MINI-WORKSHOPS
11:40-12:30 & 12:50- 1:40 Teaching Scripture to Children — Joseph Kelly
3:30- 4:30 Understanding Children's Behavior — Dr. Dennis Boike
9:00-10 p.m. The Family: Celebrating Reconciliation Together — Dorothy Picot
The Sadlier Sharing Faith Program: Helping Teachers and Adults to Discover Their Own Faith — Leonard Paganelli
Marriage Encounter: Where Have We Come From and Where Are We Going? — Rev. Chuck Gallagher, S.J.

MAJOR ADDRESSES

SATURDAY, MAY 11
10:00 Dr. Elinor Ford — "Charism of Teaching"
2:15 Rev. William O'Malley, S.J. — "Family of God"

MINI-WORKSHOPS
11:15-12:00 How Can We Enrich The Lives Of Our Own Families? Thoughts For Catechists — Rita Foley
Youth Ministry — Focus For The 80's — John Roberto
12:15- 1:00 Confirmation In The American Church — John Roberto
Involving Single and Remarried Parents In Special Sacramental Family Celebrations — Kathleen Kircher, S.S.J. and Panel
1:15- 2:00 Prayer And The Ministry Of The Catechist — Rita Foley
The Grace To Be Parents — Marty and Sally Lynch

REGISTRATION:
A. Friday Day & Evening \$3.00
or B. Friday Evening \$2.00
or C. Friday Evening & Saturday \$3.00
or D. Full Conference \$5.00

ENTER LETTER _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION
Please make checks payable to: DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER. Mail to Department of Education, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York 14624

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