

# Word for Sunday

By Father Albert Shamon

## Secularism Is America's New Religion

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23. (R1) Dt. 4:1-2, 6-8. (R2) Jas. 1:17-18, 21-22, 27.

Moses told the people, "In your observance of the commandments of the Lord, your God... you shall not add to what I command you nor subtract from it." It is the perversity of human nature to do exactly what Moses forbade. By the time of Christ, Pharisees had added to God's Law and subtracted so much from it that they had nullified His Law. "You disregard God's commandments and cling to what is human tradition."

What once had happened we find still happening today. Thomas Jefferson viewed the Supreme Court as the Achilles' heel of the United States Constitution. The Court is power concentrated in the hands of a few. Unfettered power! Power wielded without accountability to the people. Power so absolute. As Lord Acton observed, "All power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely."

God said, "Thou shalt not kill." The U.S. Supreme Court by judicial fiat is responsible for the killing of more than six million unborn children since 1973.

God said, "Suffer the little children to come to me." Our Founding Fathers considered religious and moral values the foremost function of the schools. The First Congress of the U.S. declared in the Northwest Ordinance (in which it set aside public lands to support private education): "Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged." But in 1947 the U.S. Supreme Court arbitrarily launched a frontal attack on religious and moral values in government schools. In the Everson case of 1947 the Court repudiated 160 years of constitutional law. In rapid fire came the McCollum case (1948), the Vitale decision (1962), the Allen textbook case (1968), the Lemon case of 1971, the Nyquist case (1973), the Meek case (1975). The result? The government schools of America are today secularized, converted into pagan temples.

But this is not all, nor the worst. Thanks to the apathy

### Widows Club

The Catholic Widowed Club is welcoming new members from all parishes.

The club meets the first Friday every month at St. Theodore's Hall, 168 Spencerport Road at 8:30 p.m.

Anyone desiring further information, should call Joseph Giardian at 254-1267.

and indifference of parents, the schools having been rendered godless, the Court is now turning its guns on the churches. Subjection of the Church to Caesar is the next stage.

God said, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but give to God what is God's." But not the Supreme Court. Consistently it has been separating God from the state, no room in the inn. The irony of it all: when parents ask for aid for nongovernment schools, the Court cries, "Separation of Church and State." But when the Church by bingo, festivals, parish suppers and so on, tries to raise money for its schools, the State conveniently forgets about separation and interferes in the Church with a plethora of bureaucratic regulations.

This interference of State into church activities is widening. Testing limits, the National Labor Relations Board tried to unionize schools in the Chicago Archdiocese. By a 5-4 margin last March the Court said No. But its reasoning was dangerous. It arrived at the right decision, but for the wrong reason. It ignored Church-State relationships — how a government agency (NLRB) can intervene in the internal affairs of a Church-related institution without violating the First Amendment.

What right has the government to interfere in religion and religious institutions? By so doing, the courts are saying in effect that there is no difference between a religious institution and other institutions owning property. And that is secularism pure and simple — the new "religion" of America since 1947.

# On the Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

## In Praise Of Basilians And Aquinas

What do you think of Aquinas Institute?

It is a bulwark of the Faith in the diocese, and we are grateful to the Basilians and their school. My first association with Aquinas was in 1947. I had returned from military service in Europe in July, 1946.

The government gave the GI Bill, to pay college tuition for men just out of the service, plus \$50 for monthly expenses. The established colleges were jammed, so the temporary Colleges of Upper New York were established. I was assigned as chaplain to one opening in October at Sampson, a former naval base south of Geneva.

What does that have to do with Aquinas?

All our collegians were ex-GIs who had completed their military service. Many were graduates of Aquinas and a joy to my soul. Why? For example — the "Three Aquinas Musketeers," Eddie Beikirk, Norman Ladd and Frank Aleri. They were handsome and wholesome and had an intelligent understanding of the Faith that they practiced in spirit and in truth. In February 1948 the college had a huge dance in the Sampson drill hall, with a big-name band. It was on Saturday night. The weather was freezing, but the students enjoyed it greatly through 3 a.m. Sunday. I don't know where Joe Aleri was, but Norman Ladd and Ed Beikirk were at

the dance until 3 a.m., with two nice Rochester girls. Our last Mass Sunday was at noon. In 1948 we had the strict law of fasting from midnight until after Communion. Imagine my shock as I distributed Communion at noon Mass to find both couples at the rail. I breathed a fervent "God be thanked for Aquinas."

Also, in 1948 Sampson's student congregation had grown so we needed an extra priest. Aquinas Superior Father Bill Duggan sent me Father Tony Lococco. He was admired by the students and gave fine sermons. I am still ashamed to remember the minimal stipend I sent the Basilians for his services. God knows we were poor, but should have done better than that. The Basilians neither complained nor asked for more, nor suggested discontinuing for lusher parishes.

But that was 30 years ago.

Yes. And from my observation the Basilians have continued that same generous willingness to assist when and where they can, and keep high standards for their school.

Isn't there a dark cloud over Aquinas?

Dark clouds usually bring healthy rains to vitalize an area. My guess is that any sad incident impels a community to greater things, both as a challenge and a reparation. My further guess is that graduates will rally 'round, as any decent family rallies together when tragedy hits home. We bless God for the good priests, sisters and lay teachers who have given 42-years of good harvest to the city, the diocese and the graduates who continue to undergird the Church and community so faithfully.

# Volunteer Escorts Needed

Newark — The first Friendship Fair last year at the Newark Developmental Center proved such a success that the event is being repeated Sunday, Sept. 9.

Anyone interested should contact: Friendship Fair, Newark Developmental Center, 703 E. Maple Ave., Newark, N.Y. 14513. The center also may be reached by telephone at 315-331-1700.

Last year more than 1,000 volunteers provided a special day of music, parades and carnival activities for the handicapped residents. This year volunteers are needed again to act as escorts for handicapped persons so that they can attend the fair.

## Principal Announced

Miss Terri Nichols who has taught at St. Anne's School, Mt. Hope Ave., for ten years has been named the school's principal.

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## AN OPEN LETTER TO A PASTOR WE LOVE

For the past 9½ years, we have been blessed with a warm and loving Pastor who has brought much joy to our parish and community. Now, Father Edward Zimmer, a Pastor we love, has left us to begin a new assignment among the people of St. Mary's Parish in Auburn.

Father Zimmer, we wish you well, and we thank the Lord for the many happy years you were with us. Simple words can never express the depth of our gratitude and love for you.

Father Zimmer, the enthusiasm and the love that fills Saint Monica's Parish will always be your lasting tribute.

**THE PEOPLE OF SAINT MONICA'S PARISH**

On September 7, Father Zimmer will rejoin us at Saint Monica's, 831 Genesee Street, Rochester, for the celebration of Mass at 7:30 PM and a reception in his honor at 8:30 PM.

Friends of Saint Monica's and friends of Father Zimmer are cordially invited to join us on the evening of September 7.


## EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARISH COUNCILS

### CHAIRPERSON TRAINING WORKSHOP

FOR: Council and Committee Chairpersons (Vice-Chairpersons, Secretaries, etc.)

LED BY: Judith Ann Kollar

\*TOPICS: Leadership  
Agenda Planning  
Efficient Meetings  
Problem-solving  
Decision-making  
Recruiting Volunteers  
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Judith Ann Kollar


Workshop Held	Date	Place	Time
#1	Saturday, Sept. 8	St. Joseph's School of Religion Livonia, New York	1:00-3:00
#2	Sunday Sept. 9	St. Patrick's Religious Education Building Victor, New York	3:00-5:00
#3	Wednesday Sept. 12	St. Charles Borromeo School Rochester, New York	7:30-9:30
#4	Sunday Sept. 16	St. Mary on the Lake Religious Education Building Watkins Glen, New York	3:00-5:00

Register at your parish or \$2.00 at the door  
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