



## Cemetery Enlargement

This mausoleum at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery is being enlarged to provide Catholic families with improved service. The new addition will provide for two enclosed corridors as well as exterior crypts and niches. The interior corridors will be finished in perlatto marble and the outside crypts will be faced in polished granite. The west ends of both interior corridors will be highlighted with stained glass windows depicting the four evangelists. Completion is scheduled for late this year.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

## Christ Remains In the Midst Of His Church

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 20:19-31. (R1) Acts 5:12-16. (R2) Rv. 1:9-13, 17-19.

During the Easter season the second reading will be from the most wondered about and least understood book of the Bible — the Book of Revelation.

On the Lord's Day, Sunday, John, exiled for his faith to the island of Patmos, was caught up in ecstasy and told to write what he saw, namely "seven lampstands of gold, and among them One like a Son of Man wearing an ankle-length robe, with a sash of gold about his breast."

At the time, the Church was very probably in the throes of the terrible persecution of Domitian (81-96 A.D.). Nero's persecution affected only the city of Rome; Domitian's was empire-wide. The great danger to the Church was apostasy. To avoid death one needed only to offer incense to the statue of the Emperor and confess him as Lord. To encourage Christians to remain steadfast in confessing only Jesus as Lord, John wrote his book and began it with a vision of Christ, magnificent indeed.

John portrays Christ as priest (ankle-length robe) and king (sash of gold), standing among seven lampstands of gold. The lampstands symbolize the Church, which is a light in the darkness of the world. Seven denotes the

universality of the Church. In her terrible period of trial John reminded Christians that Christ has not abandoned His Church. He stands in the midst of her. There is absolutely nothing to fear, for He is the beginning and the end of all history. Once dead, He now lives. He holds the keys of death. He's got the whole wide world in His hands — especially His Church. Therefore, there is nothing to fear.

The consoling thing for us today is that Christ, dead and risen, is still in the midst of His Church: in the head of the Church, Peter (R1); and in the sacraments (R3).

In the Acts, St. Luke goes to great lengths to show us that Peter takes the place of Jesus. He works the same miracles Jesus did. Significantly, Luke notes that even Peter's shadow cures. St. Luke favored this word "shadow." He knew the cloud overshadowing the Ark signified the presence of God. Therefore, whenever he wished to signify God's presence, he used the term. The Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary. At the transfiguration the cloud overshadowed Jesus. By pointing out that Peter has a shadow that overshadows the sick and cures them, Luke implies that God is present at work in him, the head of the Church, as in Jesus.

This same Jesus acting in the head of the Church acts also in her sacraments. A sacrament is an encounter with Jesus through His Church. On Easter Eve when the apostles felt the need for forgiveness, Jesus forgave them and gave them in turn the power to forgive by giving them God the Holy Spirit!

Of course, the evidence for all this isn't overwhelming or compelling. Jesus meant this to be so, in order to leave us room for faith. A faith that demands signs and a lot of evidence is no faith at all. Or at best a very weak one. Often Jesus upbraided an adulterous and unbelieving generation for seeking signs. Even Thomas was not spared His criticism. "Best are they who have not seen and have believed."

The best evidence Jesus

would have us use to show He is with His Church is our lives. The lives of the early Christians were so good that everyone held them in high esteem. The result? "More and more believers, men and women" in great numbers were continually added to the Lord."

Ghandi wished, "Oh, if only you Christians were more like your Christ, the whole world would be Christian."



FATHER BARTLETT

## Special Reunion Slated

Graduates of Jesuit schools and their spouses have been invited to a Mass and reception on Saturday, April 26, at 5 p.m. in McQuaid Jesuit High School.

Father Albert Bartlett, SJ, will preach on the role of Jesuit graduates in society today. The event is open to all alumni of Jesuit institutions.

During his term as rector, president of McQuaid, Father Bartlett was active in community affairs and appeared frequently on local television. A professor of English, he has taught at several Jesuit institutions through New York and New Jersey.

The alumni gathering is sponsored by the Jules Garnier Circle of McQuaid Aids. Reservations are required and may be made by calling during school hours, prior to April 21, 473-1130.

## Deadline

The deadline for submitting news to the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday preceding the following Wednesday's publication.

## Business Women Set Luncheon

The Business Women's Group of the Catholic Women's Club will hold its annual Spring luncheon, Saturday, April 12 at the Century Club, beginning at noon.

Following lunch there will be a short business meeting and nomination of officers. A special feature of the afternoon will be a China Travelogue, presented by Robert Porter who has spent five years working and traveling in China.

Chairpersons for the event are Mrs. Bernie Bromka and Miss Kay Koehler.

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**Puzzle on Page 19**  
**PUZZLE ANSWERS FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 1980**  
I. 1. spirit 2. Thomas 3. twin 4. faith 5. need 6. end 7. house 8. sea 9. buoy 10. gee 11. each 12. yes  
Key Passages I. "Peace be with you," he said again, "the Father sent me, so I send you."  
II. Through the hands of the apostles, many signs and wonders occurred among the people. By mutual agreement they used to meet in Solomon's Portico. No one else dared to join them, despite the fact that the people held them in great esteem.  
III. I turned around to see whose voice it was that spoke to me. When I did so I saw seven lampstands of gold, and among the lampstands One like a Son of Man wearing an ankle-length robe, with a sash of gold about his breast.