



In Memorium

The 63rd annual Field Mass of the Knights of St. John and Ladies Auxiliary will be offered at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery on Sunday, June 22, 10 a.m. Celebrant will be Bishop Dennis W. Hickey. The public is invited to participate in this memorial event honoring deceased members of the organization. In photo, Knights marching from the 1979 Mass; insert shows Bishop Hickey delivering the homily.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Who Am I?

Sunday Readings: (R3) Lk. 9:18-24. (R1) Zec. 12:10-11. (R2) Gal. 3:26-29

Luke in his gospel stresses great themes: forgiveness, mercy, and women (last Sunday's gospel); prayer, the role of Peter, the cost of discipleship (this Sunday's gospel).

Luke portrays Jesus as a man of prayer. Before the Father reveals Jesus as His beloved Son at His baptism, Luke shows Jesus at prayer. Before teaching the Our Father, Luke reveals Jesus as already praying. His transfiguration on the mount follows prayer. Next Sunday's gospel opens with Jesus "praying in seclusion" as prelude to the decisive question He was going to put to His apostles.

He asked, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" Remember the apostles had just returned from their first missionary journey. They had been in close contact with the people. They must most certainly have heard the small talk of the people about Jesus. His question, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" was more than mere curiosity. It was important for them that they know who He was, really and truly. Else how could they be His disciples? How could they follow Him—be like Him, their Teacher? So, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"

As usual the crowds were wrong. Gallup poll theology is always wrong. So Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked them, His own, "But you—who do you say that I am?" One spoke for all—Peter. "You are the Messiah of God," Peter confessed:

The answer was correct, but incomplete. Often in class, I have asked children, "Who is Jesus?" They would answer, "The Son of God." I would say, "Correct, but incomplete. That is only half the answer." Again I would repeat the question, "Who is Jesus?" Again I would get an incomplete answer. Finally, I would have to tell them that "Jesus is the Son of God. True! But He is more — He is the Son of God made man."

So here, Peter's answer was correct, but incomplete. Because it was incomplete, Jesus strictly forbade them to tell this to anyone. The current concept of Messiah was that of a political leader — a son of David who would crush the Romans as David had crushed the Philistines. The complete answer was that "the Messiah of God was indeed a son of David but not a conquering warrior, but a servant who must suffer and die."

This incident occurred near the end of Jesus' ministry: suffering and death, then glorification. The cross first before the crown. That too was to be the pattern to the disciples. "Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day and follow in my steps." The key words are "each day."

Christian discipleship is a daily dying. Daily life consists of action and passion: doing and enduring, daring and bearing, charity and hope. Taking up the cross each day means accepting the daily misunderstandings, disappointments, heartaches and heartbreaks, the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, and bearing them trustingly, hopefully, certain that such endurance will win an unfading crown of glory.

For Single Women, Caritas Christi

In "Populorum Progressio," Pope Paul VI said, "The layman should take up as their own proper task the renewal of the temporal order . . . It belongs to the layman, without waiting passively for orders and directives, to take this initiative freely and to infuse a Christian spirit into the mentality, customs, laws and structures of the community in which they live."

Any unmarried woman or widow wondering if her layperson's life is meant as a vocation, might consider a secular institute called "Caritas Christi," according to Father Joseph A. Trovato, CSB, of St. John Fisher College.

"Caritas Christi" is a way of life for women who wish to formally dedicate their lives to God and to grow in this dedication. The institute serves the need of laywomen who want to work for Christ.

Members live in their own homes but offer spiritual support to each other through fraternal communion. Family relationships, apostolic work and employment remain unchanged. Community is expressed through meetings, days of recollection and retreats and in daily prayer for the Church. The importance of prayer in life is emphasized and may take the form of Eucharistic liturgy, daily listening to the Word of God, reflection on Scripture, the office, silent adoration.

According to Father Trovato, the institute offers members formation in a celibate, apostolic, contemplative lay life through the study of Scripture and the doctrines of the Church.

Further information is available from Father Trovato, St. John Fisher College, 75 Fairport Rd., East Rochester 14445, or by telephone, 385-2210 or 586-4140.

Baden Settlement Needs Volunteers

The Baden Street Settlement, 152 Baden St., has issued a call for volunteers to tutor children ages 6 to 12. According to an announcement from the facility, orientation and training will be provided the tutors. The program also provides for flexible scheduling. The tutoring plan focuses on reading and language skills on a one-to-one basis. Persons interested in assisting have been asked to call Jeanine Parker, 325-4910, ext. 32.

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In Jordan a Sister from India cleans out a woman's mouth which is full of cancer. Youngsters and old people have blankets and books, medicines and sewing machines in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, because you care. In Bethlehem, after seven years of preparation, our Sisters of St. Dorothy are conducting a new school for the deaf and hard-of-hearing, called "Ephphatha" (the word Our Lord used). Who are we?

We are the Pontifical Mission for Palestine, the Holy Father's aides for the 1.8 million refugees from Palestine—in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Gaza. We do our work in Jesus' name, on the basis of need, not creed. We like what we're doing, and it works. It works because you pray with us, write to us, and share with the refugees what you can do without. The check-list makes it easy for you to help. Please help all you can. We're profoundly grateful.

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