

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Peter Is The Rock

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 16:13-19. (R1) Acts 12:1-11. (R2) 2 Tm. 4:1-8. 17-18.

When I visited the great basilica of St. Peter's in Rome, what struck me most was a tour of its dome. Bramante, who had built the colonnades of St. Peter that stretch out like two gigantic arms embracing the whole world, wanted to transfer the dome of the Pantheon to St. Peter's. The Pantheon was a pagan temple built by Augustus Caesar's son-in-law, Michelangelo would have none of it. Instead, the Titan boasted, "I will fling up a dome the likes of which will not be found in all the world." The base of the dome is nearly 400 feet above the floor. Through a marvel of architectural engineering, the dome seems to hover over the main altar without any visible means of support.

But this is not what struck me. I took the "ascensore," or elevator, to the lower rim of the dome. Around it is a narrow catwalk. From this catwalk I viewed the interior of the dome. What a wonder of art and architecture!

Then my eyes caught sight of the words in Latin, in golden mosaics, which Jesus had spoken to Peter at Caesarea Philippi: "Tu es Petrus..." "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church..."

But that wasn't all. I then looked down from the dome. It was a dizzying experience. Over 350 feet below was Bramante's baldachinoed altar. But in front of it was an open stairway going down beneath the church. It led to the tomb of Peter, recently discovered. It was this that thrilled me! I said to myself, "My God, the words of Jesus are literally fulfilled today!" He has caused His Church, symbolized by the greatest church building in all Christendom, to be built on Peter, literally!

But more, He promised that the jaws of death would not prevail against her, because of Peter, a jaw has two parts: an upper and a lower jaw. The jaws of death represent Satan, father of the second death. He would, if he could, devour the Church by a twofold onslaught: persecution from without, and error from within.

Hardly had the Church been launched when Herod

beheaded James, the brother of John (R1). When persecution failed, Satan used the subtler tactic of error. Truth is the oxygen the Church must breathe to live. Error, in the imperceptible guise of compromise or collaboration with the world, can bring death to her with no outcry, with no shedding of blood. It was against this form of persecution that St. Paul fought so relentlessly and unremittingly (R2).

The battle goes on and will till the end, why else did Jesus promise to be with His Church till the end?

And to whom did Jesus promise victory over the jaws of death? Only to Peter and to his successors: Where, then, are we to seek a secure refuge today against the errors of Modernism and Rationalism infecting so many within the Church and assure survival in persecution save by unconditional obedience to him who walks in the shoes of the fisherman?

In a private revelation to Father Gobbi, Our Lady said, "I have obtained from God; for His Church, the Pope, whom, I Myself have prepared and formed. In the person and work of the Holy Father, John Paul II, I cause to be reflected my own great Light which will become all the brighter, the more that darkness envelops all things... Love him, pray for him, listen to him!" (Our Lady Speaks to Her Beloved Priests, p. 258)

Area Basilians Celebrate 25th

Eight Rochesterians who were ordained to the priesthood and into the Congregation of Saint Basil will celebrate their 25th anniversary, June 29. They are: Fathers John E. McManus, Blessed Sacrament parish, presently teaching at the University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas; John McGee, St. Margaret Mary Church, now in Houston; John Dougherty, Holy Cross parish, teaching at the University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario; Frederick H. Sohn, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, treasurer at the University of St. Thomas, Houston; Anthony E. Doser, St. Margaret Mary, math teacher at Andean High School, Gary, Indiana (Father taught at Aquinas for 20 years); Leo Hetzler, Holy Rosary Church, teaches at St. John Fisher College; Charles J. Principe, St. John the Evangelist, teaches at the University of St. Michael's, Toronto; John

R. Cavanaugh, Corpus Christi, presently house superior at St. John Fisher.

celebrants are graduates of Aquinas Institute and seven of them have taught at the school.

What makes this event extra special is that all the

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At Your Parish...



1st Prize

David LaCrosse, a student at Holy Cross School, took first place honors at the school's annual Science Fair recently. David's biology project was just one of many exhibits shown at the fair.



No Losers Here

Dunn Tower II, in the background, provides the setting for a recent charity softball game between teams from host St. Theodore's Church and St. Helen's Church. St. Theodore's Ralph Messura steps in at the plate as umpire. "T" Rosati and catcher Father Chris Linsler of St. Helen's look on. St. Theodore's won the slugfest, 13-8, but the real winner proved to be the Gates Volunteer Ambulance, who received a sizable donation from the losing team.

Mount Carmel, Rochester

The Our Lady of Mount Carmel School Class of 1929 observed its 51st anniversary with a Mass at Mount Carmel Church and a dinner Saturday, June 14. Blanch Rivera, secretary for the reunion, noted that all living members of the class attended the celebration. Chairman for the event was John Marshall.

Holy Apostles, Rochester

Holy Apostles School, 7 Austin St., is offering two weeks of vacation bible school this summer for children aged 4-10. Classes take place Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

To register or for more information call the Religious Education Office at Holy Apostles, 254-6700 or 225-4742.

Holy Hour

Father Louis Vasile will be the leader at a Holy Hour scheduled at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 26, at Holy Trinity Church in Webster. The series of Holy Hours is sponsored by the Holy Trinity Chapter of the Peoples Eucharistic League.

Deadline

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

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You Are A Priest Forever

Life is usually a mixture of some "good news and some bad news" ... some smiles and some tears ... We, too, have some good news and some bad news. The good news is very encouraging, and the bad news is not so bad.

The good news is that in Asia alone, we Salesians have over 250 seminarians, men who have passed years of preliminary education and mission work and now have one to four years more of studies to reach the priesthood. They have the proven will and ability to undertake the grueling responsibilities of a missionary priest to the poorest of the poor.

The bad news is that, while they have everything it takes to become zealous priests, they lack one thing — the finances. Today, it takes an average of \$500.00 a year to educate a seminarian in these last four years of theological studies.

While it may be impossible for some donors to afford this, we have a plan whereby we group together as

many generous persons as are needed to provide for one seminarian. As little as \$5 or \$10 a month will enable you to participate in this program.

We will let you know the seminarian you are supporting and will inform you from time to time of his progress. Some have one year to go, others four years. You can choose one as near or as far from the priesthood as you wish.

Pius XII once stated that if you help a candidate for the priesthood, you "will share in all the merits of this Apostolic work." Think of sharing in the life of a missionary priest, and of the persons he will help in his lifetime.

The next best thing to having a priest in the family is to adopt one, and to have your family in the heart of a priest, who every day, as he offers the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, will remember you and your family who have made his priesthood possible.

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Dear Father Edward: With the understanding that I am not in any way bound in law or in conscience, I will try to send you

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