



Anniversary Reunion

The Class of 1930 of the Immaculate Conception School will commemorate the 50th anniversary of their graduation at a reunion Friday, Oct. 3, at the Party House on Beahan Road. Committee members, under the chairmanship of Margaret Grant McGee and Gordon DeHond, have been working for several months contacting classmates. Any who have not responded should do so immediately to anyone on the committee. Of the 90 members of the class, there were five sets of brothers and sisters, and four marriages took place between classmates. Twelve members are deceased. Assisting with arrangements for the dinner, with music by Len Hawley's group, are members of the class: Rose Mary (O'Neill) Haak; Kathryn (Skelly) Jeffery; Margaret (Larkin) McMahon; Helen (McNamara) McNamara; Doug and Anita (Mahoney) Walker; Louis Dwyer, Tom Larkin, Romeo Lecomte and Charles Oberst.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Justice, Faith, Life!

Sunday's Readings: (R1) Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4; (R2) 2 Tim. 1:6-8, 13-14; (R3) Luke 17:5-10.

Every child has heard the story of Daniel in the den of lions. He was there for six days. To nourish him, an angel hair-lifted a man from Judea to Babylon. The man gave Daniel the dinner he was bringing to some reapers in Judea. The author of the Book of Daniel named the man Habakkuk. Whether or not this was the prophet whose oracle we read in Sunday's liturgy (R1), we do not know. However, I think the author used the prophet's name because the theme of his book was based on Habakkuk's words: "The just man, because of his faith, shall live."

Habakkuk was the first prophet who dared to call God to account for His actions. God was raising up Babylon to destroy Israel. Habakkuk's complaint was: "Of course Israel is wicked; but Babylon is far more evil. Why then should Babylon be God's instrument of judgment?" It would be as if a modern prophet asked, "Catholic Hungary, Poland, Cuba may have sinned, but why should greater sinners be used to chastise them?"

God's answer was, "The conquering nation, because of its sinful pride, bore within itself the seeds of its own destruction. Time would tell. The just man, on the contrary, because of his fidelity to God even in adversity, will in the end triumph — the just man, because of his faith, shall live."

When the Book of Daniel was written about 167 B.C., it was composed in circumstances not unlike those in Habakkuk's day. Fierce persecution was being waged against the Jews by the maniacal Antiochus. The Jews echoed Habakkuk's

complaint of old. Why this permission of evil? The author of Daniel resonated Habakkuk's message: "The just man, because of his faith, shall live." He confirmed the message by telling stories of men and women in the days of Habakkuk who were faithful to God and who because of their faith, lived: the three youths in the fiery furnace, Daniel in the den of lions and the chaste Suzanna.

However, the readers of the book of Daniel could object that what God did for the Jews in the Babylonian Captivity, He was not doing for them in the persecution of Antiochus. Loyal Jews, who held their ground for God like an oak, were martyred; God did not rescue them. The charge could be made that Habakkuk's message was not valid.

The Book of Daniel answered it was. The just man, because of his faith, his loyalty, his constancy to God and His law would live! Not necessarily in this life, but in a life to come. The author of Daniel advanced Habakkuk's open-ended term "shall live" to embrace eternal life. "Many of those who sleep," he wrote, "shall awake . . . to everlasting life" (12:2). This was the first explicit teaching in the Old Testament of the resurrection of the dead.

Paul asked Timothy to defend the faith — the doctrine of life eternal. The apostles prayed, "Increase our faith." Our Lord complained they had hardly faith enough to be increased. Apparently, the apostles at that time were not living by faith, for had they been, they would have changed the world and uprooted pagan life that seemed as unrootable as a sycamore tree.

One day, however, God answered the apostles' prayer. Their faith was increased, and paganism drowned. If paganism is on the gain again today, maybe it is because faith is on the wane. Paganism will die in proportion as faith lives; and faith's life depends on prayer.

Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Friday, Oct. 3 beginning after the 9 a.m. Mass. A rosary will be recited for vocations at 9:45. The devotions include prayer direction and periods of meditation. The rites conclude with benediction at 12:30 p.m.

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Sister Gives Vows

Sister Josephine Stowell will make her perpetual profession as a Sister of St. Joseph of Rochester during the celebration of the Eucharist at St. Michael's Church in Penn Yan, Oct. 5 at 2 p.m.

Father Thomas McVeigh, pastor, will celebrate the Mass, the theme of which is "Here I am Lord, I come to do your will."

Sister Jamesine Riley, superior general of the congregation, will receive Sister Stowell's vows.

Sister Stowell, formerly of St. Michael's in Montezuma, has served in Penn Yan for the past three years.

Mission Guild

The Catholic Mission Guild will hold its fall card party Wednesday, Oct. 8 at the Knights of Columbus Building on Brooks Avenue and Thurston Road, starting at noon.

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