

**Fr. Albert Shamon**



Word for Sunday

**Reunion Call Friend's Sacrifice**

Sunday's Readings: (R1) 2 Kings 5:14-17, (R2) 2 Tim. 2:8-13, (R3) Luke 17:11-19

Albrecht Durer (1471-1524) was a great artist of Nuremberg in Germany. He came from a family that was large and poor. Albrecht struggled to become a painter. He and another friend made a pact; Albrecht would learn to paint and the other would work to earn a living for them both. When Durer became successful, then his friend would have his turn at painting. For years Durer painted and his friend worked. When success finally came, his

friend's hands had been so hardened by manual labor that he could not hold an artist's brush. One day Durer noticed his friend's hands raised in prayer. He could paint them to show his gratitude. Durer did and thus was born the famous picture of "The Praying Hands." Durer's fame stemmed from a painting done in gratitude.

The second half of Luke's Gospel is doctrinal. It was written to teach. The cure of the ten lepers is the only miracle Luke narrates after chapter nine. He preserved it for a doctrinal reason: to teach that man should give thanks to God.

The First Reading, usually from the Old Testament, is generally related to the Third

Reading, the Gospel. This relationship is obvious in this Sunday's Readings. Both tell the story of the cure of lepers. One is a proud, powerful general, Namaan; the other a poor, nameless beggar. Both suffer from the same disease. Both seek a cure from a Jewish man of God. Both are cured because of their trust. Both are best remembered because of their gratitude.

Namaan came prepared to give rich gifts for his cure. But the prophet, Elisha, who had cured him, would take nothing. The poor leper had nothing to offer but words and acts of gratitude. Jesus accepted these and praised the man.

The First and Second Readings show a man in extraordinary suffering and getting extraordinary help. The Second Reading speaks of ordinary suffering that accompanies every worthwhile life. If Jesus helped those in greater trouble, how much more will He help those in lesser? However, trust in God is not so much the message of today's

Readings as thanks to God — gratitude.

Chesterton has said, "Children thank Santa for the gifts they find in their stockings. Do we thank him for the two good legs that we find every day in our stockings?" Gratitude is the condiment of life.

Yet how ungrateful nine out of ten Christians are in respect to God! If things go well, they act as if they had a right to expect this. If things go awry, they begin to complain as though they were ill-used. If things get worse, they become miserable as though they had no cause to rejoice.

Sometimes God permits evil and sometimes He showers us with blessings. But at all times, He is seeking us. So no matter the adversity or the prosperity, the Christian stance should be a lifelong "Thank you, God!"

"Give thanks to the Lord, acclaim his name!" (Is. 12:3).

Did you thank God today?



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**Fr. Paul J. Cuddy**



On the Right Side

**Special Tour Within a Tour**

The Courier-Journal tour of Ireland of Sept. 17-27 is now history and happy memories. Who went? From Elmira: the Misses Agnes and Theresa Hourihan of St. Mary's and Mrs. Dorothy Koenig of St. Charles Borromeo on The Heights. From Owego, Ann Sullivan; from Rochester, Joseph and Lenore Udice of St. Anne's; Bernard and Anna Donahue of St. Mark's; Mrs. Angelina Alaimo of St. Thomas the Apostle; J. Emmett Hennessy of Our Mother of Sorrows, who became our sacristan; Mrs. Margaret Kennerson of Christ the King. From St. Francis DeSales, Geneva, were Arthur and Frances Clarke who celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary on Sept. 27 with Mass at 8 p.m. (Where? In a vacant passenger section in LaGuardia Field, with the whole group attending, plus their Yonkers' daughter and son-in-law and two granddaughters.) From Holy Family in Auburn there were Paul and Helen Delaney on their first overseas trip. Finally, Ellen A. Ganey, of both Auburn and Bethesda, Md. This was her third Ireland trip with us.

The night before we left Dublin, I met a group from Connecticut in our hotel, who were with an American Express tour. One said: "Father, we have been in a lot of Protestant churches, but not a single Catholic church, and this is Ireland!"

"Well," I said, "I suppose when you have a mixed group that it's a little clumsy to go to the Catholic churches. The great churches like Christ's

**Healing Mass**

Father Dennis Kelleher will be the celebrant of a Healing Mass, Oct. 12, at 2 p.m. at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua. A fellowship will follow the Mass.

Church were originally Catholic but were taken over by the Protestant Church of Ireland at the time of the reformation. They have a lot of historic interest." "But," she replied, "our group is all Catholic."

She was unhappy; not unhappy for their religion, but that their religion was being ignored.

When I thought: "We've had Mass each day in our hotels. We did visit the Dominican church in Athlone, the Pugin Cathedral and Franciscan church opposite the Great Southern Hotel in Killarney, but none in Dublin." So after breakfast I announced: "We have nearly two hours before leaving for Galway. For those who wish I will get cabs and show some famous Catholic churches. Only five were free, so I got a large cab and directed the cabbie. Adam and Eve Church on the Liffy; Lourdes, were the body of Matt Talbot, the reformed alcoholic is preserved; the University Church on Stephen's Green, built by Cardinal Newman when he was founding the Catholic University of Ireland; I am partial to that church because of my love for Newman, who was treated so shabbily by the Irish bishops. The previous day, I had made

a lone pilgrimage to Newman's church. There I said the rosary, and lit one candle each for Father MacNamara of Hornell and Father Hayes of Aurora, both of whom are devoted to Newman. The fourth church was the Pro-Cathedral, near Abbey Theatre. Although it was an ordinary weekday, the church was filled for the 10 a.m. Mass.

We arrived at Communion time. Two priests and one Sister, recognizable in the Mercy habit, were distributing Communion. After Communion, the Sister brought the Sacrament to the altar of reservation. I observed that she dipped her fingers into the abluion cup, the vessel for washing the fingers which had held the Body of the Lord. Then I recalled: "With what reverence and awe did we Americans once hold the Blessed Sacrament. Invariably priests purified their fingers after distributing Communion. Now it is unusual that neither priests nor sisters nor Eucharistic ministers purify their fingers which have held the Blessed Sacrament. I wonder why."

My conclusion is indirect. In any church in Ireland you will always find people quietly communing with Our Lord present in the tabernacle. He is as intimately present to them as if He were sitting on a wooden bench dressed in the garb of His days in Israel. While the Irish people have some notable weaknesses, they surely have not only a deep supernatural Faith, but also a strong sense of the Divine Presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

**Bonn Gets New Post**

Robert E. Bonn has joined the Catholic Youth Organization as director of Program Development, replacing Joyce Strazzabosco who recently became CYO executive director.

Bonn is widely known for his work with Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry, which he served as executive director for 10 years. At the CYO he will be responsible for supervision of Training and Youth Employment Services, and for the development of new programs.

Bonn is a member of the Judicial Process Commission, the Corrections Committee, and the United Way Corporate Membership. He is a graduate of Waynesburg College in Pennsylvania.

**Charismatics**

Father Phil Kelly, CSC, will lead a Charismatic Retreat at the Cenacle Renewal Center the weekend of Oct. 31. The weekend opens with registration on Friday at 7:30 p.m. and will close on Sunday at 4 p.m. Further information and reservations are available by calling the Cenacle Ministry Office (716) 271-8755.

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