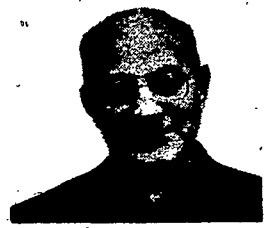


Fr. Albert
Shamon



Word for Sunday

The Rock's Two Sides

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 16:21-27. (R1) Jer. 20:7-9. (R2) Rom. 12:1-2.

In Matthew's gospel, the word "rock" conjures up two parables: (1) the house built on a rock (Mt. 7:24), and (2) the stone which the builders rejected (Mt. 21:33).

Both images merge in Peter. Last Sunday we saw Peter as rock; this Sunday we see Peter as stumbling block (scandalou).

In confessing Jesus to be the Son of God, Peter was a rock. But when Jesus began to describe the role of the Messiah, not as a political one, a freedom-fighter against Rome, but a spiritual one — that of a Suffering Servant — Peter reneged. In trying to get Jesus to withdraw from this role of suffering servant, Peter presented Jesus with His fourth temptation. That is why Jesus repulsed Peter with the very same words He used to repel the three temptations of Satan in the desert.

To Satan in the desert, Jesus said, "Away with you, Satan." To Peter at Caesarea-Philippi, He said, "Get out of my sight, you Satan." Yet in the Greek, the expressions are identical. In both instances Jesus says in the Greek: "Hupage, Satana!"

"Hupage" means literally "Go under," or, as we would say it, "Get lost," "Beat it." It means to depart noisily, without creating a stir.

However, in the new American Bible, two words which Jesus spoke to Peter in the Greek are omitted in the English translation. These words are "behind me" ("opiso mou"). Jesus says to Peter (in the Greek), "Beat it and get behind me." Right after the temptations in the desert, Jesus had called Peter and Andrew to be His disciples. He said to them on that occasion, "Come behind me." In trying to persuade Jesus

away from His role of suffering, Peter had forgotten his place. He was seeking to lead Jesus, to tell Him what to do. Jesus tells Peter that this was precisely what Satan had tried. So He wheeled on Peter and blurted "Get lost!" But Peter's lapse was to be only temporary, so Jesus reminded Peter of his place, "Get behind me" — "Follow me; don't be trying to lead me." Peter learned the lesson well and followed Jesus even to the cross.

Jesus summons all of us, individually and as Church, to get behind Him to imitate His life of redemptive suffering. This means denying one's very self every day — that is, putting what God wants, His ways, ahead of my wants, my ways. This means taking up the cross and following in His footsteps — which can mean that many times you can't be the nice guy or girl, that you will be hated, laughed at, rejected as the great Jeremiah was (R1), just because you try to abide by God's standards.

And yet the Christian way of life, "getting behind Christ," is the only way to becoming fully human — "Whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

In 1962 the senior class of Glen Arbor High School in Michigan saved money all year long for a trip to Washington. The fund grew large. But when the time came for the trip, it was discovered that one of the class, Duane Richardson, had cancer. Treatment would be costly. You know what the class did? It voted to turn over the travel money to Duane for his expenses and to forego the trip.

When word of the action got around, donations deluged in from all sides. The result: the entire class, with Duane, got to Washington and were honored in the nation's capitol in many special ways.

How much more truly, "Whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Cenacle Schedules September Events

A number of weekend retreats have been listed on the Cenacle Revival Center's agenda for September.

Diocesan members of the Legion of Mary will be directed by Father Euclid Maier in a retreat honoring Mary Sept. 11-13. Reservations for the event are being taken by Mrs. Frank (Pat) Shaughnessy, 144 Heberton Road 14622; (716) 342-0463.

Sister Rita Drinkwater will lead members of the charismatic renewal in a retreat Sept. 25-27. The Religious of the Cenacle, described by the center's spokesperson, Carolyn Schulte, as "a gifted teacher and retreat leader," will provide opportunities "for private prayer as well as praying together in a group,

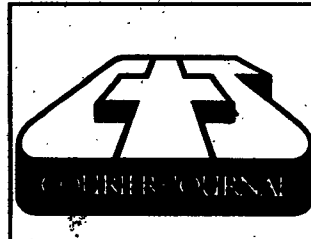
and fellowship through joy in the Holy Spirit."

Information on the fee and on reservations is obtained by contacting the Cenacle, 693 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14607; (716) 271-8755.

One weekend of the month has been reserved for a Serenity Weekend Retreat for members of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Sister Katherine, RC, will lead the weekend. A priest member of AA will celebrate Mass and be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Persons attending the Sept. 18-20 weekend have been assured their anonymity will be secure. Further details and reservations are available by calling the Cenacle (716) 271-8755.



Southern Tier Auburn-Geneva

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Bike-a-Thon Will Benefit Saint Jude's

Elmira — Our Lady of Lourdes Teen Action Group will sponsor the 1981 Wheels for Life Bike-a-Thon to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Sunday, Sept. 27, at the Arnot Mall.

Mr. and Mrs. Renny Roche, coordinators of the youth group, are the chairpersons of the effort to raise funds to help children afflicted with leukemia, Hodgkin's disease and other forms of cancer, infantile malnutrition and other childhood catastrophic diseases.

The St. Jude facility is located in Memphis, Tenn. It was founded by entertainer Danny Thomas in 1962 and is the world's largest childhood cancer research center.

Persons interested in helping with the bike-a-thon or in making a donation to the research hospital have been asked to contact the Roches at (607) 732-9898.

Hornell Has 24-Hour ER Coverage

Hornell — Officials of Bethesda Community and St. James Mercy hospitals have announced that beginning Aug. 14, the emergency room services in Hornell are covered by a 24-hour emergency room physician service.

The service brings to fruition two years of planning by the hospitals' Joint Emergency Room Committee. This is part of the continuing joint effort to provide for the health needs of the Hornell area.

The new service means that a physician will be present and available at either of the two emergency rooms without interruption. Patients will continue to have the choice of asking for their private physician, but an emergency room physician will be available for those who choose to see him or her.

The new service is being provided under a contract with Doctor's Services Inc.

Right to Life Scholarship

Apalachin — Theresa Rangel, daughter of Robert and Jacqueline Rangel, and a June graduate of Vestal High School, was awarded the 1981 Patrick Burké Memorial Scholarship at the August meeting of the Tioga County Right to Life Committee.

Miss Rangel, who will attend LeMoyné College, has been involved in pro-life activities for the past four years, a release from the state Right to Life Committee said.

Carmelite Looking Forward To Service at Elmira Parish

By Martin Toombs

Elmira — Father Fidelis Fosselman will take over as Ss. Peter and Paul pastor on Sept. 15.

The Carmelite priest, who arrived at the beginning of August at the Carmelite monastery in Waverly, comes to Ss. Peter and Paul Parish from Holy Hill, Wis. He was pastor in a parish there from 1972 until 1978, he said, and continued working there until coming to Elmira. Before 1972, he served seven years as a military chaplain.

Father Fidelis said in an interview at the monastery that he has spent most of his priestly life in parish-type work.

He said he is "looking forward" to living in Elmira and ministering to the people of Elmira's mother parish.

He noted his happiness that the parish is an active one, and that he won't have to organize it. He doesn't anticipate any changes in parish operations.

As for the acceptance of the order priests in the parish, "we just have to prove ourselves," Father Fidelis said, and "serve the people to the best of our ability."

Father Fidelis also sought to assure parishioners that they would not be bearing any cost for the additional Carmelites who will be taking up residence at Ss. Peter and Paul. He will be the only Carmelite on the parish staff, he said, and the parish's expenses will not increase due to the change.

Also living at the rectory will be Brother Edward O'Donnell, Father Timothy



FATHER FOSSELMAN

McGough and Father Gerard Taylor. Brother Edward is head of the theology department at Notre Dame High School and the community's superior. Father Timothy has been a chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital, across the street from Ss. Peter and Paul's, for several years. Father Gerard began work at the hospital this summer.

Father Vincent Bowes, who now lives at the Waverly monastery, will continue to live there, Brother Edward said, and he may be joined by others periodically. Brother Edward said he will be spending time at the monastery as well.

Father Fidelis expressed his hope that he will be able to assuage those in the parish who are fearful of the change.

Some parishioners have expressed dissatisfaction with the change, and their concern about the loss of Father Richard O'Connell, the parish's current pastor.

Father O'Connell commented that the change has been a shock to the parishioners, and caused some initial concern over finances or the possible disruption of parish programs, neither of which will be affected.

Father O'Connell suggested that time and experience with the new pastor should solve the problem. He described Father Fidelis as "gentle, smart, wise and good."

Both the outgoing and incoming pastors expressed their hope for the success of the new pastoral arrangement.

Carmelite Monastery Still for Sale

Waverly — The Carmelite order's attempts to sell the Monastery of St. John of the Cross are continuing, Brother Edward O'Donnell, community superior, said.

The order is not abandoning the building, Brother Edward said, or giving up hope that a purchaser may come forward. In the past two years, he said, he has shown 50 potential buyers around the facility.

The Carmelites ceased use of the monastery as a seminary five years ago, and have been attempting since to find a buyer. State agencies studied use of the building as a minimum security prison or as an intermediate care facility for retarded persons, but both plans met local opposition and were never completed. Brother Edward commented that the state no longer has

any funds for such property purchases, and those agencies are no longer expressing interest.

The sale of the 177-acre, 20-year-old facility is being handled by the John J. Reynolds real estate agency of New York City. The structure, designed to allow additional expansion, contains more than 40,000 square feet of space. On top of Waverly Hill, the site commands an impressive view of the countryside and of the valley.

They have no date at which their effort to sell will end. Brother Edward said, but the situation will be evaluated on an annual basis.

This winter they'll not turn on the oil-fired heat, he said, instead using wood stoves to heat those portions in use. And they'll "still be trying to generate some kind of interest" in a buyer, he said.

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