

Sister Kathleen Milliken, RSM



Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect

One Vision Of Church

The Church is many faces to me ... the faces of childhood: of my devout parents who instilled faith in me; of my brothers and sisters who struggled and laughed with me; of the Sisters and priests who instructed me and prepared me for the sacraments; the faces of the worshippers in my church at home, of those who loved our tradition, our beautiful ritual, our Gregorian chant, our Baltimore catechism, our ornate churches and darkened confessionals, the candles, the incense and the holy water ... faces of a Church that was warm, comforting and predictable.

The faces of my young adulthood are Church for me: of the fine religious teachers in high school and college years; of the Sisters

who welcomed me into their ranks and helped me to learn the rudiments of convent life; of the students I taught and the comrades I cherished; of the people whose lives touched mine in my various places of ministry; of the friends I met during graduate study in Washington ... the faces of a secure Church, a Church with a definite direction and always the answers!

The Church of my maturity presents different faces: faces of anti-war and anti-nuclear demonstrators; faces of question and doubt; faces of painful decision as dear friends leave the Church though they are still somehow part of it; faces of contradiction and paradox; of Mother Teresa of Calcutta and John Paul II; of Daniel Berrigan and Cardinal Cody; of Dorothy Day and the martyrs of El Salvador; of women struggling for equality; of

our third world brothers and sisters yearning for justice; faces of a Church in dramatic change in liturgy, focus and practice; a Church serving more and suffering more; a Church on a pilgrimage and without the security and the answers of my earlier years ... faces of a Church of great turmoil and great opportunity.

The faces of the Church of the future are still in shadow, but they are there: faces of hope for a new age; faces that look upon a Church less highly structured and more integral to their lives; faces of people in smaller congregations, deeply committed to each other ... faces of a Church more spiritual and less political; faces simple, honest and with less pomp and bureaucracy; faces of women and men, laity and clergy, serving equally.

Yes, those faces will be there, because in this Church — which is life and nourishment, yet disappointment and frustration — one face has been and always will be clear: the face of Jesus Christ — flawed, imperfect, but very, very human!

Sister Kathleen Milliken, RSM, is a Campus Minister at the Newman Oratory of Brockport.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Healing Leprosy

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mk. 1:40-45. (R1) Lv. 13:1-2, 45-46. (R2) 1 Cor. 10:31-11:1.

Sunday's readings are about lepers.

There are two kinds of leprosy: physical, as in the gospel; and spiritual, as in our own parishes.

Physical leprosy is frightful. No other disease reduces a human being for so many years to so hideous a wreck. Leprosy, or Hansen's disease as it is often called (after the Norwegian scientist who discovered the bacilla leprae in the late 1800s), still flourishes in many parts of the third world. It is estimated there are 15 million cases.

It is significant that in every Biblical reference to leprosy, the cure was always found outside the afflicted person. No self-help remedies were proffered; no antibiotics were prescribed. The help and the healing always came from the outside.

Naaman's healing came through a river. He didn't like it that way. He couldn't even choose his own river. "Are not the Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better," he asked, "than all the rivers of Israel?"

In the gospel, the person suffering with leprosy sought healing from Jesus. Again, this was an outside source of healing.

Perhaps the one country that has the greatest number of people with leprosy (one

quarter of the world's) is India. The government can't deal with the disease. But help has come from the outside in Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Once the government gave Mother Teresa \$3 million to build a colony for people suffering from leprosy. People from the nearby villages came out with bows and arrows and stopped her. The people's prejudice against leprosy is based on the superstition that leprosy is a punishment of God for sin. Thanks to God, neither Protestant nor Catholic missionaries share this bias. The bulk of leprosy support comes from missionaries.

Besides the physical victims, there are the modern-day, "lepers." They are those people with dreadful, deep-seated maladies that deform the personality and alienate the soul just as truly as the biblical disease deformed and ostracized. Every parish has a few "lepers" — the breathing dead, victims of life's vinegar and gall — excluded, alienated, undesired. Like all lepers, these "lepers" cannot help themselves either. They must be helped by our love, understanding and prayers.

What a picture the gospel gives us of Jesus! How loving! He did not drive the person with leprosy away, but was "moved with pity."

The sufferer said, "If you will, you can cure me." "If?" The question seemed to hurt Jesus. "If? — Good Heavens, Man, I do will it! Be cured." His love was active — He helped!

Everyone is someone in need of outside help. Where better to turn than to Jesus to whom no one was unclear?

Breakfast Mass Set at Nazareth

The Alumni Association of Nazareth College will sponsor a Breakfast Buffet and Mass at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 28.

The breakfast will be served in the Medaille Dining Room, to be followed at 12:15 p.m. by Mass in the Shults Center chapel. The cost of the event is \$4 per person.

As an added feature, the Shults Center pool will be

open free of charge to all alumni and their families from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Those interested must bring their own towels.

Checks should be made payable to Nazareth College and sent to the Alumni Office, 4245 East Avenue, Rochester, 14610.

Cenacle Offers Seminar On 'Living'

The Cenacle is offering a seminar on effective living from March 26 to 28.

The purpose of the seminar is to help participants with self-concept and ways to appreciate their gifts from God. A Cenacle Sister will serve as a guide in searching out the individual's habit patterns with focus on overcoming negative habit patterns.

For reservations or further information, interested persons should contact the Cenacle, 693 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14607, telephone (716) 271-8755.



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