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Dr. Howard and Nancy Lyboldt and Gary and Patricia Hettrich complete plans for the annual bazaar to benefit McQuaid Jesuit High School, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 5 and 6. The couples are co-chairing the event to be held in the school cafeteria.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

# **Practice** Generosity. **Sincerity**

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mk. 12/38-44. (R1) 1 Kgs. 17/10-16, (R2) Heb. 9/24-28.

In Sunday's gospel Jesus unmasked the hypocrisy of some of the religious leaders of His day — the Scribes.

Scribes were called doctors of the law or lawyers. Their great prestige among the people stemmed from the strict preparations they had to undergo to become scribes — not unlike the stringent regulations governing the preparation of medical students. Only after years of apprenticeship could a person even begin to décide on certain questions of religious law or penal. justice. So scribes came to be venerated like the prophets of old and were given unbounded respect.

As a mark of their office, the scribes wore a large version of the Jewish talith. or paryer shawl, It was of white linen, with long fringes, and extended to their feet. These robes were to be worn at prayer services and when performing scribal activities.

However, in the gospel account, the scribes so Part of the popularity of desired respect that they photography is that it can public. It would be like a are. A proud grandmother priest shopping in a was wheeling her grandchild supermarket vested in alb in the park. A passer by and chasuble. Our Lord stopped to admire the child condemned not so much the wearing of robes, but the beautiful baby!" To which vanity, hypocrisy, self-the grandmother replied, esteem scorn, arrogance "That's nothing; you should that prompted them to wear these robes in inappropriate
settings. Were it not so When Pope Pius XI was
tragic it would have been being photographed; the

This desire of the scribes (or praise and deference became downright sinister, for they devoured the So a truly religious person savings of widows. And they is one who is on the outside did this by abusing religion what he is on the inside Be-reciting long prayers he or she in plain wrapping, Long prayers gave them a like the widows, or in reputation for piety; and so cellophane wrappings, like widows trusted them ne scribes, the difference because of their piety; and they were named executors religion is whether or not the or trustees of their estates; content packaged is what and by their expense money the label says it is.

ate up the estates and enriched themselves. As a Texas banker once said. "I've been held up only twice at the point of a gun, but hundreds of times at the point of a pen."

No doubt Jesus' fierce indignation against the scribes and Pharisees was due to this abuse of religion, to its reduction to a racket.

There are two safeguards against falling into a similar trap. One is to practice the virtue of generosity, of giving, after the manner of — believe it or not — the two widows in Sunday's readings.

The poor widow in the first reading gave what little she had to God's prophet. She asked nothing in return nor expected a reward. Nonetheless she received one. — a great one!

The gospel widow gave all she had. She thought no one saw her, but God-made-man saw her and noted it and blessed her and immortalized her in the gospel.

The second safeguard is to practice the virtue of sincerity. Sincerity is the opposite of hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is the tribute vice pays to virtue. It is evil parading in robes of religious piety, like the gospel scribes.

wore their tallithim out in package us prettier than we see the pictures.

ludicrous, much like the photographer eliminated the proverbial general who wore his stars even on his side of the pontiff's mouth pajamas. The pope ordered a new photograph, saying to the This desire of the scribes photographer, "Show me as for praise and deference l'am—warts and all."

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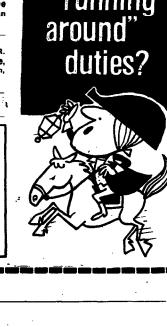
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**DEADLINE: 3 p.m. Friday**