

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Pilgrims' Newness

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 8:1-11. (R1) Is. 43:16-21. (R2) Phil. 3:8-14.

Second Isaiah (R1) had arrived at one of the clearest concepts of the oneness and uniqueness of God. Because he had, he saw unity in history. He had a God-view of history that perceived all events (past, present and future) as carrying the stamp of the one God, which was the liberation of all mankind! Thus he sought to foretell the future by reference to the past.

Accordingly, Second Isaiah interpreted the future of his people, languishing in the Babylonian Captivity, by looking back to the Egyptian Exodus. He foresaw their liberation as a new Exodus. "See, I am doing something new."

In a similar fashion, Christians viewed Jesus' intervention into history in the light of the Exodus. They too saw His life, death, resurrection and ascension as a new "exodus," a new liberation, not from physical slavery, but from the spiritual slavery of sin.

St. Paul (R2) warns that this liberation is not to be effected through knowledge, albeit a knowledge of Christ. Three times he speaks of knowledge, for he was rebutting gnosticism — a heresy teaching Jewish Christians that perfection could be found in knowledge. Paul admits that the only thing worth knowing is Jesus Christ. But for Paul, this knowledge of Christ is not a purely intellectual thing, but an experiential matter; not just a theory but a life — a sharing in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Hence there is no arriving in the Christian life. The end of striving ends only at the end of life.

Paul portrays himself as a pilgrim searching. "I do not think of myself as having reached the finish line" (a phrase borrowed from the Greek mystery religions).

The Christian is a pilgrim: the church, a pilgrim church.

Paul's idea of a pilgrim church is especially timely today. We are now emerging from a period in which stable institutions, unchangeable truths and absolute authority could have created the impression that "we have arrived" — that God's kingdom is already a reality. But now with the massive dechristianization going on, with so much questioned, it is quite evident that we have not arrived.

And this is good. For instead of being a people in possession, we are a people in pilgrimage. The fact that God's people were a pilgrim people in the desert is a good reminder and can help restore some tranquility to those disquieted by all the post-Vatican II changes.

In the gospel incident, the Scribes and Pharisees image a church that "had arrived," that was unalterable, that seemed to put law above persons, acts above life.

Perhaps it was St. Luke, and not St. John, who authored the story of the adulteress. It could have been a midrash on the Susanna story (Dan. 13). In the Susanna story, the woman accused by two old men is innocent of adultery and is saved by the prophet Daniel. In the gospel story, the Scribes and Pharisees are the old men and Jesus is the new Daniel. But there is a difference: the woman is not innocent; she is truly an adulteress. Daniel vindicated an innocent woman, but Jesus a guilty one. The point is that Jesus was ushering in a new era, one of grace and pardon.

The Law judged acts. Jesus judges persons. The adulteress represents us: sinners. Like her, we can transcend sin and accept the chance encounter and dialogue offered by Christ. Thus we can be led to sin no more, can be freed from the Law, and learn to obey a conscience that has known love. "See, I am doing something new."

Polonia Centre to Hold Benefit

The Polonia Civic Centre will sponsor a benefit Polish buffet to aid Rochester area children of Polish refugee families, 5-7 p.m., Saturday, March 19; and noon-7 p.m., Sunday, March 20, at St. Stanislaus Auditorium, at the corner of Hudson Avenue and Norton Street.

The buffet will feature Polish home-style golabki,

pierogi, kapusta, kielbasa and chicken, vegetables, beverages and desserts.

The foods are individually priced, but a press release indicated that dinners will cost \$2-\$5.

"Since the imposition of martial law in Poland, a number of Polish families have relocated in the

Rochester area," the release stated. "With the hard economic times in our nation, it is especially difficult for these newcomers. The Polish community of Rochester is sensitive to their needs and wishes to help the children. All funds collected at the dinner will enter the Polonia Civic Centre's Polish Children's Charitable Fund."

The organization is "the non-profit representative body of Polish-American civic, cultural, charitable, social and non-profit organizations of Rochester," the release said.

Stephen Flor, second vice president of the group, also said that the organization participated in last year's drive to collect shoes for Poland.

CLASSIFIED WANT ADS

Get in touch with the right people through the Courier-Journal classified. \$5.00 — 3 Lines Per Week. \$1.50 Each Additional Line Maximum 23 Characters (Words, Punctuation, and Spacing) Per Line. Payment Must accompany Your Order Only With this Coupon Below.

ANTIQUES

ANTIQUE CLOCKS, pocket watches. Expert repairing and sales. 223-7955.

BATHROOMS

BATHROOMS: COMPLETE remodeling and repairs. Free, courteous estimates. 18 years of serving Monroe County. 352-3447.

CANDY

"THE SWEET TOOTH" presents delicious, Rochester-made chocolates and a variety of candy gift wrapped and delivered for that special occasion! Also available for fundraising. 244-4191.

CANDY

"THE SWEET TOOTH" presents delicious, Rochester-made chocolates and a variety of candy gift wrapped and delivered for that special occasion! Also available for fundraising. 244-4191.

CARPENTRY WORK

Carpenter work: additions, porch enclosures, paneling, doors and windows, electrical work. 28 years experience. Prompt, free estimates. Check our reputation. DINAPOLI BROTHERS. Call anytime. 225-7681 or 227-4635.

CHIMNEY WORK

CHIMNEYS Repaired — Painted, plastered, rebuilt, new. Best prices in town. 28 years experience. Free estimates. Check our reputation. DiNapoli Bros. CALL ANYTIME. 225-7681 or 227-4635.

CHIMNEYS POINTED or rebuilt. Flashing leaks repaired. Chimney pest screens installed. Free estimates. Cameron Gilbert. 247-5130.

CHIMNEYS: REPAIRS and installation. Free, courteous estimates. 18 years of serving Monroe County. 352-3447.

ENTERTAINMENT

THE SOPHISTICATES — Music for All Occasions, under the direction of Sammy Profeta. 288-3030 or 288-6372.

BOBBY LANE ORCHESTRA, top music for all occasions. Top musicians! 467-7347.

FOR RENT

PENFIELD One-bedroom apartment Fireplace Separate entrance Centrally located No pets/children \$350 includes utilities call 586-7980 between 9:00 and 5:00

LAWN and GARDEN

LANDSCAPING by STEVE ALARIE Fall Clean-Up * Tree Work Snowplowing * Insulation Call 328-8989

HELP WANTED

HOUSEKEEPER/COOK to live in at small suburban rectory. LIBERAL benefits. Reply to Box 29 in care of this newspaper.

OPPORTUNITIES in PASTORAL Ministry, Diocese of Rochester. Applications and further information may be obtained by contacting Director of Personnel, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624. All applications should be returned by March 22, 1983.

HOME REMODEL

ODD JOBS: Storm windows removed, washing walls, floor waxing, cleaning gutters, etc. 436-4421.

COMPLETE SERVICE: carpentry, masonry, plumbing, and electrical. Additions, garages, and repairs. Free, courteous estimates. 18 years of serving Monroe County. 352-3447.

HOME REPAIRS: exterior and interior painting; chimney, steps, and basement wall repairs. Carpentry work, gutter cleaning, basement window bars. All types of home repair. Small jobs welcome. Very reasonable. Free estimates. Al Meyvis Jr., 323-1676.

INCOME TAX SERVICE

INCOME TAX: reasonable, 18 years experience, in-home service available. Call after 6 p.m., 266-0584.

TAX PREPARATION by appointment. Your home or mine. Leo Braun, Tax Accountant. 247-6002.

MASON WORK

MASON WORK — Patios, brick steps, chimneys, sidewalks, garage floors, planters, additions. Compare our prices. 28 years experience. Free estimates. Check our reputation. DiNapoli Bros. Call Anytime. 225-7681 or 227-4635.

MASONRY REPAIRS, brick steps, sidewalks, chimneys, basement wall repairs, etc. Small repairs welcome. Very reasonable. 27 years experience. Free estimates, references. Al Meyvis, Sr. 323-1007

MOVING & HAULING

K-D MOVING and STORAGE. Local and New York State moving. Household, offices, packing, safe secured storage. Insured. Call for estimate and hourly rates. 328-7730.

PAINTING and PAPERHANGING

PAINTING: INTERIOR and exterior. Over ten years of quality service to Courier subscribers. References available. For free estimates, please call 594-4724.

PAINTING and PAPERHANGING. Textured-swirl ceilings. Free estimates. Quality work. Dan Burgmaster. 663-0827.

PAINTING: INTERIOR, EXTERIOR. Quality workmanship, dependable, references available. Tom Mulhern. 244-5017.

PAINTING, INTERIOR, exterior. Wood refinishing. Second generation of quality work. Michael Weber. 467-3474, after 5 p.m.

REAL ESTATE

OCEAN COTTAGE: South Virginia Beach. Large 2-bedroom, furnished. Rent May-Oct. \$275/\$325 per week. 225-4621, evenings.

WEEKLY SUMMER RENTALS: Conesus Lake. 2 homes available. Super location. \$270 and \$475. 248-5691

KEUKA LAKE 2-bedroom apt. dock, tennis court \$500 per week. Sale and fish boat available. (607) 936-3836

ROOFING

ROOFING, REPAIRS and new installation. Free, courteous estimates. 18 years of serving Monroe County. 352-3447.

SEWING MACHINES

SEWING MACHINES oiled and adjusted, \$6.95. Used and new machines available. Call Jeff, 467-3100.

SPECIAL MISCELLANEOUS

THANKS, ST. JUDE, for favors received

THANKS TO St. Jude for favor received RK

THANK YOU, St. Jude and Sacred Heart, for favors received MB/WIP/CB

THANK YOU, St. Jude and others, for helping in decision about work.

WANTED TO BUY

DON'T THROW IT AWAY — sell it I will buy your accumulations or manage your household sale. Nancy Flaherty. 533-1746.

FURS. ANY KIND Good condition, cash. Connie's. 544-3331. Tuesday through Saturday, 11-5

Form with fields for Name, Address, City, State, Zip, Phone, and a grid for classified ads. Includes instructions: 'Use one box for each letter, for each comma or period. Leave one block space between words.' and 'DEADLINE: 3 p.m. Friday'

Advertisement for Duff RUND'S Periwinkle PUB. Text: 'JOIN US AT EASTER for BRUNCH or DINNER'. Phone: 223-4220. Includes illustration of a rabbit in a tuxedo holding a plate of food.