



**In Memoriam**

The late Father Joseph Reinhart was memorialized by the Knights of Columbus recently. John J. Hart (right), president of the Finger Lakes Chapter, presents a plaque designating the 1983 exemplification ceremonies in Father Reinhart's name to Mrs. Harry Yeoman, Father Reinhart's sister. Others present, from left, are William F. Schmitz, faithful navigator, Mr. Yeoman, and Raymond Pfeifer, master of the fifth New York district.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

**Heed Words From Fatima**

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 11/1-13. (R1) Gn. 18/20-32. (R2) Col. 2/12-14.

Why doesn't God destroy the world? Certainly, it is full of evil. The Jewish people believed, on the Abraham story, that God provides 10 just men every generation. Because of them God refrains from passing the death sentence on the world.

Our Lady of Fatima addressed this problem. She noted with motherly concern the increasing growth of evil in the 20th century and she pleaded the daily rosary and penance on the part of her children to stem the wrath of an angry Father.

Sometimes people of no faith look upon the lives of Trappists and cloistered Carmelites as a waste. But someone of Faith said that these holy men and women are like lightning rods which draw away the judgment of God from the world. Like Abraham, they are the intercessors for Sodom and Gomorrah. The mere presence of the just (10 only) was sufficient to cancel the death sentence brought on by Sodom's sins.

In Luke's gospel we see once again the partnership of the just with God. Friends of God pray, not only for themselves, but for others. We are all in the Lord's Prayer, someone said, because the words "you" and "I" are not in it. Even the man who went begging bread in the gospel from a friend did so for another friend.

The Abraham story is told to teach Abraham and us something about God.

The sin of Sodom was great, so great, that it had come to the attention of God. The victims of injustice there cried out to God.

Society did nothing. So God came down to check out whether or not the

outrage against Sodom was as evil as He heard. Interesting, isn't it? God hears accusations, but He does nothing until He checks them out. God is just!

The two angels with Him go on to Sodom, but God remains alone with Abraham. He remains as if to invite discussion. Abraham takes the cue: he haggles with God. God's action doesn't seem right to Abraham: one should not condemn the innocent along with the guilty. God concurs. Then Abraham in typical Oriental fashion tries to dicker with God over the price. However, Abraham stopped bartering at 10 — even he couldn't accept forgiveness beyond that small a number. Nor was God angry at Abraham. He never wills the death of the sinner. His justice is tempered by mercy. He is not indifferent to evil, but he is more than willing to make concessions to the prayers of the just. God is merciful!

The Sunday readings, therefore, are an invitation to us all to become involved in God's ministry in the world and to petition boldly in its behalf.

Our Lady at Fatima asked the same thing when she pleaded for the daily rosary and for penance.

Recently, Jan. 22, 1980, in locutions to a humble Italian priest, Father Stefano Gobbi, our Lady reiterated her Fatima requests.

To him she said, "Pray more and more. Pray together with me, through the recitation of the holy rosary. Pray and do penance... that the greatest possible number of my children be eternally saved... I ask for prayer and penance for the conversion sinners, that even my most rebellious and most distant children may return to God, who awaits them with the merciful eagerness of a Father..."

Mary's message is the same as that of Scripture. How can we remain indifferent to her plea?

**Fr. Ritter Opens Shelter In Houston**

Houston (NC) -- Franciscan Father Bruce Ritter has opened Under 21 Houston, a multiservice center for homeless and runaway youths.

The center, which includes a 75-bed residence building with a health clinic, is a program of Covenant House, also founded by Father Ritter. Under 21 Houston is open 24 hours a day and offers shelter, food, counseling, referral and other services to anyone under 21 years of age.

"There are many homeless kids on the streets of Houston," Father Ritter said. "Hungry and vulnerable, they have few options. We provide an alternative to the dangerous and degrading lifestyles they encounter on the streets."

Covenant House also has facilities in New York City, Toronto, Antigua and Guatemala.

Nearly 90 full-time employees have been recruited from the Houston area along with full and part-time volunteers.

The non-profit organization's first-year operating budget is expected to be over \$2 million, which is being raised from local corporations, foundations and individuals.

**Card Party Planned**

The Social Committee of Nazareth College has scheduled a Poolside Luncheon Card Party at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 10 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Licata, 760 Van Voorhis Ave., Irondequoit.

Strolling models will give a sneak preview of an upcoming Fall fashion show, "Moda Autunnale." Both events will benefit the Casa Italiana Scholarship Fund and cultural programs. Tickets may be obtained by calling Casa Italiana, 586-8744. Rain date for the luncheon will be Thursday, Aug. 11.

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**Killing of Baha'is Causing Concern**

New York (NC) -- The rising number of executions in Iran, particularly of members of the Baha'i faith, concerns Amnesty International U.S.A. and the U.S. National Baha'i Center.

Amnesty International, the human rights watch group, has reported that 5,195 executions have been carried out in Iran since the February 1979 revolution, including at least 151 Baha'is.

Baha'ism, which originated from the Shiite Islamic sect, is regarded as heretical by authorities in Iran. According to Amnesty International, members of the Baha'i faith are usually accused of espionage by the Iranians, but the group "knows of no reason to accept the validity of such charges."

The Baha'i public affairs office in Wilmette, Ill., reported July 5 that 130 Baha'i villagers in Iran were attacked after their release following three days' confinement in an enclosed field.

The Baha'is had been denied food and water unless they converted to Islam, the report said. But no one converted.

"We are stunned by the ferocity of the recent assaults," said Firuz Kazemzadeh, secretary of the Baha'i National Assembly of Degree

Dr. Beverly Roberts Gaventa, associate professor of New Testament at Colgate Rochester Divinity School/Bexley Hall/Crozer Theological Seminary, received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree during the June commencement exercises of Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Mich.

the United States. "If Iran is allowed to continue its persecution of the Baha'is, we can expect the wholesale slaughter of thousands more," he said.

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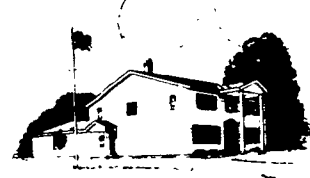
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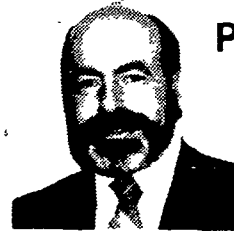
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