

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

God Always Keeps His Promises

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 21:5-19. (R1) Mal. 3:19-20. (R2) 2 Thess. 3:7-12.

The book of Malachi was written in those difficult days between the return from the Babylonian Exile (536 B.C.) and the reforms of Esdras (399 B.C.). The Jews were getting discouraged. Reconstruction only inched along. Embracing the pagan life style surrounding them was a real danger.

Malachi sought to shore up their tottering faith by reminding them that "the day is coming" soon and God will consume the wicked like stubble in a blazing oven. But for those who fear His name, that same fire will heal, not destroy — just as the same sun, that hardens mud, melts the snow.

The gospel seems terribly complicated, but it is not if we treat it like we do Malachi, as a here-and-now judgment. Our Lord's discourse about the fall of Jerusalem was occasioned by the apostles' infatuation with the grandeur of the Temple Herod the Great had fabulously rebuilt in 20-19 B.C. However that white marble Temple stood like

a whited sepulchre, for the spirit of religion had gone out of it. It had to be destroyed that Jesus might erect a new temple (in the hearts of men) in a new holy city (the Church).

History has verified the events preceding the fall of Jerusalem and its Temple. The historian Josephus minutely described that siege and fall. He notes that false prophets did proliferate at the time (60-70 A.D.). They spurred Jerusalem to revolt against Rome. "The time is at hand," they proclaimed. Jerusalem listened and rebelled. And eagle Rome under Titus and Vespasian swooped down on the dove Israel — and "not one stone was left upon another."

Christians, however, escaped the awful holocaust. Forwarned by Christ, they had left the city before the siege. Jesus had foretold they would be persecuted by the synagogue. They were by Saul. Jesus was right. He said they would be summoned before kings and governors. Peter and Paul were. He was right again. He also said that when you see wars and earthquakes and famine and the Temple abominated, know that the end of Jerusalem is near. Christians believed. They left Jerusalem. And again Jesus was right.

Jesus gave another piece of advice. It applies to us. It was this: "I bid you resolve not to worry about your defense beforehand. I will give you (at the time) words and a wisdom no adversary can oppose."

Jesus was saying, "Don't cross your bridges until you come to them."

The reason is because of actual grace. Actual grace is a help God gives us at the time of an act — not before it! I hate "management by objectives" in the Church, because it does not take into account actual grace. When one projects into the future, it is without actual grace. For the grace is given only at the time of the act. An act without actual grace is like trying to do a job without food or sleep. It's difficult, if not impossible.

As a result, many a good resolution dies aborning. "The strong hue of resolution is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought." What Hamlet meant was that too much thinking about the future immobilizes one and snuffs out endeavor. Statistics, projections, polls, forecasts have killed more than one good proposal. How many Catholic schools were closed on the basis of projections! Christ said, "Don't worry about the future." Pray for daily bread. "Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof." And in Sunday's reading: "Don't worry beforehand; when the time comes, sufficient grace will be given you for what to say and what to do." The man of faith goes gaily in the dark — assured that God always keeps His promises.

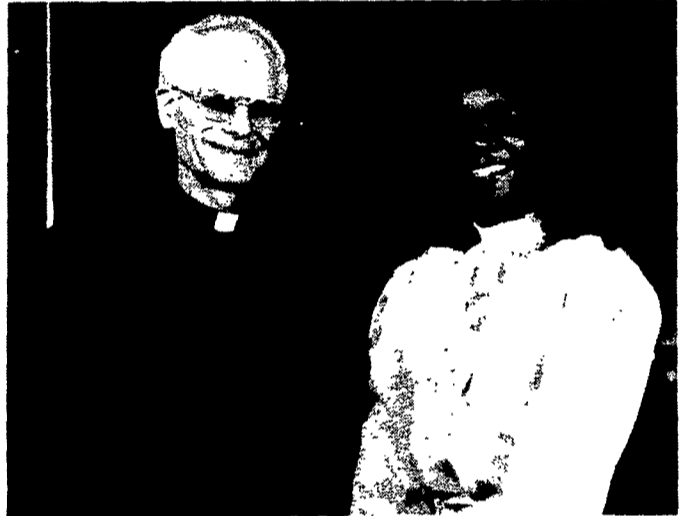


85 Attend Workshop

Dr. Robert Hawley of the Professional Resource Institute in Amherst, Mass., was the main speaker at the annual diocesan principals' workshop last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Nov. 2-4, at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua. More than 85 administrators participated.

Caribbean Island, Fisher Connected

Eurileen Thibou, Alfred Matthew and Lyndon Joseph are part of St. John Fisher College's "Antigua Connection." The three freshmen are from Antigua, an island in the Caribbean Sea, which is a member of the Rochester-Antigua-Barbados partnership of the national organization, Partners of America.



St. John Fisher president, Father Patrick Braden, with Eurileen Thibou.

The organization links citizens of 44 states with 26 Latin American and Caribbean countries. A group of Rochesterians set up a partnership with Antigua in 1981. Carolyn Rankin, vice president for college relations and development at SUNY Brockport and president of Rochester Partners of the Americas, and David Ocorr of St. John Fisher, who is grants coordinator for Rochester Partners, developed the program involving the Fisher students, all three of whom received scholarships.

Eurileen Thibou is planning on majoring in either engineering or computer science.

Lyndon Joseph, one of 11 brothers and sisters, plays soccer for Fisher and majors in biology.

Alfred Matthews plans a

career in computer science.

Partners of America will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9 (tonight) at Rochester Area Colleges headquarters on East River Road giving the members the opportunity to meet the Fisher students.

Shakespeare Conference Scheduled

The editor of the standard college text of the works of William Shakespeare will be the keynote speaker at a two-day Shakespeare Conference, Thursday and Friday, Nov. 10-11, in the Otto A. Shults Center of Nazareth College.

Prof. David Bevington of the University of Chicago will speak on "A Visual Approach to Shakespeare Comedy" during the opening session which begins at 9:15 a.m. Thursday with remarks by Robert A. Kidera, Nazareth College president, and Prof. David Pollard, conference director. Bevington is the editor of

"The Complete Works of Shakespeare" and the author of several books.

He will join 17 other scholars and educators. Speakers include Irene Dash of Hunter College, a leading feminist critic, who will talk during the 1:30 p.m. Friday session.

A highlight will be a demonstration of different methods of teaching Shakespeare provided by three professors from Rochester area institutions during the 10:15 a.m. Thursday session. Mark Anderson of the State University at Brockport, Russell McDonald of the University

of Rochester and Kenneth Mason of St. John Fisher College, will lead the session and members of their classes will participate.

The conference is free and open to the public.

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AUDITION Wolf" at Technical Deaf (NT) Rochester Technology and deaf p.m. Tuesday, Nov. edge of sign required. F tion call 475

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