

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

### And a Child Shall Lead

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 3/1-12. (R1) Is. 11/1-10. (R2) Rom. 15/4-9.

The Old Testament begins with adults and sin; the New Testament begins with a Child and innocence. Isaiah placed the future hopes of Israel in a little child: "with a little child to guide them" ("them" being the formerly warring animals who, in the future Kingdom of the little child, will live peacefully together, R1).

This is why the baby Jesus is at the heart of the Christmas event in the Gospels. The babe of Bethlehem is the promissory note for the world's salvation.

We miss the point when we use the old cliché, "Christmas is for children."

Christmas has its roots in childhood. That is what the Nativity scene with the infant Jesus at its center and shepherds and angels adoring illustrates. This child is the hope of the world. So Matthew and Luke begin their gospel stories of the world's redemption with the infancy narratives. Then later they tell us that the characteristics of a child are necessary for entering the Kingdom of Heaven.

Every child that is born is a message from God that He is not yet discouraged with mankind. Children are the most wholesome part of the race, the sweetest, for they are freshest from the Hand of God. Whimsical, ingenious, mischievous, they fill the world with joy and good humor.

When God wants a great work done in the world or a wrong righted, He generally goes about it in an unusual way. God doesn't stir up earthquakes or sends forth thunderbolts. Instead, He often uses little children: the Baby Jesus, a teener Joan of Arc, a Bernadette, a Jacinta, Francisco, Lucy of Fatima.

We might say one of the great humanitarian achievements of the past two centuries has been the introduction of "childhood" into our modern life cycle. Painters of two centuries ago depicted children as somber, grave, ridden with the cares of the mature world.

What we have gained, I fear, we may be losing today. Planned Parenthood is now working to get the Board of Regents

of the state to mandate sex education in grades K-12. Vatican II used two adjectives when recommending sex education: "prudent" and "reverent." Is sex education for kids from "K" on prudent? Can it be reverent when ripped out of the context of God - for He, after all, created the sexes? Ignorant of His purpose, how can sex education be moral, be good?

The latest assault on childhood is the move to put courses in nuclear war in the classrooms. Ought we to inject fear, guilt, and despair into the minds and hearts of our young? Should the teaching of a nuclear hell replace the dogma of an eternal hell?

Childhood is perhaps the only point of true innocence in the life cycle. Plato in his Republic wrote: "We begin by telling children stories which, though not wholly destitute of truth, are in the main fictitious." Fairy tales do not give a false conception of life. It is the so-called realistic stories that deceive.

The fairy tale arouses longing for more ideal worlds and gives a glow to the real world. It is like the difference between the denotation and the connotation of a word. The denotation of the word gives the stark reality, like the word "stove"; the connotation of the word gives the reality enshrined in aura, like the word "hearth."

So stories of enchanting woods makes every word more enchanting. The child reading the fairy tale is delighted simply in desiring, in dreaming impossible dreams. Realism might give a standard (the hero), but if the child cannot reach it, it may be bitterly disappointed.

When I was a beggarly boy

And lived in a cellar damp,

I had not a friend or a toy,

But I had Alladin's lamp...

The Alladin's lamp of childhood is the imagination. How terrible to destroy it with the awful realities of adulthood!

Soon enough, a time will come when childhood will be set aside for adulthood and the hard facts of reality. But childhood, the fancy-free cycle of life, is a necessary preparation for adulthood and the Kingdom of Heaven. We need to protect it as a natural resource, for the sake of maturity and salvation.

## Fr. Haycock Celebrates 25 Years in the Priesthood

Celebrations in honor of Father Donald Haycock, CSC, who will celebrate his 25th year as a priest in the Holy Cross Order, began on Thursday, Nov. 10 and will continue until next August.

Students and faculty at Cardinal Mooney High School, where Father Haycock is chaplain and guidance counselor, began the festivities with a day of recognition on Nov. 10. The Holy Cross community will host 25th anniversary celebrations at Stonehill College, North Easton, Mass. in June, and Haycock family celebrations will be in August at Holy Trinity Church (German) in Hazletown, Pa., Father Haycock's hometown.

Father Haycock was ordained Nov. 30, 1958 in Rome, Italy.

Nineteen of Father Haycock's years as a priest have been in high schools. He

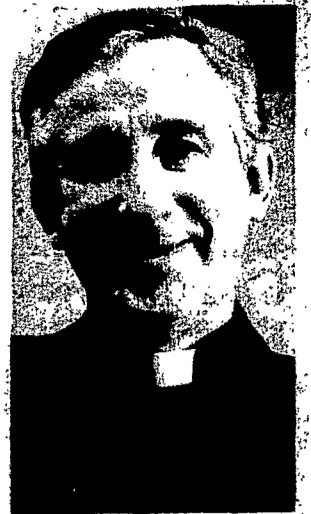
was the first chaplain at Cardinal Mooney when the school opened in 1962 and served in that capacity as well as teacher and guidance counselor until 1971. He returned in 1973 for three years and then was back in 1977 to the present time.

But high school isn't the only area where he has been involved with youth. From 1973-77 he was involved with Teen Seminar, a diocesan program designed to give teens an experience of Christian community. He recalled having 49-50 teens in a group, who are now adults and married with families some of whom he sees from time to time.

Another facet of Father Haycock's life as a Holy Cross priest is that he has been serving as an assistant at St. Lawrence Parish in Greece since shortly after coming to Rochester in 1962.

Other activities that have balanced out his ministry have included being a member of the Priest Council of the Rochester Diocese, a former member of the Provincial Council, Holy Cross Fathers (1973-81), former board member of King's College, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and serving on several search committees for the Holy Cross Fathers. His professional organization memberships include the Monroe County Personnel and Guidance organization, the Diocesan Catholic Guidance Council and the Catholic Personnel Director of America.

Father Haycock attended St. Gabriel's High School in Hazleton, Stonehill College, and received his STB from Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. In addition, he did graduate studies at the University of Notre Dame and the Catholic University



of America and has a MA in education from the University of Rochester. He taught Latin and Theology at Notre Dame High School, Bridgeport Conn., 1959-61; served with the Holy Cross Fathers Mission Band, North Dartmouth, Mass; was principal and chief administrator at Notre Dame High School, Niles, Ill., and was personnel director of the Holy Cross Fathers, Eastern Province 1976-77.

### St. Mary's Hospital Plans Open House

A community open house, tours and a reception from 1 to 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 3, will highlight the opening of new facilities at St. Mary's Hospital, 89 Genesee St.

St. Mary's, which opened as Rochester's first hospital in 1857 at its same location, has just completed an addition housing the new Seton Ambulatory Center (the city's most up-to-date setting for same-day surgery and medical procedures), new surgical facilities, offices, and support services. A new power plant also was built as

part of the \$40 million modernization program.

In addition to the new wing, St. Mary's is renovating the rest of the hospital with several renovated units already open and more to come in the next few months.

Modernization will be completed in the Spring of 1985.

Dec. 3 visitors may tour the new addition, a renovated area and the new infant nurseries and attend a reception. Parking will be available at the south employee lot on Genesee Street.

### Families of Jailed Offered New Support

A new organization, FAST, Families Anonymous Support Team, under the aegis of the Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry, tries to assist families which have a member in jail or involved in the criminal justice process.

FAST hopes to offer an alternative to families facing such a traumatic experience alone.

FAST will meet every other week to listen to such families and to offer direction. The confidentiality and anonymity of group members will be protected.

The new organization invites all interested to join its program. More information is available from the jail ministry at 325-1942.

### Charities Hosts Forum On Mental Health Care

Catholic Charities will sponsor a "Public Forum on the Quality of Institutional and Community Mental Health Care in Monroe County" from 6-9 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at East High School.

According to William H. Privett, Charities' associate director, the purpose of the forum is to broaden community understanding of very critical mental health issues and to enable Catholic Charities to identify points on which church-based advocacy will be important.

Approximately 22,000 mentally ill are served each year by the "formal system, state and local governments, community mental health centers and voluntary agencies," according to J. Barry Jesmer, director of the

Monroe/Livingston Mental Health Demonstration Project.

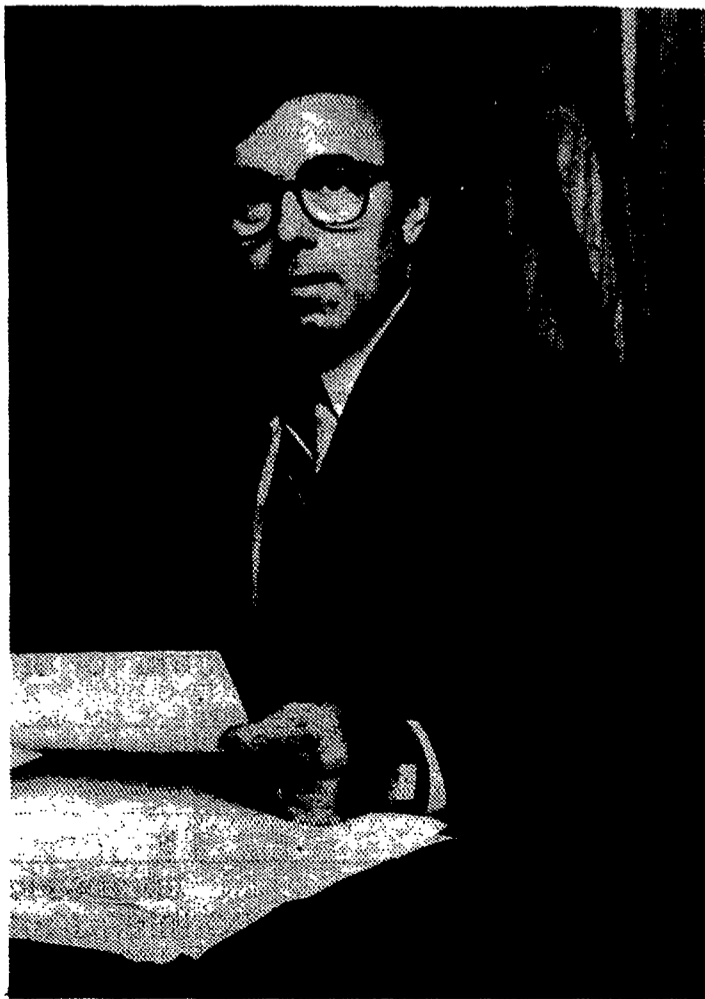
Five issue papers have been developed in advance of the forum by the Rochester Psychiatric Center, the Families and Friends of the Mentally Ill and Emotionally Disturbed, the Finger Lakes Health System Agency, the Monroe County Community Services Board, and the Rochester Area Hospital Corp. These papers are being made available by Catholic Charities and cover the future of mental health care

Anyone interested in obtaining the issue papers, or needing further information of the forum, should contact Carl Conde at Catholic Charities, 546-4897.

**Spring Cleaning? Call Us!**

We'll pick up your household discards of clothing, furniture, appliance, automobiles, to help the needy.

**Volunteers of America**  
CALL 454-1150  
Donations are Tax Deductible



Thank You

for your support and confidence

Howard R. RELIN

Monroe County District Attorney

Committee to Elect District Attorney Relin

### NFP Classes Offered

Elmira -- Classes in Natural Family Planning will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 2 in a Big Flats residence. This class is limited to six couples and a \$40 fee includes sessions, materials and follow-up.

The sessions are given at six week intervals. The Sympto-Thermal method will be taught by Mr. and Mrs. Barry Snyder. Pre-registration is required by calling 607/562-3331.