

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

The Alienation Of Sin

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 4/1-11. (R1) Ga. 2/7-9; 3/1-7. (R2) Rom. 5/12-19.

The Lenten season begins with readings that present us with a theme that will continue to unfold in the weeks ahead—the theme of sin.

The first reading helps us to understand the nature of sin and the alienation it causes. The redactor of Genesis pictures Adam and Eve as enjoying the fullness of human life. All is well with them—they are on intimate and friendly terms with God, with each other and with all creation.

Things are so good, so paradisaical, that an extra-terrestrial being has to intrude (a snake in the grass) to lure Adam and Eve to refuse to accept the limitations of their humanity.

The serpent would not have been successful even then had there perhaps not been a little bit of discontent in the hearts of Adam and Eve; a regret that they did not know everything, especially good and evil. The ripple effect of their act was such that it affected Adam and Eve in all their relationships.

First, they are alienated from self—"they realized they were naked." So they clothed themselves with fig leaves. Later God ratified this by giving them permanent dress in the form of skins. Why? Innocence is lost. Now the flesh lusts against the spirit. As Mark Twain said it, "Man is the only animal that blushes or needs to."

Secondly, they are alienated from God—they hide from God. Why? They experienced guilt. Ever since, man runs away from God, the source of his life; instead, he turns easily to that which is death—sin.

Thirdly, they are alienated from fellow man—Adam turns on Eve. He blames her for what has happened.

Lastly, Paul in the second reading points out the social nature of sin: "Through one man sin entered the world and with sin, death, death thus

coming to all inasmuch as all sinned." In the fifth chapter of Genesis, like muffled drums beating funeral marches to the grave, the refrain—"then he died"—occurs eight times. No matter how long the life-span of each patriarch, there always resounds the phrase "then he died."

The Genesis redactor is saying, "It was the serpent who had lied, not God!" God had said to the first pair, "Don't try to be other than you are lest you die." The serpent countered that God was lying. Experience proved that the serpent was the liar, not God.

Their sin let loose a Pandora's box of evil. Chapters 4-11 of Genesis show sin escalating. First, the breakdown of personal relationships: fratricide (Cain and Abel), bigamy, blasphemy and murder (Lamech), sexual promiscuity (Chapter 6), the Flood; then Babel—the fragmentation of social relationships.

Genesis portrays man like one in quicksand; the more he tries to extricate himself, the deeper he sinks. The message of the first 11 chapters of Genesis, then, is this: man need a savior, he cannot help himself.

So, in Chapter 12, God steps into the world a second time. His first intervention was to bring cosmos out of the chaos caused by the rebellion of the angels; His second was to bring order once again out of the chaos caused by man's rebellion.

Order is finally restored by the Word of God, through whom all things had been made, becoming man. Like the first Adam, He too is tempted to act like the God He is and not like the Man He had become in accordance with His Father's will. Unlike the first Adam, He conquers temptation; and by His death conquers man's final enemy, death. His example invites us to do the same—to become the persons God meant each one of us to become, namely, fully human. To this end He has left us His words and His sacrament of love.

Women's Club To Meet March 8

The Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs will meet March 8 at Howard Johnson's, 12 Corners in Brighton. An executive board meeting is scheduled for 11 a.m., followed by lunch at noon and a business meeting at 1 p.m.

A program, "Travelog on Ireland," is scheduled as well as nomination of officers. Reservations should be made from Mary Ryside, 467-6435, or Alta Wobus, 467-3145.

Nursing Event

Donna White, SNP, and Ann Reddington, SNT, will conduct a workshop for more than 30 Western New York school nurses, April 13 and 14 at the University of Rochester School of Nursing.

Guest speakers will be Tom Zieno, a Pittsford Central School District Psychologist, and Dr. Thomas McInery, a local pediatrician. Mrs. Reddington's offices are at St. Louis School in Pittsford.

Be An Instrument Of Peace

In A Community Following the Gospel

In prayer, in service to sick and aged

Write to:

Daughters of St. Francis of Assisi
507 N. Prairie St.
Lacon, ILL. 61540

S.A.T. REVIEW

English and Math Review for College Entrance Exams

Math & English \$225
Math or English \$135

For May 5 S.A.T.

Saturday Classes Begin March 10

Tuesday and Thursday Classes Begin March 13

For June 2 S.A.T. Classes begin April 7

586-7399

Course Locations: Nazareth College, Brighton High School



Drive, Intelligence and a Fisher Degree... an unbeatable combination

Dr. Robert J. Tuite '56
Assistant to the Director of Research

Eastman Kodak Company
"Right from the beginning, Fisher offered a strong science program. Today it enjoys an excellent reputation among the industrial, research and development community. I have always been impressed by the high percentage of students who go on for an advanced degree. Fisher provides the necessary background for personal and career development."



Fisher grads come from challenging academic programs and are ready for the complex demands of the work world.

Fisher grads have confidence because they receive encouragement and support from their first interview through graduation from a caring staff of trained counselors and superb faculty advisors.

When you choose a college, choose the one that will help you prepare for life and prepare for living.

So Much. So Close. Come... see for yourself.

Call or write: (716) 586-4140
Admissions Office
St. John Fisher College
3690 East Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14618

St. John Fisher College admits students without regard to race, color, creed, and national or ethnic origin, or handicap.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

THOSE WHO WISH TO HAVE ARRANGEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE IDEALS OF THEIR FAITH CAN RELY UPON THE FUNERAL DIRECTORS LISTED TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES WITH SYMPATHETIC CARE AND ATTENTION.

ROCHESTER

Ashton-Smith Funeral Home Inc.
1210-1218 Culver Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14609
(716) 482-6260

Corbett Funeral Home, Inc.
Roger G. Blakeslee
109 West Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14611
(716) 235-2000

Younglove-Smith Funeral Home
1511 Dewey Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14615
(716) 458-6200

IRONDEQUOIT

May Funeral Home (Formerly Miller Bros.)
George L. May Jr.
2793 Culver Rd.
(716) 467-7957

Edward H. Dreier Funeral Home
Edward H. Dreier
1717 Portland Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14617
(716) 342-8500

Schauman Funeral Home Inc.
Edwin Sulewski
Joan Michaels
2100 St. Paul Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14621
(716) 342-3400

Paul W. Harris Funeral Home Inc.
570 Kings Highway S.
(corner Titus)
(716) 544-2041

GREECE

Younglove-Smith Funeral Home
1511 Dewey Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14615
(716) 458-6200

Vay, Schleich and Meeson Funeral Home Inc.
"Greece's Largest and Most Complete Facilities"
2692 Dewey Avenue
Greece, N.Y. 14616
(716) 683-5827

PENFIELD

Nulton Funeral Home
Malcolm M. Nulton
1704 Penfield Road
Penfield, N.Y. 14526
(716) 381-3900

A. W. BEILBY & SON
Funeral Home
James Rotsell
Darrell O'Brian
139 Walnut St.
Dial 936-9121
Corning, N.Y.

Carrier
Heating & Cooling Service & Installations
Gas & Oil Furnace
Central Air & Heat Pumps
Electronic Air Cleaners
JOHN BETLEM INC.
CALL PAUL
271-8888
898 Clinton Ave. So.

CLEANING YOUR BASEMENT? CALL US!
Help the needy with a tax deductible gift of clothing, furniture, appliances or an auto. We will pick up your contributions.
By Calling
Volunteers of America
454-1150
Donations are Tax Deductible