

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

**Christ's Changes**

**Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mk. 1:29-39. (R1) Jb. 7:1-4, 6-7. (R2) 1 Cor. 9:16-19, 22-23.**

On TV, whenever a producer wants to make one person stand out, he uses contrast. Everyone else is dressed in black and the hero in white. Sunday's liturgy uses contrast to highlight what Christ brought to this earth on Christmas.

The first reading depicts life before Christ. Bleak it was — harsh and cold as iron. "Is not man's life on earth a drudgery?" asks Job. "His days those of a hireling or slave?" The hireling worked only for wages. His work bored, was endured just to get wages.

And slaves? Before Christ, the slave's lot was unbelievably cruel. Under the scourge he labored from dawn to darkness and was denied even shade from the hot Eastern sun. Aristotle wrote that "a slave is a living tool, just as a tool is an inanimate slave." In other words, a slave was no better than a thing. In Roman law, he had no rights. A master could ill-treat him, even kill him if he chose. It was a matter of no importance to anyone if a slave suffered or died. Varro, a Roman writer on agriculture, divided farm implements into "the articulate comprising the slaves, the inarticulate comprising the cattle, and the mute comprising wagons and tools." The only difference between a slave and a beast or a cart was that the slave could speak.

Before Christ, Job likened man's days to that of a slave.

And man's night? They were like those of a sick man. For the ailing, nights

drag on interminably; whereas the days fly by like a weavers shuttle. Life is like that, said Job. Before Christ — little happiness, little joy, little laughter!

C.S. Lewis in his classic "The Chronicles of Narnia," depicted the earth without Christ as "winter always with no Christmas!"

Into this hopeless world, Christ came to bring hope. Can we not imagine the boundless hope and joy He must have brought to Capernaum that evening when He cured so many of the sick and possessed there!

And yet to cure the sick and to drive out demons was not why He had come. Curing men's bodily ills would not necessarily make them happy. Nor would it bring them to God. Miracles failed to bring Capernaum to Jesus.

But Jesus was so compassionate, He was mightily tempted to focus on the bodily ills of men. He was tempted, as are some today, to reduce the gospel to social welfare (which deals only with problems, not persons). So He did what He always did when He had a problem: He got up early and prayed to His Father in secret. When Simon and his companions managed to track Him down, He had resolved the problem through prayer. He refused to go back to Capernaum, even though everyone was looking for Him. "Let us move on..." He said, "so that I may proclaim the good news (in other villages). That is what I have come to do."

To proclaim the good news — a new vision, a new hope — namely, that in Him, with Him, and through Him we can take this life with its sobs, sniffles and smiles and use it to win eternal happiness.

**Victor Renewal Set Feb. 17-24**

Victor — Registration has begun for the 10th semi-annual week of renewal for St. Patrick's Parish. The eight night program is scheduled for Feb. 17-24 at the School of Religion on High Street.

Scheduled speakers are Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, Deacon Thomas Driscoll, Father Louis Hohman, Father Anthony Valente, Father Robert Werth, Father Kevin Murphy and Father Peter Clifford.

"Who Am I?" "Who Is Jesus?" "Who Is the Church?" "Prayer and the Word," "Sacraments," "The Christian Family," "The Single Parent," and "Commitment."

is provided by the many who have made previous renewals."

Lead couples are Tom and Mimi Walker and Ralph and Jane Antonsen.

More than 400 people have participated in the program of reflection, relationships and community building. Each evening's program covers a specific subject and includes speakers, witnesses, discussion and liturgies.

Witness talks will be given by Jim Johnstone, Mike Barry, Ross Cottone, Duane and Vicki Pano Coast, Tom and Mimi Walker and Ralph and Jane Antonsen.

The subjects covered will include: "Why Renewal?"

According to Pano Coast, spokesperson for the renewal, "The program combines the best of the modern renewal movements with the traditional week-long Mission. It is presented in the parish by a team of parishioners in order to build a faith community and a commitment to becoming active in that parish. Support

**Parish Secretaries**

Rush — The newly formed Parish Secretary Support Group will meet noon-1:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 13 at St. Joseph's Parish. Lunch will be included. Interested persons are asked to call Mary Jo Smith, the organizer of the group, no later than today, Feb. 6, at 334-3518.

**Susan B. Anthony Luncheon Feb. 15**

The 23rd annual Susan B. Anthony Community Luncheon will take place at noon, Friday, Feb. 15, at Stouffer's Rochester Plaza Hotel, 70 State St.

The 165th anniversary of the birth of Susan B. Anthony, the founder of the Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs, will be noted. The federation sponsors the annual event and invites all club members

and friends.

A four-course luncheon will be served at \$11 per person. More than 500 attended last year.

Irene Beales, author of "Women of the Genesee," will be speaker. Reservation checks should be sent to Muriel Taenzer, 49 Crestfield Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14414.

Chairman is Betsy Lansing, co-chairman Ann Fertig and president Marti Zegarski.

**Evening Prayer**

The music committee of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission is sponsoring an Evening Prayer celebration 4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 10 at Sacred Heart Cathedral. A diocesan release stated, "The celebration is offered as a means of providing a time for people to gather in prayer and offer a possible model of celebration for other parishes. The celebration is open to the public."

**Pius Tenth Sets Parent Workshops**

"How to Talk so Kids Will Listen," is the subject of a parent workshops series sponsored by St. Pius Tenth School Board, 7:30-9 p.m. Sundays April 21, 28, and May 5, 12, 19, at the school.

The Special Education Training Resource Center (SETRC) will present the workshop. Topics will include: engaging cooperation, alternatives to punishment, and praise and self esteem.

The fee of \$10 per individual, and \$15 per couple will include the book for the course.

The registration deadline is Feb. 17. Registration forms are available at the school office or the parish religious education office. Further information is available by calling Carrol Marron, 889-4654; or Lynn Enright, 594-8001.

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**DEATHS**

**Sr. Magdalen Marie Brunner SSJ**

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 25 for Sister Magdalen Marie Brunner of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Sister Magdalen Marie died Jan. 23, 1985 at the age of 82.

A native of Auburn, Sister Magdalen Marie entered the convent from St. Aloysius Parish there in 1919. She served as housekeeper in

various convents occupied by her congregation. She also served at Nazareth Academy Convent for 22 years, at Blessed Sacrament for 10 years and at St. Augustine for 28 years.

In failing health, she retired to St. Joseph Convent Infirmary in 1981.

Father William Trott presided at the funeral rites,

assisted by Msgr. William Shannon and Father Robert Bradler.

Sister Magdalen Marie is survived by a brother, Maurice Brunner of Rochester; a sister, Mrs. Richard (Margaret) Bassler of Largo, Fla.; several nieces and nephews, and grand nieces and grand nephews.

**Irving F. Nientimp, Noted Bowler**

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 18 for Irving F. Nientimp who died Jan. 15, 1985 at the age of 80.

Mr. Nientimp was a banker and prominent bowler for nearly 50 years.

A graduate of Holy Redeemer School, he began his banking career at 15, working for Alliance Bank, a predecessor of Lincoln Rochester Trust Co. and Lincoln First Bank, now Chase Lincoln First.

In 1944 he went to work for Security Trust Co., retiring in 1968 as an assistant vice president and manager

of the Westgate office.

He took up bowling in 1919 with the Holy Redeemer Athletic Club. For two decades he was secretary of the Bankers Bowling League. He organized the state bankers bowling tournament in 1927, serving as its first president and then as secretary for 27 years.

In addition he served several years as treasurer of the Times-Union Bowling Classic.

Mr. Nientimp was executive director of the New York State Bowling Proprietors

Association for seven years and was secretary-treasurer of the Rochester group from 1943-1980. He also worked as treasurer for the television program, "Funtime Junior Bowling."

Mr. Nientimp was inducted into the Rochester Bowling Association's Hall of Fame in May 1977.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Steinwachs Nientimp; a son, Thomas of Pittsford; a daughter, Judith Kharbas of Chili; two grandchildren and two stepgrandchildren.

**COURIER-JOURNAL**

**Wedding Supplement**  
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