



A Word for Sunday

Father Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mark 12:38-44; (R1) 1 Kings 17:10-16; (R2) Hebrews 9:24-28.

Our Lord had talked about the two conditions of discipleship on His last journey to Jerusalem: the cross and service. As His life wound down, He talked of what ought to impel His disciples to carry the cross and to serve, namely love — a love without measure (Nov. 3) and a love that gives all (Nov. 10).

St. Gregory said, "Where love exists, it does great things." Sunday's liturgy speaks of two widows. The word "widow" comes from the Sanskrit and means "empty." That says it all. One widow wrote: "After my husband died, I felt like one of those spiral shells washed up on the beach. Poke a straw through the twisting tunnel, around and around, and there is nothing there. No flesh. No life. Whatever lived there is dried up and gone." Pretty bleak outlook, wouldn't you say?

And yet one out of six women over 21 is a widow. That adds up to about 12 million in America. And they aren't for the most part "merry widows." Rather, most are lonely, perplexed, empty, living in an upside-down period of life brought on by divine providence and not by choice.

Bacon, in his essay "On Adversity," wrote: "Prosperity doth best discover vice, but adversity doth best discover virtue." What he meant is that adversity can bring the best out of us. That no matter how terribly empty life can be for a widow, she can emerge a stronger person — the best possible person.

Apparently, that is what happened to the two widows in Sunday's liturgy. Calamity did not sour them on life. Bereft of their beloved spouses, they did not cease to love. Instead, emptiness drove them to serve God: God in His prophet and God in His temple.

Their piety and devotion contrast sharply with the sham piety of the scribes who recited long prayers for appearance's sake, yet devoured the savings of widows.

Both widows gave their all: one, her

last meal to the prophet, Elijah; the other, her last coins to the temple. The widow in the gospel gave all she had to live on for that day — two copper coins ("leptons," the smallest denomination in the Greek-Syriac system of exchange, roughly equal to a penny). The two is significant; she could have kept one. But no, she gave all. The scribes gave from their surplus; she gave from her want. Their gift was no sacrifice. Our Lord did not disparage the gifts of the others. He simply put a higher value on the gift of the widow. Not what we have to give, but what we have left over after giving counts more. Not what we give, but why is more important.

There was a certain Scottish lord in Fife. He was rich but miserly. Every Sunday he would put one penny in the collection. No matter how much his wealth increased, it was always one penny. One Sunday, he dropped a five-shilling piece into the basket by mistake. When he discovered his error, he tried to take back the silver coin and replace it with the usual penny. But the collector prevented him. "Laird," he said, "ye may put what ye like in, but ye maun tak' naething out." The laird, finding that he could not prevail, finally said, "Aweel, I suppose I'll get credit for it in heaven." "Na, na," said the collector, "ye'll get credit only for the penny. It's not the amount that counts, but the intent of the giver."

The primary point of the stories of the two widows, symbols of the helpless and destitute, is that each did what she could. Often the disparity between the task and our means is defeating. Edward E. Hale once said, "I am only one, but still I am one; I cannot do everything, but still I can do something, and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do." The widow did for Elijah what she could; God did the rest. The two copper coins of the gospel widow would not keep the temple running, but she did what she could, and God did the rest. So whether we do much or little does not matter. What matters is that we do the best we can with what we have; God will do the rest.

Notre Dame trustees decide not to divest from firms doing business in South Africa

By Charles A. Wood

Notre Dame, Ind. (NC) — The University of Notre Dame will not divest its stock in U.S. companies doing business in South Africa, Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, Notre Dame president, announced Oct. 25.

At a press conference immediately after university trustees met to consider the issue, Father Hesburgh said that "divestment would be a nice symbolic gesture, but the day you do that your influence (with the companies) ends."

Father Hesburgh and Thomas Carney, chairman of the board of trustees, said that while the board voted to retain, for the present, its stock in some 30 companies with South African operations, the university also had strengthened its criteria for retaining such stock and for future investment in other U.S. companies that do business in South Africa.

The university had established a policy on investments in such companies in 1978, but the new policy "takes a larger step than the original," Father Hesburgh said.

The original policy stated that the university would not invest in any company that did not agree to adhere to the Sullivan Principles, a set of guidelines developed by the Rev. Leon Sullivan, a Baptist minister in Philadelphia, which in part call for companies to end segregation in their South African operations. Under this policy, the university could have invested in companies which did

not formally sign the Sullivan Principles but which pledged to follow them anyway.

Carney said that some companies have chosen not to sign the principles because doing so involved paying a \$10,000-\$12,000 fee for being monitored for compliance.

The trustees' new policy, among other things, states that the university "will not invest in any company that has not signed the Sullivan Principles and does not agree to adhere to the amplified Sullivan Principles."

According to Father Hesburgh and Carney, the amplified Sullivan Principles compel U.S. companies not only to maintain equality in the work place but to do all they can to directly pressure the South African government to abandon apartheid, its policy of strict segregation of the races, and to negotiate with legitimate black leaders.

Carney estimated that Notre Dame's investments in U.S. companies doing business in South Africa make up about 10 percent of its total endowment, for approximately \$30 million. He added that over the past year, although the more stringent policy had not yet been established, the university had divested its stock in 11 companies which had not signed the Sullivan Principles even if they were adhering to them.

A nine-member committee of faculty, administrators, trustees and students had been established by the university to study South African investments. Of those nine, two — A. Peter Walshe, professor of government and international studies and director of African studies, and John Dettling, a member of the student cabinet — dissented from the new policy because they found it "seriously inadequate," a university statement said.

Father Hesburgh said that divestment is a self-defeating way to pressure companies into working to bring an end to apartheid. "I'd be the most popular guy around if I said Notre Dame was going to divest," he said. "But divestment is running away from the fight."

Dixieland Jazz Concert

A Dixieland jazz concert, featuring jazz group The Bourbon Street Parade, will be Friday, Nov. 15, 8:15 p.m., in the Haverling High School auditorium, Bath. The concert is sponsored by the Precious Blood Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Proceeds will go toward community charities and toward promotion of additional club activities.

On the Right Side

Father Paul J. Cuddy



Retreat House and Naples

Thursday, Oct. 24, Father Charles McCarthy of Naples phoned: "I'm laid up with a hip replacement. Father Frank Pegnam has been taking the 5 p.m. Saturday Mass, and Father Bernie Kuchman the Sunday 8:30 and 10 a.m. But Father Kuchman has come down with hepatitis. Could you cover for him Sunday?" (It turned out that it was not hepatitis but a liver dysfunction, for which I was grateful, because hepatitis is very contagious, even from the chalice, and I would be using the chalice he had used. He is now in happy residence at The Heritage of St. Ann's Home, Irondequoit.)

"I am free and would be glad to," I answered. "What happened to you?" "Arthritis. Terrible pain, and I could hardly navigate." I remembered that old Monsignor Duffy had that. He had been utterly helpless with arthritis of the hips, had the replacement in his 70s and was trotting around like a colt afterward.

Beautiful Naples is 20 miles south of Canandaigua on Rte. 21. So I decided to stop en route and have supper at the Notre Dame Retreat House with the retreatants. There were 90 from Sacred Heart Cathedral; Annunciation in Fairport; Holy Spirit, Webster; Good Shepherd, Henrietta; St. Vincent's in Churchville; and an unexpected but most welcome 19 from the new Mother Seton parish in Hamlin, recently established by Father William Amann.

At 5:15, the 90 retreatants, plus Father Tim Keating and Brother Benjamin, assembled in the chapel for communal recitation of the rosary. Community rosary was once an integral part of spiritual formation in seminaries, religious houses and families.

I recall gratefully that after dinner at old St. Bernard's Seminary, 230 of us seminarians thundered up to the chapel before recreation and recited the rosary of Our Lady. But with the iconoclasm following Vatican II, this devotion, especially in community, was destroyed and seemingly with it, vocations to the priesthood. How good it was to join with these 90 men as their heavy male voices sounded and resounded "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners..." What a spirit of unity and community came from that common recitation.

I had a few pictures in my pocket of myself from my 50th anniversary of

ordination. With a bit of humor, I passed them out to some coming to the chapel, saying: "I hear that the next bishop will be elected by the laity, so I am campaigning for your vote." One man grunted: "We've had too much democracy already." In a May article in the Sunday Visitor, Bishop Gaughan suggested that dropping the rosary was one of the mistakes made after Vatican II.

It was good to find several young retreatants. I ran into Paul Burke, a tall man 23 years old, built for basketball. He recently moved from Atlanta, Georgia, to Sacred Heart. "How goes the retreat?" I asked him. "Great. It's just what I needed." Wise wives would do well to encourage husbands to make retreats.

St. Januarius, Naples, was built in Father Kuchman's time. It is very modern: made from poured concrete, shaped something like a big jelly doughnut, with walls perforated by hundreds of thick, sparkling colored glass windows — blue, red and purple — to symbolize clusters of grapes for the grape country.

I met many people I knew from many places. Mrs. Kate Bramer of Clyde came glowing. She was with her Genevieve daughter, Mary Serafine. "Oh, it's so good to see you; today is my 86th birthday, and nothing could make me happier than to see you here," she said. That's one sure vote for bishop! Her happiness was reciprocated.

The congregation was exceptionally participative with hymns and responses, and attentive to the homily on prayer. After Mass, Sheen tapes and "Treasury of Prayers" booklets were available on tables, but we ran out of the prayer books. A CCD teacher from St. Joseph's, Penfield, ordered 20 for when we get a supply this week. These instruments of devotion will do great spiritual work, not only in Naples and Prattsburg, but spread throughout the country.

After each Mass there is a coffee and doughnut get-together in the hall just off the church, which strengthens community. It is a good thing I am not stationed in Naples, because it is such a beautiful place with such beautiful people I would never want to die, which is not what this world is all about.

Lecture on Prejudice

A lecture on racial prejudice in the community and the Church will be offered Sunday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m. in the Commons Room of the Interfaith Chapel on the University of Rochester's River Campus. The lecture is being sponsored by the U of R Newman community.

Jesse Moore, associate professor of history at the University of Rochester, and Jacquelyn Dobson, director of the Office of Black Ministries of the Catholic Diocese of Rochester, will present their lecture entitled "A View of Racial Prejudice in Our Community, Our Church and Ourselves."

Women's Retreat

The "Runaway Weekend for Women" retreat will be offered Friday, Nov. 15 to Sunday, Nov. 17, at the Cenacle Renewal Center, 693 East Ave., Rochester.

The retreat will allow time away from the multiple responsibilities women now face. It

will be a weekend of reflection, prayer, sharing and rest.

An offering of \$50 is expected. For reservations or additional information contact the Cenacle Ministry Office, (716)271-8755.

Christmas Bazaar

The annual Christmas Bazaar sponsored by St. Mary's Guild of Assumption of Our Lady Church will be Friday, Nov. 15 to Sunday, Nov. 17, at the Assumption Church,

20 East Ave., Fairport. Proceeds go toward aiding needy families within and outside the community during the holiday season, and to other charitable organizations.

Bazaar hours are Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lunch will be served Friday and Saturday.

RETIRING * RETIRING * RETIRING * RETIRING

A-1 PARTY SUPPLIES

AFTER 26 LONG YEARS, WE'RE CALLING IT QUITS!

Substantial close-out savings on all party supplies, wedding favors and gifts. We also have a large selection of assorted greeting cards to choose from.

ALSO FOR SALE:

- Walk-in Cooler & Freezer
- Card Racks
- An Assortment of Catering & Food Equipment

Stop in to see us at...

1278 Dewey Ave. (near Magee) or give us a call at:

(716) 254-6255

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE * GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE * GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE * GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE

GOD'S SHEPHERD CHURCH

11 HENRY ST. N. 1/2 MI. SOUTH OF FAIRPORT

MONDAY-NOVEMBER 11, 1985
5:00 AM-7:00 PM

GYM - HALLWAY
CLASSROOMS
DOWNSTAIR ANNEX

FREE BABYSITTING
FREE PARKING & ADMISSION

100 BOOTHS

BANK AMERICAN-MASTERCARD
REFRESHMENTS

GRAFT SHOW & SALE