



A Word for Sunday

Father Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) John 20:19-31; (R1) Acts 5:12-16; (R2) Revelations 1:9-13, 17-19.

In His revelations to Sister M. Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938), our Blessed Lord asked that a "Feast of Mercy" be officially established in the Church. He declared, "I desire that it be celebrated with great solemnity on the first Sunday after Easter ... I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. The very depths of My tender mercy are open on that day. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon souls who will approach the fount of my mercy."

Later on, our Lord defined the fount of mercy, which was first of all a confession. "The soul that will go to confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment ... Regarding

confession, our Lord stated, "When you go to confession, know this, that I myself am waiting for you in the confessional; I am only hidden by the priest, but I myself act in the soul. Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy. Tell souls that from this fount of mercy, souls draw graces solely with the vessel of trust. If their trust is great, there is no limit to my generosity."

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the conditions for obtaining the great promise of complete forgiveness of sins and the punishment due to sin. The other condition is the worthy reception of Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy. Jesus called sacramental confession and Eucharistic Communion the fount of Mercy.

It is significant that the institution of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is proclaimed in the gospel for this first Sunday after Easter — the Sunday our

Lord wished that the Feast of Mercy be celebrated. It is also a wonderful time to fulfill one's annual Easter Eucharist (the Easter Duty — Canon 920).

So, next Sunday, celebrate the Feast of God's Mercy by going to Holy Communion on the Sunday itself and by availing yourself of sacramental confession in connection with that Holy Communion, several days before or after that Sunday.

What a tremendous opportunity to regain one's baptismal innocence! God promised not only the forgiveness of sin, but also the remission of all punishment due to sin. If you wish a complete pamphlet on the Mercy of God Devotion, just send a self-addressed stamped envelope to me (Rev. Albert J. Shamon, 5 S. Marvins Ave., Auburn, N.Y. 13021).

In 1958, the Sacred Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith prohibited this devotion to God's mercy as set forth by Sister Faustina. She had foretold this would happen. In 1978, the ban was lifted through the effort of Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, once Archbishop of Cracow, where Sister Faustina had lived and died. Six months later, this champion of her cause was elevated to the chair

of Peter as Pope John Paul II. His first encyclical was on the subject of mercy: *Dives in Misericordia* (Rich in Mercy), issued on November 30, 1980. In it he wrote, "Right from the beginning of my ministry in St. Peter's See in Rome, I considered this message my special task."

It is sad today to see how many shrug off private revelation, simply because it is privately revealed. Private revelation is never new revelation, but only a re-affirmation of some truth or truths of public revelation either forgotten or neglected, but of critical importance for the age in which it is made. It is the Holy Spirit picking out of the smorga-bord of public revelation those truths that are needed for the nourishment of a particular age.

At the first half of this century, God made two private revelations that are relevant to the 20th century: one at Fatima to three shepherd children, and one at Cracow to Sister M. Faustina. Both urge special devotions: one to the rosary and the scapular; the other, to God's mercy.

Devotions nourish devotion. And devotion is the ready will to do God's will.

Grant from Episcopal diocese eases deficit at Southern Tier food bank

By Michael F. Myers

Elmira — The Southern Tier Community Food Bank appears to be safe until June. In announcing a \$10,000 grant from the Ventures in Mission Fund of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York, Peter Ladley of the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry expressed confidence in the future of the food bank because of "the significant, continuing and generous response of individuals and faith communities." Ladley said the grant will enable the food bank to meet its funding needs through June 30.

"The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York is deeply committed to preventing hunger at home and abroad," Ladley said. "This is one of the principal reasons the Ventures in Mission Fund was taken up."

"With regard to food banking, they recognize that in 1985 the food bank redistributed 1.6 million pounds of surplus food. One million pounds of food were distributed by non-profit agencies, feeding the hungry in districts of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York," he continued. "They (officials of the Episcopal diocese) see food banking as an effective way of feeding more people. We are honored to receive the support of our sisters and brothers in Christ. We hope that the future funding patterns of the food bank will include many more funding partners that represent a diversity of faith traditions."

Ladley said that from money on hand, contracts and pledges, the food bank's

shortfall for the 1985-86 fiscal year apparently has been met. The deficit as of Feb. 27 was \$28,200, reduced from \$54,700 at the beginning of the year. Contributions from food pantries reduced it by \$7,765. The food bank advisory panel has not yet released any formal statement that the crisis has ended.

Discussions on next year's budget and funding sources are ongoing. According to Ladley, next year's proposed budget is \$125,000. He said that more and better-paid personnel are needed and that equipment, including a truck and forklift, must be bought. A charge of 10 cents a pound for food distributed through the pantries will cover costs. Ladley said all sources of funding will be taken into account in computing the 10 cents a pound. Other sources of community funding would reduce or eliminate the charge to the individual agencies.

Ladley said that four written plans for

'86-87 funding were considered by the advisory panel on March 26. Three of the plans were found to share common features and were thus combined into one plan. This combined plan involves a shared maintenance fee to member agencies. The other plan involves countywide membership fund raising. The council will report to the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry early in April with recommendations.

No written plan was received from Brother John Brown. At an earlier meeting of food pantry representatives, Brother Brown had said he could reduce the food bank's expenditures by \$35,000. He offered himself

as an unpaid director and suggested staffing the food bank with volunteers. He had also said he had located warehouse space that could reduce or eliminate warehousing costs. At that meeting, he had declined to give any specifics on the warehousing, saying publicity might jeopardize negotiations.

According to Ladley, Brother Brown's failure to submit any written proposal prevented any detailed study of his plan. Brother Brown is a Benedictine monk associated with Mt. Saviour Monastery. According to a monastery spokesman, Brother Brown has not lived in the community for six years and "does not consult with us."

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THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



EDWIN SULEWSKI
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

What is grief?

Grief is a process of feelings and behaviors which follow the loss of someone or something that we love. The entire process of grieving helps us to come to terms with the changes that have taken place in our lives and begin adjustment to them. This is not always easy and often lasts for a year or more. Some of the feelings that accompany grief are anger, guilt, anxiety, shock, jealousy and depression. It is not uncommon to be confused, restless, to have difficulty sleeping or to have a change in appetite. It takes time to accept the reality that someone we love is deceased. It takes longer to recreate a life that can make us happy.

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