

Father Albert Shamon

A Word for Sunday



Sunday's Readings: (R3) Luke 13:22-30; (R1) Isaiah 66:18-21; (R2) Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13.

Someone asked, "Lord, are they few in number who are to be saved?"

Surely an irrelevant question. What matters is not *how many* will be saved, but *who* will be saved. That's how Jesus responded to the question.

The questioner was an Israelite. They were as numerous "as the sands of the sea" (Isaiah 10:19-27). They believed all Israelites would be saved. Prophets like Amos and Isaiah, on the contrary, spoke only of a remnant who would be saved. Hence the question, "Are they few in number who are to be saved?"

Jesus' answer to the question was both a challenge and an invitation: "Try to come in through the narrow door." The Greek word for "try to come in" means "to agonize." In other words, a strenuous effort is implied, not a mere attempt. The word "narrow" connotes the same.

The entrance into God's kingdom, like most entrances, is through a door — but here, a narrow door. Entering, therefore, demands effort and determination, like a merchant who comes late at night to a city, trying to squeeze his laden camel through the squire's eye, the small door opened at night after the city gates had been closed.

Jesus was trying to correct two problems: one of smugness, the other of time. The problem of smugness was a real one — the Israelites thought they all were to be saved and all non-Jews condemned. Jesus was inviting them to rethink this. God is no respecter of persons. The same is true today. The name "Catholic" will no more guarantee salvation now than the name "Israelite" secured salvation then.

The other problem, that of time, is a perennial one. Everybody thinks he or

she has all the time in the world.

One day the devils in hell held a business meeting. Business had been slow. Hence the agenda: how to drum up more business?

A young devil said, "Let's go to earth and tell people that heaven's not so hot."

Satan vetoed that, saying, "We've tried that one before. It hasn't worked."

"Let's go to earth and tell people that hell's not so bad," another young devil suggested.

Again, another negative response from Satan.

Finally, an old devil got up and said, "Let's go to earth and tell people they've got plenty of time."

Beelzebub lit up like a Christmas tree. "Ah", he replied, "that's what we'll do."

And ever since, some people have forgotten that only God has eternity, and we have only time — limited time! Time is the precious coin God doles out to us, second by second, with which to purchase eternity. What the damned in hell would give for some more time on earth!

Long before Christ, Aesop illustrated the same errors in his fable of the race between the hare and the tortoise. The smug hare thought he could win the race sleeping. The hare overslept; and the tortoise won.

In the race of life, our Lord warned that the tortoises (the last) could be first over the smug or laggards.

Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

Let us then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

Father Paul J. Cuddy

On the Right Side



A report — with observations

Father William Cosgrove, brother of Father James Cosgrove of Waterloo and Hornell, scheduled me to care for St. Dominic's, Shortsville-Manchester, from July 21 to August 13. The parish is halfway between Canandaigua and Palmyra. In the 1970s, I used to fill in for Father John Wolloch, and 50 years ago I used to visit the formidable pastor, Father Napier.

St. Dominic's is a nice, church-oriented parish. A right arm of the parish is Neil Harkenrider. He came here from Rexville 51 years ago as a teacher of mathematics and science. In 1953, he became principal of Red Jacket High School, serving the combined villages of Manchester and Shortsville until he retired in 1973. He is highly regarded by all the local and area people, half of whom he either taught or supervised during his educational career.

On the First Friday, he drove me to the parish's widely scattered communion calls. The first was in Canandaigua to 85-year-old Peter Gillis, who now lives in Elm Manor, a senior citizen residence on Main Street. He was delighted to see Neil, and before communion, they chatted of old times and friends. House-bound people need the charity of sharing memories as well as the charity of communion with the Lord. "I lived in Manchester next to the Steak House on Route 96 for 80 years," said Mr. Gillis, "and never missed a Sunday Mass. I always walked." Some record.

The last communion call was on Joe Berry. Mrs. Berry was lauding Father John Roach of neighboring Clifton Springs, saying, "When my brother died, I don't know what my nephews would have done without Father Roach. He was so kind and so helpful. He's the finest priest I've ever known." Then she paused and qualified, "Excepting Father Cosgrove. He's wonderful to us." Such seems to be the local consensus.

Father Cosgrove certainly gives service. Not only is the religious program thorough and orthodox, but the parish finances are stable. The Thanks Giving Appeal there went over the top. Then last spring when the parish went

out with a drive for \$200,000 for a much-needed Parish Center, the people pledged \$250,000. And, *mirabile dictu*, the people told me, "He never talks money. After consulting with the people, he just explains clearly what's needed and why. And they contribute gladly."

Whether it is holy simplicity or Gaelic adroitness I am not sure, but Father Cosgrove had me doing unexpected things, included walking his dog, Chico, a lovable poodle. And in brief conversation at the rectory, he quietly said, "You've served here for many years and are really a part of the parish. Why don't you pledge a memorial for the center?" A memorial is \$350 and up.

Most of the money I give goes to missions in the Third World. For example, it is good to be able to sponsor an African girl for the sisterhood, or to help our Webster Jesuit Father Welsh in the Philippines, working at age 78 in a barren territory. However, St. Dominic's Center will strengthen the Church here, and in time the local Church will reach out to help the Third World Church, which is the coming Church in the world, I pondered. I smile in admiration at the calmness with which Father Cosgrove eased a pledge from my not unwiling soul.

Well, summer is ending and nothing is scheduled until October 11. Then I will conduct a two-week tour of Ireland. The response is good. One of the most interesting applicants phoned from Simsbury, Connecticut, in early July. "This is Elizabeth Miller," she said. "I have wanted to go to Ireland with a group for years, and heard of your October tour."

"How did you hear of it in Connecticut? The Courier?" I queried.

"No," she replied. "I was at a Cornell University reunion in June and mentioned to Ed Cline that I wanted to go to Ireland with a group."

"Why don't you go with Father Cuddy's group in October?" he responded.

It turns out that Elizabeth Miller is a Doyle from Auburn, my hometown, and I know many of her friends and relatives.

Cancer council sponsors smoking-withdrawal program

The United Cancer Council will sponsor an evening smoking-withdrawal program beginning Thursday, Sept. 18. Five sessions are planned on Thursdays from 7:30-9 p.m. at the council office, 1441 East Ave.

Built around group support, the program focuses not only on quitting smoking, but also on making a major lifestyle change.

Deadline for registration is September 15. For information, call (716) 473-8230.

Obituaries

Capuchin father dies; served for 61 years

Father Aloysius Dayton, OFM Cap., who served for 17 years as relief chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital and Monroe Community Hospital, died Tuesday, August 12, 1986, at Rosary Hill Home for Incurable Cancer in Hawthorne, N.Y. He was 82.



Born in New York City on June 18, 1904, Father Dayton entered the Capuchin order at St. Bonaventure Friary, Detroit, Mich., in 1925. After his ordination to the priesthood in June, 1932, he taught in the minor seminary in Mt. Calvary, Wisc., and was responsible for the construction of a Capuchin monastery in Milwaukee.

From 1965 to 1983, while stationed at St. Fidelis Friary in Interlaken, N.Y., Father Dayton was failing in his chaplain work in Monroe County and in assisting at neighboring parishes.

In July, 1983, Father Dayton retired to Mary Immaculate Friary in Garrison, N.Y.

But his retirement was short-lived. When the acting chaplain at the Rosary Hill Home became ill and later died, Father Dayton offered to serve as substitute chaplain. He celebrated his diamond jubilee at the home in 1985.

Ultimately, Father Dayton became a victim of cancer himself. "Father Aloysius will always be remembered by staff and patients wherever he served as a gentle, compassionate and understanding priest with a quiet sense of humor," said Bishop Dennis W. Hickey.

Father Dayton is survived by one nephew, Monsignor Thomas A. Gartland, pastor of St. Patrick Church, Bedford, N.Y.; and two nieces, Mrs. Bernice Regan of Elmwood Park, N.Y., and Mrs. Bella Mahoney of Oakdale, N.Y.

A wake was held at Rosary Hill Home Wednesday, August 13. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Thursday, August 14. Father Dayton was buried in the Capuchin Friars' Cemetery, Yonkers, N.Y.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Father Aloysius Dayton Memorial Scholarship Burse.

Rochester-born priest dies in African mission

Father Conrad Schomske, OFM, a graduate of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, died in Nakuru, Kenya, on August 1, 1986, at the age of 63.

Father Conrad made his final vows at Holy Name College in Washington, D.C., in 1948 and was ordained to the priesthood at the Franciscan Monastery in Washington on December 23, 1950.

After serving as a seminary professor, Father Conrad subsequently established Houses of Prayer in Tokyo, Japan, and the Bronx, New York. After his mother's death in 1975, he returned to an 11-year stint of retreat work in Japan and in Nairobi, Kenya.

Father Conrad is survived by two brothers, Burnell and Robert Schomske of Rochester; and two sisters, Doris Morey of Canandaigua and Lorraine Clohessy of Schumburg, Ill.

Conference offers workshops for religious and disabled

"Merging Two Worlds," a conference exploring relationships between Rochester religious congregations and disabled residents of area group homes is scheduled for September 28 and 29 at the Jewish Community Center on Edgewood Avenue. The conference is co-sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Social Ministry and more than 40 other human service, rehabilitation and religious organizations.

The conference will feature more than 20 workshops focusing on issues of concern to local congregations, disabled persons and community residents. Arthur Webb, commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, is scheduled to participate in the conference.

"This will be the first time that a cross-section of people from every segment of our community will come together to address ways congregations and disabled residents can share their gifts with each other," said the Rev. Jean Jenkins, confer-

ence coordinator. "We see the workshops as educational tools, but we're really excited about the informal contacts people will make with each other at the conference."

A registration and workshop brochure may be obtained by calling (716) 546-5554. Numerous human service organizations, churches and temples throughout the Rochester area are also distributing "Merging Two Worlds" brochures.

Notre Dame Retreat House offers program for women

Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua announces a retreat for women. Entitled "Come, Follow Me," the retreat focuses on "who we are as people who belong to the Lord and how our gifts are used for the care of His people."

For information and/or registration, write the retreat house at P.O. Box 342, Canandaigua, N.Y., 14424, or call (716) 394-5700.



Fr. Cuddy, author of the weekly Courier-Journal column "On the Right Side" will provide inspirational guidance and friendly helpful leadership.

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