

Father Albert Shamon

A Word for Sunday



Sunday's Readings: (R3) Luke 16:1-13; (R1) Amos 8:4-7; (R2) 1 Timothy 2:1-8.

The parable of the wily manager is a perplexing one. Jesus appears to propose a shiftless man as an example for His followers, and seems to indicate one can buy one's way into heaven.

A more careful study, however, shows that praise is heaped upon the manager, not for his mismanagement, but for his prudent foresight — he knew how to provide for his future.

The lesson of the parable is that worldly people are often wiser than other-worldly people. If Christians were only to expend in spiritual pursuits one-tenth the energy and money the worldly spend on hobbies or sports, then all would be saints.

Jesus followed this teaching with a corollary on the right use of money. The manager used money to make friends on earth; Jesus urged money be used to make friends with God.

In *Hello, Dolly*, Dolly says, "Money, money ... it can kill or cure ... It's all in how you use it ... Money, pardon the expression, is like manure. It's not worth a thing unless it's spread around encouraging young things to grow!"

William F. Buckley wrote a column entitled "Modern Horatio Alger Stories" (published August 9, 1986).

Buckley relates that a successful New York businessman, Gene Lang, was asked to address the 8th-grade commencement class in the school he had once attended. He prepared a pretty speech, a Horatio Alger story of how a poor boy can make good in America.

But on the way to the ceremony, he surveyed the figures. Of 100 children entering New York City high schools, only 25 would graduate. And of the 25, only one-half would qualify to go to a city university.

Lang threw away his speech and said to the graduates, "Here are the statistics. If you can bring yourselves to overcome the odds, I will pay your college tuition." He is now financing the

tuition of the majority of that class.

Peter Flanigan, a cosmopolitan banker, pondered the story and came upon an extraordinary anomaly. Whereas 75 percent of public-school pupils don't graduate, 96 percent of those who attend Catholic-run schools do graduate. And three-fourths of these go on to college.

Nor is this rate affected by expelling problem kids. In fact, parochial schools expel a smaller percentage of pupils than the public schools send to correctional institutions.

In view of this, one would think there'd be a line 10 miles long to get into parochial schools. Not true. There are hundreds of empty seats and some parochial schools have closed. Why? The parents — or parent, in most cases — don't have the money.

In New York City, a student sponsor partnership was formed. I'd like to see such a partnership organized for De Sales Regional High School in Geneva.

Sponsors contract to do three things: 1) put up \$900 a year for a pupil selected; 2) make themselves accessible to encourage the pupil; and 3) consult periodically with a school counselor to monitor the pupil's progress.

The money is tax-deductible; the program is non-sectarian.

In selecting pupils deserving of sponsorship, preference is given to those from single-parent homes or children of parents who are on welfare.

I am launching this program until De Sales' Board of Education can adopt it on a permanent basis. If anyone wishes to be a sponsor, please write me (5 S. Marvane Ave., Auburn, N.Y. 13021).

Maybe we can make our Lord's parable come alive and secure His blessings by helping deserving but financially impoverished kids to secure a quality Christian education that can fit them for life.

Money is not evil; it is a great responsibility.

What one owns, one owes!

Father Paul J. Cuddy

On the Right Side



China's dope solution

Lieutenant Michael Luckey was one of the finest men I have ever known. In 1943, he was a pilot instructor at Napier Field, our advanced flying school at Dothan, Alabama, where our Air Force student-pilots completed their training and got their wings.

Mike, a native of Philadelphia, was a ruddy-faced, 26-year-old Irishman with a loud voice and a big smile. He had graduated from Christian Brothers' LaSalle College in Philadelphia, and taught courses in aeronautics at St. Joseph's Jesuit College in the same city. He had a superb knowledge and understanding of his Catholic faith, which he credited to the Christian Brothers' training. He not only understood the faith, but he lived it cheerfully and with conviction.

As often happens in the military, birds of a feather flock together. Mike became a devoted friend of the base communications officer, Captain Joe Ryle of New York, as well as Captain John McGarry of New Jersey. It was a joy to see the three of them sitting together in the lounge after work, regaling one another with happy tales of their past.

Mike loved to tell of the Christian Brothers, with their tough, no-nonsense training. And he was grateful to them for their discipline and scholarship. My heart warmed to see the three of them assisting at Sunday Mass with devotion, simplicity and regularity. I had hoped Mike might go to the priesthood after the service. He did have an uncle who was a Monsignor, and superintendent of Catholic Schools in Manhattan, Kansas.

The Sunday before I left Napier Field to go overseas, the three of them had the base photographer take a picture after my final Mass. The three men were sharp in their Air Force uniforms, and I was in my cassock, since it was right after Mass. The four of us standing on the chapel steps made a fine picture for posterity. It was a treasure to me.

When Mike died suddenly last year, I mailed the picture to Joe Ryle, saying,

"Mike and Jack have died. You and I are still around. Here is a picture that will recall happy memories and a great friendship." His subsequent thank-you note indicated a tear had dropped with the memories.

In 1944, I was assigned overseas to England and France, while they were elsewhere. In 1950, Father Kress and I were at Idlewild Airport headed for Rome for the Holy Year, when Colonel Luckey came walking toward us. He had been promoted in the six years.

With delight, I exclaimed, "Why Mike, I haven't seen you in six years! Where have you been?"

With equal delight, he replied, "I just came back from China two weeks ago."

"What were you doing there?" I queried.

"I was military attache for the Air Force," said Mike.

The Communists had taken over China during the preceding year, 1949. We had read of the terrible things that they had done and were doing. So I asked, "What of the Communists? How are they doing?"

To my surprise, he replied, "Wonderful! When they came in the country was a mess, with corruption, chaos, graft, disruption. The Communists straightened that out. No prostitution. No dope."

Puzzled, I asked, "How did they accomplish that?"

"They mean business," said Mike. "The prostitutes were picked up and shipped to farms to work. If a man was caught selling dope, he was given one warning. If he was caught a second time, he was beheaded. Within six months, there was no more dope in the whole of China."

With a one-party system and a Mao Tse-tung, the ruler can blow a whistle, and everyone falls in line. This is impossible in a democracy. But the question is: must a democracy be helpless before destroyers of our people?

Obituary

Sister Maria Giuseppa Gigliotti, SSJ, at 63

Sister Maria Giuseppa Gigliotti, a Sister of St. Joseph for 45 years, died suddenly of unknown causes on Wednesday, August 20, 1986, in the emergency room of Strong Memorial Hospital. She was 63.



Sister Maria taught in the Rochester diocese for more than 40 years.

After growing up in Geneva in a family of 12, Sister Maria entered the congregation upon graduation from Geneva High School in 1940.

She received her teaching certificate from the Nazareth Normal School in 1944, and began teaching at St. Joseph's School in Wayland.

Sister Maria later received her bachelor's degree in science and education from Nazareth College in 1948.

Among her many teaching assignments were stints at St. Mary's School in Canandaigua, St. Francis DeSales School, St. Augustine's School, St. Anne's School, as well as several other diocesan schools.

She began tutoring in math at Nazareth Academy in 1982, and was planning to return in the fall.

She is survived by six sisters — Christine Tandle, Geneva; Rose Logosh, Newark; Carmella Critelli, Smyrna Beach, Fla.; Mary Midey, Seneca Falls; Jane Minonno, North Tonawanda; and Anne Pomponio, Fairport — and a brother, Peter Gigliotti, Corona, Calif.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Chapel on August 23, followed by burial at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Diocese to host conference exploring emerging ministries

The Center for Human Development will host a week of sharing, reflection and prayer on the topic "Emerging Ministries: Signs of the Times," September 22-26, at the Rochester Plaza.

Featured speakers at the center's 14th annual meeting will include Bishop Matthew H. Clark, Rosemary Houghton, DD; Father John Shea and Brother Martin Helldorfer, FSC.

Bishop Clark's address will begin the meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 23. On Wednesday, Houghton, co-director of "The Movement for North America Mission," headquartered in Gloucester, Mass., will address "Ministries of the Laity." A native of England, she is currently involved with establishing basic Christian communities throughout North America.

The director of the doctor of ministry program for the Archdiocese of Chicago, Father Shea also teaches systematic theology at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Ill. He will discuss "Storytelling and the Future of Ministry" on Thursday.

"The Value of Crisis in the Midst of Ministry" will be the topic addressed by Brother Helldorfer on Friday. The director of the House of Affirmation's consultation

center in Middletown, Conn., he is a licensed psychotherapist with degrees in theology, religion and personality, and ministry.

Among the topics of additional workshops offered during the week are: retirement planning, priestly spirituality, ministry to religious, internships and the future of media in ministry.

Local facilitators for the annual meeting are Father John Mulligan, director of the diocesan Division of Urban Services, and Sister Mary Ann Binsack, RSM, diocesan director of religious education. Host chairman is Father James A. Schwartz, director of the diocesan Ministry to Priests program.

The Center for Human Development is a national organization that promotes holistic spiritual growth and seeks to integrate the Christian tradition with contemporary culture and personal experience.

For more information about the meeting and exact schedule, contact Father Schwartz at (716)461-2890 or the center at (202)529-7724.

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