

Father Albert Shamon

# A Word for Sunday



**Sunday's Readings:** (R3) Matthew 3:13-17; (R1) Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; (R2) Acts 10:34-38.

Next Sunday — the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord — ends the Christmas season and begins the cycle of Sundays in ordinary time. With the exception of Lent and the period from Easter to Pentecost, this series of Sundays will continue unbroken through the year, until next Advent.

The Christmas season revealed Jesus as the Messiah and Lord. The first Sunday of the year reveals the mission of Jesus when He is baptized.

Sunday's first reading is taken from the first Servant Song. Scattered through Chapters 40 to 55 of Isaiah are four such songs, comforting poems for God's people during the Babylonian captivity. The servant in these poems is the chosen one of God with whom He is pleased. On him, God has put His Spirit, so that the servant might bring salvation to the nations.

St. Matthew in his gospel makes it crystal clear that this servant of Second-Isaiah is none other than Jesus Christ Himself. When John protests against baptizing Jesus, Jesus overrides his protest by telling John that "we must do this if we would fulfill" the Scriptures. (Note how Jesus identifies Himself with John: "we must....")

When John gives in, the mighty and majestic voice of the Lord thunders over the waters, "This servant is my beloved Son, my chosen one, endowed by my Spirit, to be a light for the nations."

In the gospel, therefore, the emphasis is not on the baptism of Jesus. In fact, St. Matthew glosses over the baptism in one phrase — a participle at that — "having been baptized." Rather, the emphasis is on the theophany that follows the baptism: the revelation that God's servant is Jesus and Jesus is the Son of God!

This revelation is not made to Jesus alone, as in the Gospel of Mark. Mark writes, "You are my beloved Son." Matthew switches to "This is my beloved Son." The Father speaks not only to Jesus, but to others.

Why the Holy Spirit is represented as

a dove has never been satisfactorily explained. Maybe there is some tie-in with the ancient belief that birds were the messengers of the gods. Wings certainly were needed, according to ancient beliefs, to get messages from heaven to earth. Thus Hermes, or Mercury, the mythological messenger of the gods, has wings on his helmet and ankles. Borrowing from the Greeks, we too, adorn our angels, the messengers of God, with wings.

In this baptismal incident, Matthew probably saw a lesson on what baptism means for the Christian. At baptism, the Father gives us the Spirit; the Spirit transforms our very being, divines us, so to speak, so that we become truly beloved children of God — but children called to be servants.

We are baptized, not for privilege, but for mission: to serve, to be servants of God, to bring forth justice to the world. We accomplish this neither by crying out on a soapbox nor engaging in a shouting match with others nor being judgmental — breaking those already bruised with sin and despair or quenching the flaming hope of those almost burnt-out. Rather, we are called — indeed, we are formed — to be a light for the nations.

In his great encyclical on evangelization, Pope Paul VI wrote: "The Gospel must be proclaimed by witness. Take a Christian or a handful of Christians who ... radiate in an altogether simple and unaffected way their faith in values that go beyond current values, and their hope is something that is not seen.... Through this wordless witness these Christians stir up irresistible questions in the hearts of those who see how they live. Why are they like this? Why do they live in this way? What or who is it that inspires them? Why are they in our midst?" (EN #21)

In a word, the Holy Father is saying that the gospel must be proclaimed by witness of life. Christ's baptism was a call to proclaim the gospel. He did — by example and by word. Our baptism is also a call to proclaim the gospel by our life and by our words — perhaps a fitting way to begin the Sundays through the year?

## SAVE Your Trading Stamps and Soup Labels

They can provide some much needed educational equipment for the almost 200 American Indian children who live at St. Joseph's Indian School.

Please help by sending your special gift of S&H Green Stamps, Top Value, Plaid, Blue Chip, or Gold Bond Stamps. Or, the front panel of Campbell's soup labels to:

St. Joseph's Indian School  
Dept. 3856  
Chamberlain, South Dakota 57326

## MANTEGNA'S CARPETS & FLOORING CO.

420 Merchants Rd. (cor. Fairfax)

482-7350

25% OFF

ON ALL NAME BRAND CARPETS...

• SALEM • PHILADELPHIA • LEES • BIGELOW & Many Others

FREE INSTALLATION on 15 yards or more.

SALE ENDS

JAN. 17th, 1987

Note: We do our own installation SATISFACTION GUARANTEED • FREE ESTIMATES 18 Year's Experience in Selling & Installing Residential and Commercial Carpeting

Mon., Tues. 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. • Wed., Thurs., Fri., 10 A.M. to 9 P.M. Sat. 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

25% OFF NEW YEARS SALE!

# Classifieds

To place a classified ad, call 328-4340 between 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Classified ads cost 50 cents a word with a \$7.50 minimum. If you mail your ad to us, you may enclose payment or include a billing address.

### General

**MORTGAGES WANTED** If you look back a mortgage when selling your property and would like the cash CALL Al Overaker 594-8287.

### Employment

**ADVERTISING SALES Position** — Weekly newspaper is looking for an individual with sales experience to service Rochester territory. Commission plus mileage. Qualified applicants send letter and resume to: Rev. Dennis W. Hickey, c/o Courier-Journal, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624.

**HELP WANTED - FULL TIME** Typist with office experience. Must be excellent typist. See Brothers, 483 Portland Avenue, 544-9639 for appointment.

**ORGANIST NEEDED** to assist choir director with Thursday night rehearsals and one Mass on Sundays plus special occasions. Call 977-3725 or 672-2448.

**WANTED** ... 12 people who want to lose weight and make money. Call Peggy 361-1766.

### Catholic School Administrators Association of NYS

**Seeks Associate Director** for Sept., 1987. Catholic school administrative experience in NYS required. Job description and particulars sent upon request. Send resume, recommendations by Feb. 15 to: CSAANYS, 408 Fulton St., Suite 512, Troy, NY 12180.

### ELMIRA / CORNING

The Courier-Journal is looking for a part-time Advertising Sales Representative to service the Elmira/Corning areas. Commission, mileage, expenses. If interested, call (716)328-4340, or send letter and resume to:

Bernie Puglisi  
c/o Courier-Journal  
1150 Buffalo Rd.  
Rochester, NY 14624

### BABYSITTING - DAYS FRIEDS

Experienced. Good references. 254-7481

**HOUSEKEEPER** - Flexible, references. 467-9884 after 4.

**TRUSTWORTHY person** needed in 14807 - Corpus Christi and 14808 - St. Theodore's areas. Assist handicapped women, occasional errands, activities. Responsible driver. 716-271-8827.

### Buy/Sell - General

**DO YOU HAVE A PET** that needs a home? The Courier-Journal will print your ad for \$2.00. Be humane - give someone a chance to care for your fuzzy friend! Call the C-J at 328-4340 to place your ad.

**BUY REPOSSESSED VA, FHA, HUD** homes from government! \$1.99 plus repairs. NATIONWIDE! Authority U.S. Public Law 93-363. Free 24 hour recorded information 1-801-750-1100 / 1-501-750-1107, Dept. T-302. (NYS/CAN)

**PRICE WARR!** Steamed 80%! Our best, large flashing arrow sign \$280! Lighted, non-arrow \$280! Unlighted \$240! Free letters! See locally. Call today! Factory: 1-800-422-0123, anytime. (NYS/CAN)

**1000 SUNBEDS, Suna-Warm** - Save 50%. Call for FREE color catalog & wholesale pricing. Excellent money maker! 90% profit! Visa accepted. Call 1-800-228-8282. (NYS/CAN)

### Household Goods

#### Household Sales

**HOME SWEET HOME**, Estate & Household Sales. 10 years' experience; free estimates. We also buy accumulations. Nancy Flaherty, 533-1746



### Property

**HILL COURT Apartments** South 1 & 2 below Interstate 190, best location and value. Completed throughout. 544-1788.

### MIDTOWN MANOR APARTMENTS

**FOR AGE 52 AND OLDER**  
Income and Occupancy Requirements  
• Studio \$240  
• One Bedroom \$286  
All Utilities Included  
Monthly Mass Services  
• Blocks from Midtown Plaza  
On Direct Bus Line  
475 East Broad St.  
546-3658



### Services

**Calligraphy**  
Hand done, poetry, sayings, diplomas, invitations, awards, whatever. Also, matte work.  
Call Chris: 235-4883

**IS FOOD RUNNING YOUR LIFE?**  
There is a way out.  
Complete Eatery Workshop  
Call Ann Morrison  
451-2114

### Business/Commercial & Residential

**ATTENTION LAND OWNERS**... 7.7% Construction Financing. Become involved in building all or part of your new home. No down payment, up to 2 years to build. Quality, pre-cut materials. For brochure and free seminar schedule, call 1-800-488-4567. Misses Homes.

### Home Cleaning

**HOUSE CLEANING**. Dependable, affordable, weekly, monthly - references. East side. 244-8720 days. 593-8825 evenings.

### Painting & Paperhanging

**KOJAN WALLPAPERING** and interior painting. Reliable service. 18 years experience. Fast, beautiful work. David Cook, 864-3738.

**PAINTING & PAPERHANGING** textured walls/ceilings. Free estimates, quality work. Don Burghmaster, 663-8827

### PAINTING & PAPERHANGING

Quality Service at Reasonable Prices  
**FREE ESTIMATES** 488-8881

### SATELLITE PROBLEMS?

Call Tom for fast, courteous service at 585-8782