

Father Albert Shamon

A Word for Sunday



Sunday's Reading's: (R3) Matthew: 4:12-23; (R1) Isaiah 8:23-9:3; (R2) 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17.

John's arrest was the signal for Jesus to begin His public ministry, which he started in Galilee (Acts 10:37). What a great choice!

Galilee comes from a Hebrew word meaning "circle." Galilee was a land encircled by pagan nations: Phoenicia to the west, Syria to the north and east, and Samaria to the south. Moreover, the great roads of the ancient world's empires passed through Galilee. It was the bridge between Egypt, Assyria and Babylon.

These contacts with pagan neighbors and traders made the Galileans a people open to new ideas. The historian Josephus (37-100?), who once governed Galilee, wrote that the Galileans "were ever fond of innovations and were by nature disposed to change...they were men of courage—never cowards." Such a people were fertile soil for the Gospel.

Secondly, the land originally had been allotted by Joshua to the tribes of Aser, Naphtali and Zabulun. But these tribes never quite succeeded in conquering the Canaanites. Intermarriages happened, and a mixed population resulted.

The geographical location of Galilee made it a prime target for invaders. When Assyria transported many of its people into exile, aliens moved in and injected so much more foreign blood into the population that Isaiah spoke of "heathen Galilee." Consequently, the Jews of Judea questioned the orthodoxy of those in Galilee.

Lastly, Galilee was and still is today the most fertile part of the Holy Land. I remember when motoring from Jerusalem to Tiberias, we passed through Afula, near the plains of Esdraelon. As we viewed the lush fields, the guide remarked that Afula is the breadbasket of Israel.

So it was in the time of Jesus. And because of this abundance, Galilee attracted vast numbers of settlers. Josephus said that

there were at least 204 villages in Galilee, each with a population of more than 15,000. Here were human fields ripe for harvest.

You can see, then, the wisdom of Jesus in choosing Galilee to begin His public ministry. Galilee was densely populated with open-minded and chivalrous people.

Those of us who lived through World War II are familiar with "blackouts." All lights were put out to protect cities against air raids. In that dark period of history, someone wrote a song to put hope into heavy hearts: "When the Lights Come On Again."

With the coming of Jesus, Matthew said the light was coming on again, in the land once seated in darkness. For Jesus came proclaiming good news, dispelling ignorance and error, and curing the diseased and the suffering. In short, He came healing mind and body. The very roads along the sea over which Assyria had marched to destroy, Jesus walked to restore.

Twice, Matthew speaks of Jesus' teaching as a "proclaiming." For a while I was puzzled as to why the word "proclaim" was given preference over the word "preach" after Vatican Council II. So I went to the Greek text of Matthew and discovered that the word translated as, "proclaim" was the Greek word *kerussein*. This word means the proclamation of a king given by his herald (*kerux*). A herald was, like a prophet, the mouthpiece of another—here, a king.

That fact is important to remember. Jesus was a herald: He came to bring us a message from His Father in heaven.

And what is the message? The same as John's: "Reform your lives. The Kingdom of heaven is at hand!" In other words, change directions. Stop running away from God and start running to Him, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand. God has invaded earth; eternity has intruded into time. Choose the right direction.

This is no preaching. It is a proclamation: a message from heaven by heaven's messenger—the herald, Jesus.

Obituary

Father William Flynn, former chancellor, at 53

Father William J. Flynn, pastor of St. Bridget's Church, East Bloomfield, and St. Joseph's Church, West Bloomfield, died Monday, January 19, 1986, after an extended illness.

Father Flynn was born in Rochester on September 23, 1933, the son of William J. Flynn and Teresa Grapensteter. He attended Sacred Heart School, Aquinas Institute, and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. He was ordained to the priesthood in Sacred Heart Cathedral on June 4, 1960, by Bishop James E. Kearney.

After serving as associate pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca, and St. Louis Church, Pittsford, Father Flynn was assigned in 1969 to the Pastoral Office, where he worked until his appointment to the Bloomfield parishes in September, 1984. He served as assistant to the vicar for pastoral planning, assistant chancellor, chancellor, pro-synodal judge, vicar general and diocesan consultant. He was a member of the Diocesan Finance Committee; the Building Commission; the boards of St. Bernard's Seminary, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery and Becket Hall. When the diocesan structures were reorganized, Father Flynn was named the director of the Division of Support Ministries.

Father Flynn was known for his kindness, his concern for people's feelings and especially for his availability to all who sought help. These traits became evident early in his life, when he served as program director at St. Joseph's Villa from 1951 to 1959.



Father Flynn is survived by his parents, several aunts, uncles and cousins.

The Mass of Christ the High Priest was celebrated by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan on Wednesday, January 21. Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will celebrate the Mass of Christian Burial today, Thursday, January 22, at 10:30 a.m. Both Masses and the wake for Father Flynn were scheduled for St. Bridget's Church, East Bloomfield. Interment will be in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection for the 1986-87 school year for the Diocese of Rochester Elementary and Secondary Schools for fire hazards which might endanger the lives of students, teachers and employees therein, has been completed and the report is available at the office of the individual school for inspection by all interested persons.

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General

Card of Thanks 2

THANK YOU St. Jude, Jesus, Blessed Mother, Guardian Angel, all Saints for favors received, W.W.

THANKS TO St. Jude and Blessed Virgin for favor received, E.S.Mc.

THANKS TO St. Jude, Sacred Heart of Jesus, and Blessed Mother for favors received, P.M.

Personals 4

ADOPTERS & BIOLOGICAL parents who want to find one another send SASE with information to: Birth Search Registry, P.O. Box 19783, Rochester, NY 14619

Announcements 7

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Employment

Help Wanted 14

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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.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING SALES

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Bernie Puglisi
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Buy/Sell—General

Pets/Supplies 31

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Wanted To Buy 37

WANTED: OAK Church Pews. 10-20 ft. long. Call collect 716-881-1433.

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Household Sales 41

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Property

Real Estate 50

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Income Tax Services 103

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DANSVILLE: Wooded bldg. site. Possible Solar home site, near town & walking distance to school.

DANSVILLE: Quiet peaceful country liv. Watch your neighbors from above. Lovely Ranch overlooks valley. Must see.

COHOCTON: Park-like setting on Park Ave. Nice 2 bdrm. Ranch, carport. Near all activities.

DANSVILLE: Retreat to this location & enjoy pleasures of open liv. in small Cabin, 3 acres.

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