

Father Albert Shamon

# A Word for Sunday



**Sunday's Readings: (R3) Matthew 5:13-16; (R1) Isaiah 58:7-10; (R2) 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.**

Our Lord one day paid all of us a tremendous compliment. He said, "You are the salt of the earth ... You are the light of the world."

Now salt acts as a preservative, halting the process of decay, and as a condiment, adding taste and flavor to our food. The salt metaphor meant that we are to prevent the world from spoiling. We are to add quality and spiritual uplift to life.

But for salt to do its work, it has to come into contact with the food. It must get out of the saltcellar. Contact with others is necessary to salt them and improve their lot, through Christian love, kindness, understanding, caring and sharing.

If, however, we do not confront the world but become secularized — or, as our Holy Father said, "disposed to doubt the truths revealed by God and relax moral principles so as to open the way to ethical permissiveness" — then the salt loses its savor.

Theological dissent in the Church today is simply the salt losing its savor. And when it does, the magisterium has no other choice but to cast it out. Amputation is often the only way to save the health of the whole body.

Jesus also said, "You are the light of the world ... Your light must shine before men." What is this light?

First of all, it is the light of truth revealed by God, founded in Scripture, revealed by tradition and presented in each age by the magisterium of the Church. Secondly, it is the light of our good works — truth in action, lived faith.

Thus Isaiah wrote that when one "shares bread with the hungry, clothes the naked, removed false accusation from one's midst, and malicious speech" (R1), a "light rises in the darkness."

Where does this light come from? It's borrowed from God. In the great cathedrals of Europe, there are generally two tiers of windows: the clerestory and the stained glass windows. The clerestory windows are clear glass and are high up above the nave, to catch the light not from the streets below, but from the skies above. The stained glass windows, depicting the lives of Christ and of the saints, are on street level and reflect the light from below.

The clerestory windows tell us that our light must come not from the world around us, but from heaven above. And the stained glass windows say that light, once received by us through faith, must shine through our lives in the everyday world.

After viewing the stained glass windows of a cathedral, someone once remarked, "A saint is a person whom the light shines through" — the light of faith expressed through good works.

Light can cause tiny, tight buds to awaken and unfold. The light of love and understanding can cause uptight, inhibited and self-centered individuals to open up. All the world need do is receive the light. All we need do is give the light.

God's first problem was darkness. He solved the problem by saying, "Let there be light." The solution to all the darkness in the world today is just as simple: let there be light — the light of truth, of good works, of kindness, love and understanding.

Harry Lauder, the Scottish comedian, liked to describe the old lamplighter who came to Lauder's boyhood home each evening to light the gas lamps. The old man would light the lamp in front of Lauder's home, then make his way along the street, going from house to house. In the deepening twilight, the lad would lose sight of the old lamplighter. "But I always knew where he was by the avenue of light he left behind him," he explained.

The darkness should never discourage us. Leaving a trail of light behind us is better than cursing the darkness.

## Annual Legislative Institute slated for Church Women United

Church Women United's annual Legislative Institute is scheduled for Friday, February 6, at Laurelton Presbyterian Church, 335 Helendale Road, Rochester, from 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

"The Women's Agenda for the '80s: What Are the Issues Affecting Women and Are We Gaining?" will be the subject of the program.

## Retreat set for deacons, wives at Society of St. Lawrence

The Society of St. Lawrence, the diaconal society for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, has planned a retreat for March 20 through March 22, under the leadership of Jesuit Father Thomas Green. His topic will be discernment.

The program, which is open to all deacons and their wives, will be held at the Hotel Saranac.

To hold their reservations, participants may send a deposit of \$20 to the Society of St. Lawrence, St. Alphonsus Rectory, Tupper Lake, NY, 12986. The total cost for the weekend, including room, meals, evening socials and presentations, is \$85 per person for double occupancy and \$110 for a single.

Openings for the weekend are on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline for reservations is February 13.

For information, call Deacon Jim or Debby Keough at (518)359-3680.

## Charismatic guided retreat offered at Cenacle this weekend

A charismatic guided retreat will take place at the Cenacle Center for Spiritual Renewal this weekend. A team of Sisters of the Cenacle and lay persons actively involved in the Charismatic Renewal Center in the Rochester diocese will conduct the retreat, which will include conferences, times for personal prayer, individual

speaking on the issue will be Assemblywoman Piny Cooke of the 132nd Assembly District. She will offer insight from her experience in Albany on state issues.

Councilwoman Joan Hensler of the Rochester City Council will also address the topic from her perspective.

Sister Barbara Moore, RSM, of Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministries, will speak on women's issues from a religious perspective, as well as on ways in which women of faith can respond to this challenge.

A registration fee of \$2 will be charged. People are invited to bring a bag lunch and stay for fellowship.

## Monthly breakfast for widowed planned at Canandaigua restaurant

People who are widowed are cordially invited to the monthly, informal breakfast to be held Saturday, February 7, at 9 a.m. at the Town and Country Restaurant, 245 S. Main St., Canandaigua.

The breakfasts are sponsored by widowed residents of Ontario, Yates, Wayne and Monroe counties who have formed a support system.

For information contact: Claire (716)392-3445; Jean (716)394-5181; Carolyn (716)394-7047; Nancy (716)526-5629; Sue (716)394-7977; Mary Lou (716)624-2374; or Carl at (315)789-2686.

spiritual direction and celebration of the Eucharist.

The retreat will begin on Friday at 7:30 p.m. and end on Sunday at 3:30 p.m. The offering is \$60.

Contact the Cenacle Ministry Office at (716)271-8755 for information.

# Obituary

## Sister Mary Martha Lavey, Mercy member, at 90

Sister Mary Martha Lavey, RSM, died Wednesday, January 28, 1987, in Lourdes Hall in the infirmary of the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, after a long illness. She was 90.

Born in Jordan, N.Y., and a parishioner of Auburn's Holy Family Parish, Sister Mary Martha entered the Mercy congregation in 1915. She was received as a novice on March 25, 1916. Her novitiate year — 1917 to 1918 — was spent at the St. John's Park Motherhouse in Charlotte. She made her final profession of vows in 1921.

After Sister Mary Martha graduated from high school in 1915, she went on to Canisius College, where she received a bachelor's degree in education in June, 1929. She later studied at St. Bonaventure University, Columbia University and Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Sister Mary Martha taught for 50 years in both elementary and secondary schools in the Diocese of Rochester. Among her elementary school assignments were: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 1915-1916 and 1950-1954; Holy Cross, 1916-1917; St. Mary's in Corning, 1918-1919 and 1955-1959; St. Vincent's in Corning, 1919-1921; St. Ann's in Hornell, 1921-1929 and 1960-1966; and St. Thomas the Apostle, 1954-1955.

At the secondary school level, Sister Mary Martha taught at Our Lady of Mercy High School from 1929 to 1930, and at Holy

Family High School in Auburn from 1930 to 1950, and 1959 to 1960. She taught primarily Latin and biology.

She also opened Holy Family High School in 1930, and she was its first principal from 1930 to 1932.

In 1966, Sister Mary Martha joined the staff of St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell, where she worked as a librarian until 1972. She then retired from active ministry to the Omega Community of senior sisters at the Rochester motherhouse.

She was admitted to the Mercy Infirmary in November, 1979.

During the Mercy sisters' jubilee celebration on September 21, 1986, emcee Sister Mary Eymard Hyland said Sister Mary Martha, who was marking her 70th jubilee, was "leading our parade of years."

She is survived by her brother, William Lavey and her sister, Mrs. Herbert Copley, both of Auburn; and two cousins, Father Edward Bowes, SJ, of Miami, Fla., and Father Vincent Bowes, OCD, of Brookline, Mass.

Sister Mary Martha was waked at the motherhouse, and a prayer vigil service was held in the motherhouse chapel last Friday, January 30. A Mass of Resurrection was celebrated on Saturday in the motherhouse chapel. Sister Mary Martha was buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester.

## Courier-Crossword

Our monthly crossword puzzle! Give it a try and see how well you do. Answers will be printed in our next issue. Good Luck!

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### ACROSS

- Pio or Gossage.
- Biblical rib loser.
- Prayer of a pass in football.
- Pops.
- Indigent.
- Janet and Dodger eg.
- Majorette's headgear.
- Musical & Montini.
- American greeting.
- This daughter of Jacob and Leah drove a Chevrolet.
- de Beaupre.
- Monsters.
- Hurricane eg.
- Protection.
- Composition.
- Norse god of evil.

### DOWN

- Prof' prerequisite.
- Travelers organztn.
- Finished.
- Author of "Kidnapped", (initials)
- Printer's measure.
- Region.
- Colored.
- San ----- Spurs.
- Sweet potato.
- How runner came into a base.
- New Orleans holy men?
- "I Am Woman" singer (initials)
- Commercial.
- Pursuit. OR What a posse does.
- Michael or Mauch.
- "Key -----"
- Man of Araby.
- "Libera - - - , Domine".
- Time.
- Retirees' income.
- " - Friend Flicka".