

Columnists

FALLS FUN FEST RETURNS!

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CONCERTS.

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The free Falls Fun Fest, 7-11 p.m., Wednesday-Friday, August 24-26, Brown's Race & Pont de Rennes bridge (Platt St. off State St.)

Nightly Schedule:

7:30-9 p.m. Wed.-Concert, Flashback Jazz Band (Dixie)

7-9 p.m. Thurs.-Concert, Mulligan, Solas & Parnell (Folk Rock)

7-9 p.m. Fri.-Concert, The Shadows (R & B)

9:30, 10:15 & 11 p.m. Sound & Light Show (each evening)

7-8:30 p.m. Funfestours of historic Brown's Race (45 min. each) nightly.

Plus food & interpretive Center exhibit each evening.

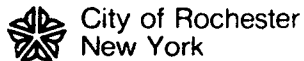
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Why Paul is not a male chauvinist

By Father Albert Shamon

Sunday readings: (R3) John 6:60-69; (R1) Joshua 24:1-2, 15-17, 18; (R2) Ephesians 5:21-32.

In the second reading, Paul says: "Wives should be submissive to their husbands." That line, repeated in two of his other epistles, is responsible for Paul's being branded a male chauvinist by feminists. As always with Scripture, text out of context is pretext.

Before his conversion, Paul had been a great Pharisee, taught by the famous Gamaliel. He knew Genesis, and believed it to be the inspired word of God.

On the road to Damascus to apprehend Christians, Paul — then Saul — had discovered a great truth; that Christ and the persecuted Church were one.

For on that road, the risen Christ, in a voice like a bursting sea, protested, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you sir?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting" was the reply.

With neon clarity, the blinded Saul saw that Christ and His Church are one, as the head is one with its body. Later on, this relationship illuminated this Genesis text for Paul: "For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cling to his wife, and the two shall be made into one."

Commenting on this text, Paul said, "This is a great foreshadowing." A foreshadowing of what? The marriage of Christ with His Church.

Paul saw Jesus as one who had left His Father in heaven when He became Man. And he saw this Man leaving His mother on earth when, on the cross, He gave her to us, saying, "Son, behold your mother."

Paul interpreted this leaving of Jesus of His Father in heaven and His mother on earth as being done that He might espouse His wife, the Church. The blood and water that issued from His side symbolized the Eucharist and baptism, the fundamental sacraments that make the Church. To His Bride, Christ gives Himself each day with the words, "This is my body," nourishing her by the command, "Take and eat."

A Word for Sunday

In the Genesis story of the creation of man and woman, man came first and woman second — but only chronologically, for Adam admits that Eve is his equal, "flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone." In the Christ story, Jesus came first, then His Church. Naturally, Paul saw the man as symbolized by Christ, and the woman as symbolized by the Church. Then he drew the conclusion that the relationship between husband and wife should be the same as the relationship between Christ and His Church.

As the Church is submissive to Christ in everything, so should the wife be to her husband. Submission means "to yield." You have seen Yield signs on highways. To yield means to give in to oncoming traffic to avoid an accident. It does not mean the yielder is inferior to the other driver. It is just good common sense to prevent an accident.

When Paul asks wives to be submissive to their husbands, he adds the words "as if to the Lord." Wherever people live together or work together, there has to be a head, else there will be chaos. Paul asks wives to let husbands be that head for God's sake, not because he is superior or stronger, but simply that she might be a help to him in making a community of love.

But what is good for the goose is good for the gander. Paul requires husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the Church. Christ gave His life for the Church, and He remains with Her till the end of time. Husbands, then, must give their lives for their wives: loving them, supporting, and caring for them always.

Paul asks wives to be submissive to their husbands as if to the Lord, and husbands to love their wives as Christ did His Church. Marriage is not a one-way street.

Gabriel's mission is accomplished

By Cindy Bassett

Six months later:

The second part of God's mission for me took place in Nazareth, a small town in Galilee. I wasn't impressed with the area. I had come here to inform a certain young woman that she had been chosen by God to be the Mother of his Son, Jesus Christ. The truth was that Nazareth was nothing more than a dismal, nondescript town of working-class people — certainly not what one would imagine for the makings of a king.

But, as usual, I had made a hasty judgment. As soon as I beheld the intended mother, I realized my mistake. Mary was about as perfect for the job as any woman could ever be.

She was engaged to Joseph, a carpenter in Nazareth. Outwardly, Mary was as beautiful as I remember Eve, the first woman in the world. Nevertheless, it was not her appearance that convinced me of her special qualities. Rather, it was her whole attitude about the job God was calling her to do.

"Greetings, Mary, I have wonderful news for you!" I told her. "God has chosen you from every other woman in the world for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Mary's initial response, of course, was somewhat fearful. After my meeting with Zechariah, I expected it. It isn't every day that a real angel makes an appearance in the world of human beings.

"Don't be afraid, Mary," I continued, "for you are about to be greatly blessed by God. He wants you — that is, if you are willing — to be the mother of his only Son. You should call this child, Jesus. He is coming to save his people and his kingdom will never end."

"How can this be, since I am a virgin?" Mary asked.

"Don't be concerned with the details, Mary. For with God's limitless power and might, anything is possible."

Mary was silent for a few minutes, her face knotted in worry. After all, it was going to be pretty hard to explain to her family and to Joseph about her pregnancy.

Nazareth was a small town and people would gossip. Mary's own family might be dis-

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graced. But when Mary finally spoke, she had put these concerns aside.

"I am not worthy for such a job," she replied. "And I still don't quite understand. But, because I am God's servant, I am willing to do whatever he asks."

Was this perfection or what? Mary's response was even better than Elizabeth's reaction had been. "Oh, Mary, I nearly forgot to tell you. I've got even more spectacular news. Elizabeth, your relative, whom you know was barren her entire life, is going to have a baby in three months. No one who trusts their life to God will ever be put to shame."

As soon as I had departed, Mary set out to visit Elizabeth. I returned to God with a great sense of joy. Part two of my mission had been accomplished.

"Well, Lord, this time, it went off without a hitch," I announced.

"Almost, Gabriel," the Lord told me.

"What do you mean?" I asked.

"Joseph, Mary's fiance, is quite distressed over the whole matter. He's from very good stock — a descendent of David, the greatest king of Israel. I think he'll be a great foster-father for Jesus once he understands."

"Shall I go back and talk to him?"

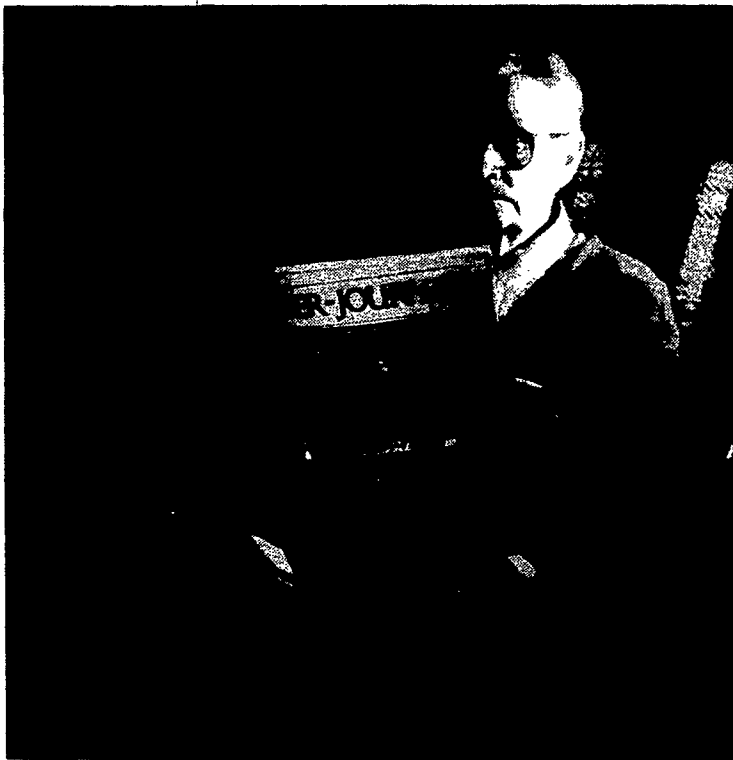
"Just a brief appearance in Joseph's dream will do," God replied.

"That's easy enough," I said. "Will there be anything else?"

"No, Gabriel, you deserve a rest," God said kindly. "Relax, the plans are made now. All that I promised long ago will surely come to pass."

Scripture reference: Luke, Chapter 1:26-38. Meditation: How often do I try to do God's will when I don't understand where he is leading me?

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