

# Sister of Mercy provides suggested 'rules for living'

By Father Paul Cuddy  
Courier columnist

Sister M. Roberta is a petite Sister of Mercy, greatly loved by all the first-grade students she taught over the years.

A Hornell businessman once told me, "I was so attached to Sister Roberta when I was in the first grade at St. Ann's School that I tried to flunk to have her for another year. But it didn't work."

Sister Roberta, who wears a big smile with her habit, has for years sent me little jokes, notes, cartoons and articles. She recently sent me an article entitled "Rules for Living," which I feel is very apropos to all of us as we begin a new year.

- If you open it, close it.
- If you turn it on, turn it off.
- If you unlock it, lock it up.
- If you break it, admit it.
- If you can't fix it, call in someone who can.
- If you borrow it, return it.
- If you value it, take care of it.
- If you make a mess, clean it up.

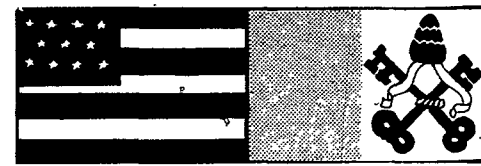
- If you move it, put it back.
- If it belongs to someone else and you want to use it, get permission.
- If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone.
- If it's none of your business, don't ask questions.

Now she adds:

- If it ain't broke, don't try to fix it.
- If it will brighten someone's day, say it.
- If it will tarnish someone's reputation, keep it to yourself.
- If you mail a letter, put the return address on it. If you don't, and the stamp slips off, your letter may go to the "dead letter" office.
- If you are the liturgy music director, announce the number of the hymn twice. The first gets lost in inattention.
- If you want someone to return your call, give your name and telephone number. Repeat the telephone number for accuracy.
- If you want one slogan for the year,

use "Do it now! There is danger in delay." Many people have placed the "Do it now!" slogan on their refrigerator as a constant reminder.

Suggestions such as these may seem so obvious as to be unimportant. But in disregarding them we cause confusion, unhappiness and sometimes injustices.



## ON THE RIGHT SIDE

### THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



EDWIN SULEWSKI  
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

#### How can I face people since my loved one committed suicide?

You may feel sad, grief-stricken, guilty and embarrassed. It is certainly discomfiting to have to face friends and neighbors who may not understand or who may themselves be embarrassed and upset. The best way to handle embarrassment is to face the fact that the suicide occurred, express your feelings about it and then begin living again. By acknowledging honestly to others that the death was a suicide you make it possible for friends to talk to you about their feelings and to give you support. This gives you a chance to discuss the death in a healthy manner. When a loved one commits a suicide surviving friends and relatives may find it especially helpful to seek some professional counseling to release their intense feelings. Should you feel the need to discuss your feelings with a trained counselor, please call on us for referrals.

We purchase all forms of insurance to protect our family & assets, not because we expect the worst to happen, but to be prepared. Doesn't it make sense then to prepare for what will happen. Let our trained counselors assist you with the many options available in planning for a worry-free future.

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# Feast of Christ's baptism offers reminder of all faithfuls' calling

By Father Albert Shamon  
Courier columnist

Sunday's readings: (R3) 1:7-11; (R1) Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; (R2) Acts 10:34-38.

In the new calendar, the Sunday after Epiphany is the feast of the baptism of Jesus.

In the first reading, God invites us to regard his servant highly so he talks about his servant. He boasts of the fine qualities that will make his ministry a success.

"A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench... and he will establish justice," God said.

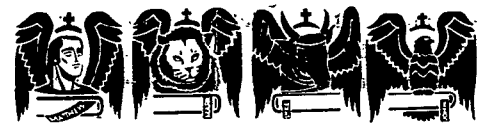
Then he speaks to his servant, person to person. God offered him words of encouragement when he said, "It is I who have called you. It is I who hold you by the hand. I formed you. Therefore, fear not!"

The Gospel makes it clear that this servant is Jesus. When Jesus comes out of the water after his baptism, "the sky rent in two and the Spirit descended on him like a dove," fulfilling the words of the prophet: "... upon whom I have put my spirit."

The voice from heaven reiterates Isaiah's words: "You are my beloved Son, my servant whom I uphold. On you my favor rests — my chosen one with whom I am pleased."

In the second reading, Peter describes Jesus' baptism the following way: "God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and power." Peter was often wrong, but he was humble enough to admit it. Of all people, Peter firmly believed salvation was for the Jews alone.

"Boy was I wrong!" Peter said to Cornelius. "Now I see God shows no partiality. The man of any nation who fears God and acts uprightly is acceptable to him." Then to Cornelius he proclaims that Jesus is "Lord of all," of everybody — even the pagan Romans. What a breakthrough for Peter! Salvation is for everybody.



## A WORD FOR SUNDAY

Jesus' baptism marked the beginning of his public life. Baptism makes us sons of God and inserts us into a support community — the church. In addition, baptism call us to bring the good news of the Gospel to all people.

We are baptized, not so much for privilege, as for mission. That is the symbolism of the lighted candle given at baptism. We are called to be "a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind," by the light of truth; and "to bring out prisoners from confinement" by the forgiveness of sins.

This calls us to strive and become like Jesus. He was meek, not like someone who shouts at others and makes a scene in the streets. He did not break the bruised reed or quench the smoldering wick. He did not kick people when they were down and hurting, or block their entrance into the church by being judgmental and condemnatory. He was broad-minded, accepting all people who fear God and act uprightly.

Like God's servant, his beloved son, we must also have compassion. There is only one person in this world we ought to hate: Satan. He is the enemy of all mankind. Everybody else we should love. And our love should be such that we desire all people to come to the knowledge of God and to be baptized into the church.

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