## Church must not be 'lukewarm'

By Father Albert Shamon Courier columnist

Sunday's Readings: (R3) John 20:119-31; (R1) Acts 5:12-16; (R2) Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19.

During the Easter season, the second reading comes from the most wondered about and least understood book of the Bible: the Book of Revelation.

According to its style, the book is divided into two parts: espistolary and apocalyptic.

The epistolary part (chapters 1-3) consists of seven letters to seven churches. In addition, it is introduced with a vision of Christ on Earth in the midst of these churches.

The apocalyptic part (chapters 4-22) consists of the conflict between good and evil. This part is introduced with vision of the lamb in heaven, standing between God the Father and the church.

Sunday's passage deals with the first vision. On the Lord's day, John, who was exiled for his faith to the isle of Patmos — located 30 miles southwest of Ephesus in the Aegean Sea, was caught up in ecstasy and told to write what he saw.

He saw "seven lampstands of gold and among the lampstands

One like a Son of Man wearing and ankle-length robe, with a sash of gold about his breast."

At the time the book was written, the early church was in the throes of the terrible persecution of Domitian (81-96 A.D.). Nero's persecution was restricted only to the city of Rome; Domitian's was throughout the whole empire. Nero was an insane devil; Domitian was a sane devil.

The great danger to the church then was apostasy or compromise or lukewarmness. To avoid death, one needed only to offer a pinch of incense before a statue of the emperor and proclaim, Caesar est Dominus et Deus ("Caesar is Lord and

To avoid economic suicide, all one needed to do was join one of the guilds. When the business guilds met, they celebrated in the temples of their gods and banqueted with foods offered to the gods. It was easy to compromise for business reasons, just as some so-called Catholic politicians compromise with abortion — they go along to get along.

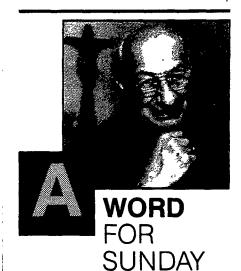
John wrote his book to combat this danger of apostasy and compromise. He began the book with the vision of Christ, magnificent indeed. John portrays Christ as priest (ankle-length robe) and king (sash of gold). Hé stands amidst the seven lampstands of gold. The lampstands symbolize the churches in Asia Minor, lights to the world. Seven denotes that what applies to these seven churches — the universal church.

What John is saying to wavering Christians is that Christ is in His Church. Just as people were mistaken for seeing Jesus only as a man, so people are equally mistaken who see the church as only a human organization.

The church is Christ. He stands in her midst, enlightening her, guaranteeing her victory over the powers of evil for He is the beginning and end of history. Once dead, He now lives. He holds the keys of death. He's got the whole wide world in His hands — especially His Church. Therefore, "there is nothing to fear."

The consoling issue for us today is that Christ, dead and risen, is still in the midst of His Church: in her head, Peter (R1); and in her sacraments, especially in her sacrament of Reconciliation (R3).

Regardless of public dissent with the vicar of Christ, one must never



waver in loyalty and love for the Holy Father. Regardless of how much some people put down the great sacrament of Reconciliation, one must go at least monthly to this sacrament of mercy. In fact, Christ asked Sister Faustina to urge that this Sunday be called "Mercy Sun-

As John wrote to the church in Laodicea, "I wish you were hot or cold. If lukewarm; I'll spit you out of my mouth."

# RobertsWesleyan(ollege

### YOUR MONEY MATTERS

Live better, do more, and leave more through down-to-earth, practical steps in the management of your assets. Tuesday, May 5, 1992 6:30-9:00 p.m.

This unique seminar is being offered to community residents, area alumni and friends of Roberts Wesleyan College. The seminar, sponsored by the Roberts Wesleyan College Planned Giving Committee, will include the presentations listed below. har is to be held on the campus of Roberts Wesleyan College in the Historical Room of the Kenneth B. Keating Library. (An elevator is available to assist the physically handicapped.)

Presentation #1 - "Maximize Your Estate Through Minimizing Taxes"—What Wills can and cannot do. When a financial plan to meet cash requirements in retirement is it helpful to have a Revocable Lifetime Trust? How is an estate taxed and how can the estate tax be minimized? Presenter: Susan Vogel-Vanderson, Associate, Harter, Secrest Creative techniques for structuring your life insurance & Emery, Attorneys at Law

tion #2 - "Your Financial Plan and Retirement, Tax, and Cash Flow Strategies"-Planning strategies for your 40s, 50s, and 60s. Understanding options for

distributions from employment retirement plans. Developing Presenter: Edward F. Adams, Partner, KPMG Peat Marwick Presentation #3 -"Creative Use of Life Insurance" program to bring about the greatest future benefit. How to give it away, get a tax deduction for it, and still keep it! Presenter: Arthur A. Wood, CLU, Arthur A. Wood and

Space is limited. Please register no later than April 30th by calling Roberts Wesleyan College's Office of Planned Giving, 594-2525

Seminar Free: \$7.00 per person, \$10.00 per couple Roberts Wesleyan College, 2301 Westside Drive, Rochester, NY 14624-1997



### "When It's Feelings That Count" **GREECE** PENFIELD

STREET OF SHOPPES 1600 Ridge Rd. West (716) 663-5085

PENN-FAIR PLAZA 2200 Penfield Rd. (716) 377-4480

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION GIFTS FOR 1992 **Traditional and Contemporary** LITURGY PROGRAM COVERS BY WARNER PRESS



- Veils, Head Bands, gloves and purses
- Ties and Arm Bands
- Rosaries, Books,
- Communion Sets
- Statues, Plaques, Crucifixes • Invitations, Greeting Cards,
- Decorations, Napkins, Plates, Cups, Cake Toppers • Gifts, Pendants, Religious

Crosses and Medals



OUT OF TOWN CUSTOMERS CALL 1-800-755-6467 (Greece Store Only)

## The Spring House ... A special place for special times. Like dinner before your Prom.

Dinner at The Spring House before the Prom has been a tradition for generations of high school juniors and seniors.

The Spirng House will give your Prom Night a memorable

beginning — a great meal, friendly service and a price as pleasing as the food.

**Prom Night dinner** at The Spring

House — that special touch your date will aways remember you



out of shopping!

**USE THE COURIER CLASSIFIEDS TODAY!** Text-only classified ads cost \$10.50 for the first 15 words, 75 cents per additional word. Boxed ads start at \$20 per column inch (certain discounts apply).

To place your ad, Call 716/328-4340 between 8:30a.m. and 4:30p.m. Monday-Friday. Deadline is noon Friday for following issue.

Or mail the coupon below with appropriate payment — to:



CATHOL	IC CO	URIER	CLASS	IFIEDS
			—	

1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, New York 14624

mber of week closed is my o	328-4340		
		·	
,			