

God works in unpredictable ways

By Father Albert Shamon
Courier columnist

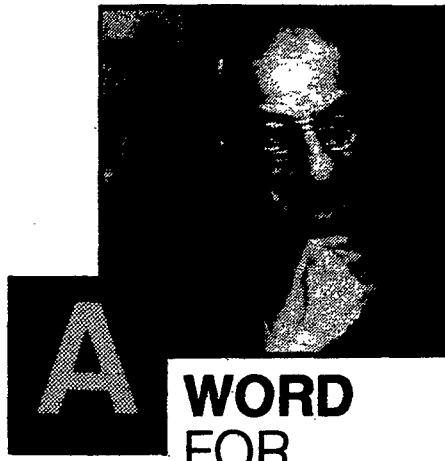
Sunday's Readings: (R2) John 1:35-42; (R1) 1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19; (R2) 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20.

Sunday's first and third readings tell us that God is always concerned about us.

When God spoke to Samuel, Israel's priesthood was at its lowest point. God told Samuel He was cleaning house: "What I am going to do to Eli and his sons will cause the ears of everyone who hears it to ring." Then God raised up Samuel. Samuel anointed David king. And from David's line came the Lamb of God.

One day John the Baptist saw Jesus walk by and said, "Look! There's the Lamb of God." A lamb's blood freed the Hebrews from slavery and death. This "lamb" was going to free the human race from the slavery of sin and eternal death.

Sometimes we get anxious about the church's future. We are afraid that our godless secularism is going to destroy religion. Or we worry about the direction the church is taking. But remember God has got the whole world in His hands. He is always working behind the scenes, achieving what hu-



A WORD FOR SUNDAY

man effort alone can never do.

A triduum was preached in Portugal on Oct. 12-13, 1960; and at the *cova da Iria* one million pilgrims spent the night outdoors in prayer and penance before the Blessed Sacrament exposed. Despite a penetrating rain that chilled to the bone, the million pilgrims gladly accepted this as a penance desired by Our Lady. At the same time more than 300 dioceses throughout the world joined Pope John XXIII in prayer and penance.

According to *The Penkovsky Papers*, the memoirs of Colonel Oleg Penkovsky, here's what allegedly happened as a result:

In October, 1960, Nikita Khrushchev, premier of the U.S.S.R. from 1958-64, took off his shoe, pounded it on a table at the United Nations and boasted that the former Soviet Union possessed weaponry that would bury the United States. Yet on the night of Oct. 12-13, Khrushchev suddenly explained for Moscow. Why?

Khrushchev had reportedly demanded that his top scientists create a missile engine, powered by nuclear energy. They had succeeded and planned to present this to Khrushchev in November — the anniversary of the Russian revolution. Knowledge of this caused Khrushchev's actions at the U.N.

On Oct. 13, 1960, when Marshall Medelin and 300 of the top specialists on nuclear energy in the U.S.S.R. tested this nuclear-powered engine, it reportedly exploded and killed all of Russia's nuclear scientists, preventing atomic war.

This happened on the same night when the whole Catholic world and a million pilgrims were on their knees before the Blessed Sacrament.

On May 13, 1984, when the largest crowd ever seen at Fatima was praying the rosary "a massive explosion rocked the Soviet Union's main munitions storage depot for its northern fleet." Russia's northern fleet was the largest and mightiest of her four fleets.

According to *Jane's Defense Weekly of London*, the explosion destroyed two thirds of the fleet's surface-to-air and ship-to-ship missiles. It was the greatest disaster to occur in the Soviet Navy since World War II.

You see, what God did through Samuel, then through the Lamb of God, He is now doing through our Lady.

What we need today to bring peace to the world are prayer and penance — the rosary and a turning away from sin.

God is still working in His unpredictable ways. All that is asked of us is that we do our part.

Samuel listened to God's voice. The disciples of John the Baptist followed the Lamb. So God expects each of us to do his or her part: the rosary, frequent confession, a turning from sin to Him. If we do, then in the end Mary's Immaculate Heart will triumph, and there will be an era of peace granted to all mankind.



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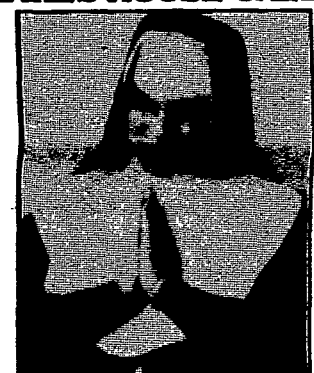
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