

# Real authority is more than words

By Father Albert Shamon  
Courier columnist

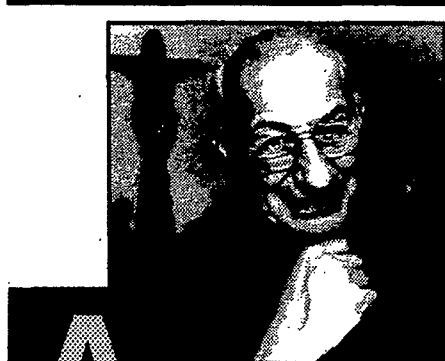
**Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mark 1:21-28; (R1) Deuteronomy 18:15-20; (R2) 1 Corinthians 7:32-35.**

The first event of Jesus' ministry, as Mary presents it, is one that expresses His authority in word and then in action.

The event took place in Capernaum, a small but busy and thriving city.

Jesus chose Capernaum as His headquarters during His public ministry because it afforded easy communication — by land or by water — with many flourishing towns and an easy avenue of escape into more secure regions should it be necessary.

The synagogue in Capernaum was an architectural gem. Present-day ruins reveal blocks of limestone, large and white, that made up its walls. In addition, its architraves and friezes were finely carved. A God-fearing Roman centurion had it built and presented it to the Jews. They were so grateful to the later in Our Lord's life, when the centurion's servant was ill, the Jewish elders besought Jesus to heal him because, they said, "he loves our people and even built our syna-



## A WORD FOR SUNDAY

gogue for us" (Lk. 7:5).

To this synagogue Jesus came on a Sabbath to teach. But it was not His teaching that struck the people. It was His authority, "because he taught with authority and not like the scribes."

The Scribes in their teaching most certainly did not lack assurance and self-confidence. They were unquestionably dogmatic and intolerant. But they always spoke with borrowed authority. In addition to always quoting

others, they were slaves to "authorities" and were bogged down with interminable details and puerilities.

Jesus, on the contrary, did not quote authorities. He was the authority. His thoughts breathed life; His words burned into hearts. He drew His illustrations from the sights and sounds in which the people lived, not from the desiccated decisions of the Doctors of the Law. On this occasion, He evidenced the might of His authority by driving an evil demon out of a man with one sentence.

Whence this authority? Surely, because He is more than a mere man. Yet even this claiming to be God's own Son would not have held people spellbound. Whence then this authority? The Greek word for authority is *exousia*, which literally means "out from himself." It was the kind of authority that comes out of a person who lives what he teaches, the kind of authority that emanates from a person who is selfless, compassionate, meek, radiating love for others, who is willing to die for his convictions.

Often people resent authority. This is so, because so often authority is something totally divorced from the person exercising it. The image of au-

thority often is that of one who merely gives orders, who lords it over others, who has no personal involvement in what he orders.

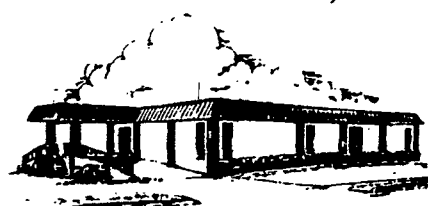
Yet it was precisely Jesus' authority which impressed people. This was so, because all His commands issued from His own deep personal conviction and care. His authority came out from himself because He was a Man who really cared for others.

Perhaps religious education is not having the impact it ought to have on youths today, precisely because there may be too much teaching going on like that of the Scribes. So-called authorities do not impress; nor do mere words.

So much learning today; so little understanding. So many books; so much jargon. So much talk of love; so much hatred and violence. So much talk of peace; and there is no peace. So much talk of community and so little unity.

Can this be so because it is all so much talk and so little real authority? Real authority resides in the person, not in his words. Words will have no authority unless their authors, like Christ, are living in communion with God.

### BARTOLOMEO FUNERAL HOME, INC.



Peter W. Giullari, Jr. Philip P. Perotto Micheal P. Perotto

Personalized service in the community since 1922.

1425 Lexington Avenue, Rochester, NY 14606  
conveniently located near 390

(716) 254-5400

### ROMANTIC ITALY

May 12-27, 1994

Visit San Remo, Nice, Monte Carlo, Pisa, Florence, Rome (includes an audience with His Holiness Pope John Paul), Pompei, Sorrento, the island of Capri, Messina, Taormina, Agrigento, Cefalu and Palermo.

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR: Senior Citizens, groups of 3+, kids 18 & under, early bookings

WASHINGTON, D.C. AT CHERRY BLOSSOMS FESTIVAL TIME

April 8-10, 1994  
Call for information

EVENING GALA FOR THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (In Toronto)

March 26, 1994

35 tickets available-best seats (orchestra)

HIGH CLASS TOURS · 247-9032

### Schauman-Sulewski

introduces



A Video

Presentation Of A Life Remembered

Together with Tribute Programs, Schauman-Sulewski offers a beautiful and tasteful keepsake video tape of your loved ones.

Schauman-Sulewski

Funeral Home, Inc.

342-3400 · 2100 St. Paul Street

### Kids Answers

Answer: "Go to Ninevah, that great city."

Code: A=Z; B=Y; C=X, and so working back until M=N.

# COMPEER

Use the power of your friendship to help someone who is emotionally hurting.

Become a Compeer volunteer and give one hour of your time once a week. The rewards are great and you'll have a new friend.

Call 1-800-836-0475 and tell us you want to know more about becoming a Compeer volunteer. In Rochester, call 546-8280.



Space donated to the Ad Council as a public service of this publication.

## God grants Amazing Graces to those who Honor Mary



PRAY THE ROSARY... with the only rosary designed to teach the mysteries.

THE SYMBOLIC ROSARY... utilizes beautiful 3-dimensional symbols that depict the 15 Mysteries so vividly that the rosary "comes to life" and each Mystery takes on increased meaning.

THIS MAGNIFICENT ROSARY, HAND-CRAFTED IN LORETO, ITALY has multi-faceted beads that reflect the scintillating colors of the Aurora Borealis. The silvered symbols of the 15 Mysteries make this rosary a unique and beautiful gift for all.

This one-of-a-kind rosary is only available through Special Favor Rosary Guild.

FREE WITH EACH ROSARY... The "How To Say The Rosary" pamphlet and "The 15 Promises of Mary" plus an attractive, protective pouch for your new Rosary, and a beautiful "Our Lady of Lourdes" medal containing water from the Miraculous Fountain at Lourdes.

Mail to: The Special Favor Rosary Guild, Inc.  
321 Barrack Hill Road (P.O. Box 165)  
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877

90-Day Money Back Guarantee.

(Offer good in U.S. and its territories only.)

Please send me at once (\_\_\_ qty.) SYMBOLIC ROSARY(s) (check boxes below for colors desired) at only \$18.95 each plus \$3.50 for postage and handling, -or only \$36.00 for two rosaries plus \$4.00 for postage and handling (CT Residents Add Sales Tax)

- Diamond Clear     Sapphire Blue     Black (Crystal)     Black (Solid)
- I am enclosing check or money order for \$\_\_\_\_\_ payment in full.
- Send C.O.D.: I will pay C.O.D. charges. (CODs must have street address. No P.O. Box)

Mail my Gift-boxed Rosary(s) to: (please print)

CG-16

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_