

# The lector's ministry is awesome work

By Father Albert Shamon  
Courier columnist

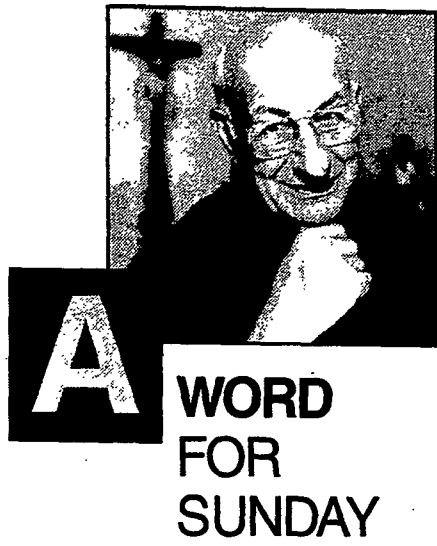
**Sunday's Readings: (R3) Luke 4:21-30; (R1) Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19; (R2) Corinthians 12:31-13:1-13.**

Last Sunday's readings spoke of God's gift to us: His word, the Scriptures. This Sunday's readings focus on proclaiming God's word. Jeremiah is called to be God's mouthpiece. Jesus proclaims that He is the fulfillment of God's words. St. Paul says that God's word is a message of love.

In spite of the many new and sophisticated methods of communication now available in the modern world, the spoken word still remains of critical importance. This fact is unlikely to change, ever. The telephone, television, radio, worship services, workshops, and classes all depend on verbal communication.

God's word, too, depends on verbal communication. Jeremiah was called to spread God's word — like all the other prophets — orally. Paul proclaimed it thus. So did Jesus.

According to some statisticians, some 700 million people cannot read nor write — half of all the people in the world. But there are only a handful who cannot hear. That is why the



**WORD FOR SUNDAY**

spoken word is so important.

Some wiseacre once cracked that if the ability to speak is a gift, then "someone must have shot Santa Claus." But the ability to speak is a gift — a gift from God. Have you ever thought about what is involved physically for you to utter just a single word? Aside from your brain — which fashions what is said — and your lungs — which supply the air power for the sound — here are the parts in your throat and head that fashion your

speech: the trachea, esophagus, tracheal cartilages, cricoid and thyroid cartilage, true vocal and false vocal folds, ventricle, epiglottis, hyoid bone, larynx, oropharynx, soft palate, hard palate, nasal cavity, frontal sinus, sphenoidal sinus, nasopharynx, oral cavity, and the tongue. The loss of any one of these would affect your speech.

One of the ministries in the church today is that of lector, or reader of God's word. In 1972, Pope Paul VI restored the lector's role to the official status of a ministry. No longer does a person have to be a student for the priesthood to be formally made a lector. Pope Paul VI's words are worth pondering: "Let the reader be aware of the office he has undertaken and make every effort and employ suitable means to acquire that increasingly warm and living love and knowledge of Scripture that will make him a more perfect disciple of the Lord."

The Holy Father asks that the relationship between the lector and the readings be very intimate and personal, like that between very close friends or spouses: "a warm and living love and knowledge." The lector must know the message to be communicated, and have the fire of that message burning within him or her.

William Jennings Bryan, one of America's great orators, defined eloquence as "the speech of one who knows what he is talking about and means what he says — it is thought on fire."

Once again, Bryan stated that eloquence results when a speaker is "tremendously enthused about worthwhile things concerning which he is thoroughly informed." The persuasive lector must be a person of profound convictions, who sincerely feels he or she can help others by conveying those convictions in so effective a manner as to inspire others to adopt them and to mold their lives and actions in the light of these beliefs.

The lector's ministry is a wonderful work. Through him or her God's living Word continues to be proclaimed to his people. Do not let this task become routine: a quick look at the texts and a functional reading. Rather, immerse yourself in the Word, then you will be able to proclaim it more ably and to grow in your own knowledge and love of God.

As the priest prays over the deacon about to read the Gospel, so his words apply to the lector: "May the Lord be in your heart and on your lips that you may worthily proclaim God's holy word."

# 1995 Wedding Guide

APARTMENTS	HOTELS	FLORISTS	NEWSPAPERS	RECEPTIONS	RECEPTIONS
<b>PINES OF PERINTON</b> Whitney Rd. Rt. 250 HRS. M-F 9-5 388-0010	<b>Wellesley Inns</b> 1635 W. Ridge Rd. (716) 621-2060 797 E. Henrietta Rd. (716) 427-0130	<b>Fioravanti Florist Inc.</b> For that one special occasion you'll want perfection. 2279 Clifford Ave. (near Culver Rd.) 482-1001	<b>READ The New York Times</b> NEWS • BUSINESS • SPORTS • TRAVEL Distributed By MANSON NEWS DISTRIBUTORS 634 South Ave. Roch. NY 244-3880	<b>THE BRASSERIE</b> For private, intimate parties up to 150 people. Eastman Place • 387 E. Main St. 232-3350	<b>RED MEN'S PARTY HOUSE</b> • WEDDINGS • RECEPTIONS • SHOWERS • BANQUETS • MEETINGS ACCOMODATING 50-800 1001 Lexington Ave. 254-6220
<b>BAKERIES/CAKES</b>	<b>CANDY FAVORS</b>	<b>FURNITURE</b>	<b>PHOTOGRAPHERS</b>	<b>RECEPTIONS</b>	<b>RECEPTIONS</b>
<b>CALABRESE'S CULVER BAKERY</b> TRIPLE COOKIE TRAY (\$52 value) with 1 tier Wedding Cake WEDDING CAKES • SWEETS TABLES COOKIE TRAYS • ITALIAN PASTRIES 1352 Culver Rd. (near Merchants) 482-4080	<b>Stever's</b> Homemade Candies Wedding Candy Specialties Open Daily 10-6 623 Park Avenue • 473-2098	<b>Becker's FURNITURE</b> A Great Place for Getting Started 436-5129 1461 BUFFALO RD. at HOWARD	<b>TUMATS</b> PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY SPECIAL EVENTS/ON-SITE WEDDING SPECIALISTS 716/442 1022 716/425 4954	<b>DAISY FLOUR MILE</b> • Receptions • Rehearsals • Showers 1880 Blossom Rd. 381-1880 "An American Restaurant"	<b>Wedding Package</b> with open bar All for \$14.95 (716) 464-0007
<b>SAVOIA PASTRY SHOPPE</b> 482-1130 Wedding Cakes, Cookie Trays and Sweets Table 226 Clifford Ave. Rochester NY 14609	<b>FAVORS</b>	<b>JEWELRY</b>	<b>RECEPTIONS</b>	<b>RECEPTIONS</b>	<b>RECEPTIONS</b>
<b>Sweet Memories by Marina S. Barigelli</b> Wedding Cakes special occasion cakes Elegant cookies Choc. liqueur cups 426-7079 By Appt. only	<b>DAN'S CRAFTS &amp; THINGS</b> 352 EMPIRE BLVD., ROCHESTER, NY 14609 716-654-8388 SAVE - DO IT YOURSELF! • Wedding Accessories • Silk Flowers • Instruction Books • Vases • Bridal Bouquets • Bibbons • Favor Supplies • Cake Toppers	<b>Irish Import Shop</b> IRISH WEDDING BANDS JEWELRY & GIFTS 3821 Ridge Road West (716) 225-1050	<b>ARENA'S</b> "For Beautiful Banquets" Call Jay Arena 767 Holt Rd. Webster (716) 872-4000	<b>Empire Lanes Party Rooms</b> Featuring quality food at reasonable prices for buffets and sit-down dinners. 2400 EMPIRE BLVD WEBSTER • 671-2556	<b>Top of the Plaza Restaurant</b> Receptions • Rehearsals • Showers Accommodations to 300 Guests (716) 546-2490 1400 Midtown Tower
<b>CAKE DECORATING</b>	<b>WIDMER</b> Customized labeling in honour of your Wedding, Bridal Toast, Rehearsal Dinners and Wedding Favours. Widmer's Wine Cellars - Naples, NY 716-374-6311 Liz or Susan	<b>the SOURCE</b> 560 Ridge Rd. W. East Rochester Pittsford Place (Dinn Shops) (Tchoplus Mall) 3300 Monroe Ave. 621-6280 381-5719 566-9145 Buy his wedding band, receive hers free	<b>RECEPTIONS</b>	<b>RECEPTIONS</b>	<b>RECEPTIONS</b>
<b>ANNJER</b> Cake Decorating and Candy Supplies Genesee Valley Regional Market 900 Jefferson Road Rochester • 272-8608	<b>MUSIC</b>	<b>MUSIC</b>	<b>RECEPTIONS</b>	<b>RECEPTIONS</b>	<b>RECEPTIONS</b>
		<b>Mary Ellen and Dennis Monroe</b> Open for Your Wedding Ceremony and Reception 716-586-8354	<b>The Historic Avon Inn</b> *10-200 Guests *Sitdown & Buffet 716-228-8181 Avon, NY	<b>Holiday Inn</b> Airport-Rochester 911 Brooks Avenue (716) 328-6000 WEDDING SHOWERS • REHEARSAL DINNERS SPECIAL ROOM RATES FOR YOUR GUESTS	<b>alban</b> Tent & Special Event Rentals 425-1285
			<b>ROCHESTER'S MOST ELEGANT PARTY HOUSE</b> ACCOMMODATIONS FOR 50-1500 GUESTS 1020 MAPLE STREET 436-2112	<b>VIDEO CONCEPTS UNLIMITED</b> "Specializing in Wedding Memories" Creative Video Production Services Free offers and information on request Denise Dushikere (716) 293-2455	<b>VIDEO CONCEPTS UNLIMITED</b> "Specializing in Wedding Memories" Creative Video Production Services Free offers and information on request Denise Dushikere (716) 293-2455