

## COLUMNISTS

*Be all you can be — today*

**Sunday's Readings:** (R3) Matthew 21:28-32. (R1) Ezekiel 18: 25-28. (R2) Philippians 2:1-11.

A father had two sons. He came to the first and said, "Son, go out and work in the vineyard today." The son said in reply "I will not," but afterwards he changed his mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. That son said in reply, "Yes, sir," but did not go.

"Which of the two," Jesus asked, "did his father's will?"

The second son had good intentions. He didn't rebel when his father asked him to work in the field. He didn't talk back to him. He had good intentions.

Wallace Gould Levison was a photographer and an inventor. In 1885 he and his partner George Bradford Brainerd invented a hand camera. Brainerd died in 1887; that same year Levison invented a camera that could take a series of pictures in rapid succession. It was a real breakthrough.

Unfortunately, the distractions of family concerns and other projects kept him from completing the paperwork to patent his invention. This delay cost him his shot at immortality. In 1891, Thomas Edison also invented a camera that would take pictures in rapid succession but it was he, not Levison, who patented the motion picture camera.

Gould Levison intended to patent his own camera. But he never got around to it. Good intentions!

Somebody put it this way:

He was going to be all that mortal



a word  
for  
sunday

By FATHER ALBERT SHAMON

should be

Tomorrow.

No one would be better than he

Tomorrow.

Each morning he stacked up the letters he'd write

Tomorrow.

It was too bad he was too busy to see Bill, but he promised to do it

Tomorrow.

The greatest of workers this man would have been

Tomorrow.

The world would have known him had he ever seen

Tomorrow.

But the fact is he died and faded from view, and all that was left when living was through was a mountain of things he intended to do

Tomorrow.

Good intentions. Isn't it interesting how easy it is to put off doing the things we ought to do? Some of us even put off things we want to do.

Dale Carnegie said that one of the most tragic characteristics of human nature is that all of us tend to put off living. We are all dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon, instead of stopping to smell the roses outside our windows today. We don't know why the second son never got to the vineyard. Procrastination? Something more appealing came along?

We don't know, but we do know it's very much a part of human nature to make commitments that we do not keep, promises we let go unfulfilled, leaving behind a mountain of good intentions. The road to hell is paved with good intentions.

The first son did work in the vineyard. That's really surprising. After all, he played the rebel at first. "I will not go into the vineyard," he said. "My friends are coming over. We're going to the mall. Working in the vineyard is a drag, why are you always picking on me?"

Maybe he said something like that. But a funny thing happened. He changed his mind and did the work his father had asked of him.

If you knew that you only had a very short time to live, what changes would you make in your life? Are there promises you have made, but not kept? Are there good intentions not carried out? Truly, we don't have much time. If we are going to be all that God has called us to be, we need to begin now. If we are going to do the things God has called us to do, we will need to do them now.

A flock of geese headed south to escape the blast of winter. The first night

they landed in a farmer's yard and filled themselves with corn. The next morning all, but one, flew on. "The corn is good," this big goose said, "so I will stay and enjoy it another day." The next morning he decided to stay another day, and another after that, enjoying the delicious food. "Tomorrow I will fly south," he said. Then came the inevitable winds of winter; to wait longer would mean death. So, he stretched his wings and waddled across the barnyard, picking up speed as he went.

But alas: He was too fat to fly. He had waited too long.

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*Daily Readings*

**Monday, September 30**

Job 1:6-22; Luke 9:46-50

**Tuesday, October 1**

Job 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23;

Luke 9:51-56

**Wednesday, October 2**

Job 9:1-12, 14-16;

Matthew 18:1-5, 10

**Thursday, October 3**

Job 19:21-27; Luke 10:1-12

**Friday, October 4**

Job 38:1, 12-21, 40:3-5;

Luke 10:13-16

**Saturday, October 5**

Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-16;

Luke 10:17-24

“A cemetery is a history of people—  
a perpetual record of  
yesterday and a sanctuary  
of peace and quiet today. A cemetery  
exists because every life is worth loving and  
remembering—always.”

—Anonymous

Since Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid (depicted in statue at right) dedicated Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in 1871, Rochester's Catholic diocesan cemetery has provided a beautiful and tranquil atmosphere for family and friends to pay respects to their deceased loved ones.

To help celebrate 125 years of service to the community, the cemetery's staff and friends would like to invite the public to a special anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark on

Saturday, Oct. 12, at 8:30 a.m.

For more information, please call (716) 458-4110.

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