

Sin takes on many forms

34th Sunday of the Year (Feast of Christ the King) (November 24): (R3) Matthew 25:31-46; (R1) Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; (R2) 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28.

Next Sunday is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. Fittingly it is the Feast of Christ the King.

The Gospel presents the Son of Man as a shepherd-king. He comes enthroned in glory, with angels for royal attendants, to judge the world.

And what is his judgment? It is a separation. To illustrate this, Jesus used a story familiar to his hearers. At night sheep and goats were gathered together in a single pen. At morning the shepherd separated the sheep from the goats by calling the sheep, as a hunter whistles for his dog. The sheep would follow him and he would lead them to green pastures. The goats were left behind.

Jesus said there would come a day when he, the shepherd, would separate his sheep from the goats. The sheep he will invite into his kingdom. But the goats he will consign to everlasting fire.

Jesus seemed to focus on the sin of omission. So often we see sins as actions. Jesus, however, here points out that sin is also not doing what we should have done. The sin of the goats was apathy and indifference. It is not enough not to hate one's neighbors; we must help them whenever we can and whenever they are in need.

Jeff McMullen once had to make the decision between being a sheep or a goat. For four years Jeff played the character of Ronald McDonald in Arizona and Southern California for the McDonald corporation. On "Ronald Day," once a month, Ronald visited as many community hospitals as possible, bringing a little hap-



Father Albert Shamon

A word for Sunday

piness to those confined to bed. The warmth and gratification he received in return stayed with him for weeks.

Two restrictions were placed on Ronald. He had to be accompanied by McDonald's personnel and hospital personnel. If a child became frightened, there would be someone to address the issue immediately. And he was not to touch anyone physically within the hospital. The hospital staff did not want germs transferred from one patient to another.

Toward the end of his fourth year, as Jeff was heading down a hallway, he heard a little voice cry out, "Ronald, Ronald." He stopped and saw a five-year-old boy, named Billy, lying in his dad's arms, hooked up to more medical equipment than Jeff had ever seen. Mom was on the other side of the bed, along with grandma, grandpa and a nurse.

Billy said, "Ronald, would you hold me?" Jeff knew if he touched the boy, he could lose his job. So he suggested that they both color a picture. Upon completing the picture, Billy again asked Jeff to hold him.

His heart screamed "Yes!" but his mind screamed, "No! You'll lose your job." Finally, Jeff decided that he could not pass up the opportunity to bring a little happiness to a dying

boy. So he asked everyone to leave the room. Then he picked up Billy. They laughed and cried for 45 minutes and talked about the things that worried Billy.

On the way out of the room, Jeff wept and gave Billy' mom and dad his name and phone number. Less than 48 hours later, Billy's mom phoned to tell Jeff that Billy had passed away, and that she and her husband simply wanted to thank him for making a difference in their little boy's life. When Jeff left, Billy said, "Momma, I don't care anymore if I see Santa this year because I was held by Ronald McDonald."

Jeff could have played it safe. That's what the goats would have done. But Jeff was a sheep. We, too, must know that what we do to the least, we do to Jesus.

Father Shamon is administrator of St. Isaac Jogues Chapel, Fleming.

DAILY READINGS

Monday, November 25
Revelation 14:1-3, 4B-5;
Psalms 24:1-6; Luke 21:1-4

Tuesday, November 26
Revelation 14:14-19; Psalms
96:10-13; Luke 21:5-11

Wednesday, November 27
Revelation 15:1-4; Psalms
98:1-3, 7-9; Luke 21:12-19

Thursday, November 28
Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23,
19:1-3, 9A; Psalms 100:2-5;
Luke 21:20-28

Friday, November 29
Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21:2;
Psalms 84:3-6, 8;
Luke 21:29-33

Saturday, November 30
Romans 10:9-18;
Psalms 19:2-5;
Matthew 4:18-22

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF HAWTHORNE

NEW YORK • MINNESOTA • OHIO • PENNSYLVANIA • GEORGIA



We live in Community and take vows of chastity, poverty and obedience. Daily prayer and our apostolate of caring for incurable cancer patients are integral parts of our offering to God. All care is free. Many who enter our Community have no prior nursing experience.

Interested women are invited to visit throughout the year.

For more information call or write, Sr. Teresa Marie, O.P.
Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, 600 Linda Avenue, Hawthorne, NY 10532
(914) 769-4794 or 769-0114

e-mail: SrTeresaM@aol.com

Visit our WEB site - www.hawthorne-dominicans.org

Name _____ State _____ Zip _____
Address _____ Home Telephone _____
City _____

R NY

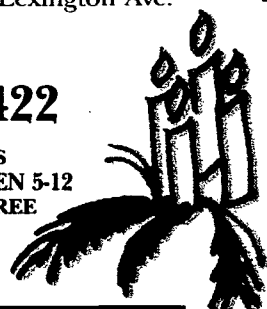
ADVENT CONCERT
with the

DADY BROTHERS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 • 7 PM
HOLY ROSARY CHURCH
414 Lexington Ave.

Tickets:
458-4422

\$10 ADULTS
\$5 CHILDREN 5-12
UNDER 5 FREE



Looking for
Quality Printing?

Call us for...
Laminating

Through a special arrangement between
Wayuga Press and the Catholic Courier
Graphic's Department, you can now get
quality, affordable typesetting and printing.

Give us a call for your next job!
COURIER GRAPHICS • 585-529-9530
WAYUGA PRESS • 315-754-6229