An innocent man is betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver

THE BIBLE CORNER

By Cindy Bassett

Catholic Courier columnist

"Caiaphas, there is someone here to see you," the servant called from the doorway of the private chambers of the high priest.

"One of you who eats here tonight will betray me," he said suddenly during dinner.

His remark cut through them like a knife and they were stunned to silence. Some of the apostles were still struggling over Jesus' words hours later in a garden where they had gone with the Master.

"Peter," John called to his companion, "Jesus is very distressed tonight."

"Do you remember the great crowd that welcomed Jesus when he entered Jerusalem this week?" John asked. "His followers grow in strength and numbers."

Despite their anxiety about Jesus, all three of them kept drifting in and out of sleep that night as Jesus prayed nearby.

But before the night was over, something happened that would burn in their memories forever.

"Friends, wake up!" Jesus called to them. "My betrayer has come."

It was difficult, at first, to see who had broken the trust. Roman soldiers and temple police arrived carrying torches and clubs, as if in pursuit of some violent criminal.

Everyone watched as Judas came forward. "Peace be with you, Teacher," he said. He greeted Jesus with the customary kiss, and in so doing, won his 30 pieces of silver.

Jesus was first brought before the Jewish Council for questioning. Caiaphas presided over the interrogation that lasted the rest of that night. In the end, they bound the prisoner and took him to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. The council members had made their own charges against Jesus.

The Roman authority would administer the punishment.

It was dawn when Caiaphas finally prepared to retire. He was perhaps more threatened than he had ever been in his whole life, and more satisfied. As he stood there pondering all that had happened that evening, Elias came into the room.

"Caiaphas, that man is here again," the servant said.

"What man?" Caiaphas asked, making no pretense of his annoyance.

Elias hadn't a moment to answer the high priest before Judas bolted through the door to confront them. Even Caiaphas was unprepared.

"In Jesus' name, the meaning of this?" he asked. "You were paid the agreed-upon amount, were you not?"

"It is true that Jesus has been condemned to die!" Judas cried.

"As you say," Caiaphas replied cooly. "I never thought it would come to this! I have betrayed an innocent man!"

Jesus shouted, "What you have done, is done." Caiaphas said, "And it is of no concern to me anymore. Now go, or I will call the temple police to remove you."

Before leaving St. Charles, word came that Father Dan Wheeland had died. He had suffered from bad health for a long time, and the people remember him with affection as they recall his cheerful sermons and his big smile.

Besides the fellow priests, all the staffs of the rectories: the cooks, housekeepers, maintenance crew, everyone were solicitous and helpful. Without such people, the priests would be sunk.

Glimpses of people and places in the Southern Tier

ON THE RIGHT SIDE

Join you and Father Golden for dinner."

"Wonderful! Come tonight!" A bonus was another guest, an excellent young Domin­

ican, Father Augustin Dinau, who is on a

year's sabbatical from the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, to write a theo­

logical book, and is pro tempore chap­

lain for the Dominican sisters. The next

day I went to the Elmira Public Library,

where Father McCabe gave a masterful book review of J.P. Powers' Wheat that Spring.

Evelyn. I had read the book, and didn't like it. But the review was superb. Father McCabe nicely shadowed the alco­

holic compulsion of Father Joe, the main

character.

Father M. Saviour, onward to Elmi­

ra Heights where Father Joseph Gaynor,

as­

sisted by his Deacon William Dougherty,

had given me an invitation to give a mid­

Lenten tridium. While there, Father Ed­

Golding's mother died, and it was a priva­

ti­

tivity at the funeral with over 30 bol­

ter priests to honor a mother of pro­

found faith, who gave to the church such a

good family and so fine a priest son.

As is my custom I set up a religious arti­

cles stand in the vestibules of both Elmira and Corning. Today there were over 800 cop­

ies of the little Treasury of Prayers float­

ing around the Southern Tier, and sent off to folks in the military service, colleges, hospitals and sundry places away from home. While at USB, Father Eugene and I went to visit Father Joseph Egan, who is convalescing from a serious illness, and helped him to publish a very learned book on Genesis.

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Grief is a process of feelings and behav­

iors which follow the loss of someone or something that we love. The entire process of grieving helps us to come to terms with the changes that have taken place in our lives and begin adjustment to them. This is not always easy and often lasts for a year or more. Some of the feelings that accompany grief are anger, guilt, anxiety, shock, jealousy and depression. It is not uncommon to be confused, restless, to have difficulty sleeping or to have a change in appetite; it takes time to accept the reality that someone we love is deceased. It takes longer to recreate a life that can make us happy.

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