

Powerful Words

One day, a young altar boy was serving the priest at a Sunday Mass being held in the country church of his small village. The boy, nervous in his new role at the altar, accidentally dropped the cruet of wine. The village priest immediately struck the boy sharply on the cheek, and in a very gruff voice shouted so that many people could hear, "Leave the altar and don't come back!"

That boy became Tito, the Communist leader who ruled Yugoslavia for many decades.

One day in a large city cathedral, a young boy was serving a bishop at a Sunday Mass. He, too, accidentally dropped the cruet of wine. The bishop turned to him, but rather than responding in anger, he gently whispered with a warm twinkle in his eyes, "Someday you will be a priest."

That boy grew up to become Archbishop Fulton Sheen.

Words have power. The childhood phrase, "Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words can never hurt me," simply isn't true. Words can hurt. They wound, sometimes deeply.

But words can also reward, build self-esteem, create friendships, give hope, and render a blessing. Words can heal and drive accomplishment.

So, as you go through your day in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, watch what you say. Your words can build up or tear down.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer (Psalm 19:14).

– Beecher Hunter

