

Their Activities

OUR CATHOLIC WOMEN

Their Interests

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Devotions

ON THE REASONABLENESS
OF CATHOLIC DEVOTION
TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

By THE REV. JOSEPH T. DALEY, C. S. S. R.

(Editor's Note: This article setting forth the reasonableness of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary was written exclusively for the Catholic Courier, official newspaper of the diocese by Father Daley, of the Redemptorist Order, and at present teaching philosophy in the Redemptorist Seminary, Esopus, N. Y. Formerly a professor in the Redemptorist Preparatory College, he was later assigned to the Roman Mission of the West Indies. He is an honorary graduate of the Gregorian Institute, Rome, and a doctor of philosophy. This series of articles are appearing in this newspaper during the Novena of Wednesday services at St. Joseph's Church, Rochester.)

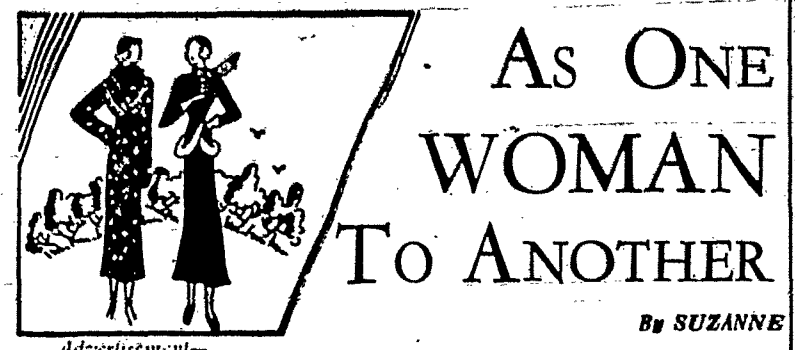
Catholics are often accused of offering to the Blessed Virgin Mary the homage that belongs to God alone, in a word, of substituting their intelligence by devoting it to "Mariolatry," or to worshipping Mary as if she were God. No charge could be more senseless and unfounded. For in every Catholic mind there is a clearly drawn distinction between the veneration given to God and that offered to Mary.

God is adored as our Omnipotent Creator to whom we owe our every blessing of soul and body; He is loved as the Gracious Redeemer Who laid down His life for us, and as the Infinite Good, the sole satisfying object of our heart's desire. Mary, on the other hand, is venerated as the peerless Woman, who was chosen to become the Mother of the Eternal Word; she is loved as the Co-redemptress with Christ of our Fallen Race, and she is invoked in prayer as the Spiritual Mother of our souls. If at times the language of her children appears extravagant to alien ears, it must be remembered that while it is the language of tender love, it clearly recognizes the truth that Mary is only a creature, and her dignity, though exalted, is infinitely removed from that of the Godhead. Within these well-defined limits, how can honor and esteem given to the Mother of God be excessive, when the mothers of the earthly great are showered with the highest encomiums? How can love for the powerful advocate of our souls' salvation, be worthy of blame, when the purest and most natural of human affections is that which subsists between mother and child? This little paper will give in brief the reasons why Catholics find it fitting to set the Blessed Virgin upon a pedestal, as it were, to be honored above every other of the children of men.

ONE
The exaltation of the Virgin Mother is not an act of empty homage, nor a mere mechanical out-

let for pent-up emotions, but a whole-some expression of devotion, flowing from solid, dogmatic truths. Mary indeed holds a unique primacy in the human family, and a privileged office in the economy of salvation. She is in fact and not merely in poetic fancy, our taint nature's solitary boast. For as the Woman destined to be the Mother of God, she was conceived immaculate, free from the inherited stain of original sin. In this she stands apart from every other creature: the single exception to the universal curse. On the other hand she was privileged to share in the accomplishment of man's Redemption as Co-redemptress with her Divine Son, and as Mediator of salvation between God and man. These prerogatives raise her above every other creature in the order of Grace, and confer on her a specially beneficent relation to all of Adam's children.

—The charming almost naive story of Mary's acceptance of the Divine Motherhood is told with touching simplicity in the Gospel of St. Luke. A modest Virgin, named Mary, living with her husband, Joseph, in the quiet and obscurity of the little village of Nazareth, devoting her life to prayer and humble household tasks, was selected by God from among all women for the highest dignity ever conferred on creature. One day as she knelt in prayer in the retirement of her home, an angel suddenly appeared before her, and announced her election to be the Mother of God.



ON TUESDAY, after many renovations and rearrangements, the Sibley Tower Restaurant on the sixth floor re-opened with a warm welcome for old friends and new. Many conveniences for better service are featured, particularly "The Military Girls," a special corps in smart blue and red regiments which has been intensively trained to attain a precision and clock-like efficiency seldom seen in any restaurant. They will specialize in "Two Minute Service" which assures the delivery of your order in less than two minutes after it is given. Complete luncheons are priced at 33c, 50c, and 75c.

"CLEVER" is the word that best describes these new enameled, checked and polka dotted compact. Just the thing to go with the cottons we'll be wearing this summer. They can be had in red, blue, green, yellow, or black on white (also in an assortment of single shades) for \$1. The lipsticks to match are 50c at Sibley's Jewelry Dept. on the main floor.

ANNOUNCING that the shoe designed by the famous foot specialist, Dr. M. W. Locke, is sold exclusively in this city by the Park Bramble Shoe Store, 64 East Ave. The M. W. Locke shoe for women, while it has been designed to effect correct posture, style and grace have not been overlooked. Stop in and be fitted with a pair of these beautiful shoes. The price is very moderate.

"KEEP ONE of these new permanents under your hat," says Pauline. Your toptot hat will be becoming if your hair, long or short, is beautifully waved under its shadow chic. \$3.50 permanents, which leave the hair soft with ringlet ends and color unchanged, are given at Pauline's Beauty Shoppe, 78 Clinton South Main 4736.

BARS CRIME PICTURES
Washington (NCWC) — A bill making it unlawful to mail any motion picture film in which there are representations of crimes having to do with sex has just been introduced in Congress by Representative Cannon of Missouri.

DISCOVERED, "The Nook!" It is just what the name suggests, a delightful retreat where good food is featured at a reasonable price. This quaint Bohemian place is to be found at 14 Gibbs St. They serve both a 35c and 25c plate.



A FIRST Communion Souvenir will be given with the purchase of a 50c prayer book or more at Trant's Catholic Supply Store, 115 Franklin St. Religious articles of all kinds suitable for First Communion Gifts can be had here.



JUNE, the month of brides, graduates and first communicants, is almost upon us. During the month (and for months thereafter) these chats, "As One Woman to Another," will serve the discriminating woman as a guide to the latest and best being offered in the shops of the city. Here the shopper and the advertiser meet intimately, "tete-a-tete" as it were.

When upon the Virgin's unaccustomed ears fell the sound of the Angel's majestic salutation: Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women; (Luke 1:28), her virgin soul was perturbed and troubled. For never had ambition or desire for self-glorification ruffled her serene and equable mind. What disquiet then did this stranger, with his superlatively laudatory address: Blessed art thou among women; bring to that cloistered heart?

He Shall Be Great
But the Angel had his celestial embassy to discharge, and while he noted with deep reverence the modest shrinking of this precious soul, he continued to speak: Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found grace with God. Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and shalt bring forth a Son; and thou shalt call His name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of David His father. . . . And of His Kingdom there shall be no end. (Luke 1:30-33).

Thus the august purpose of the Most High was unfolded to this humble Virgin's ears. She attended reverently to the Angel's words, yet a difficulty remained to afflict her maiden heart: How could all this be accomplished in her, since her virginity had been consecrated to the perpetual service of God. At the threshold of that stupendous Motherhood, she paused to give thought to its significance: If it should entail the sacrifice of her virginity, which she had long before offered to the Lord, how could she without fault accept the proffered honor?

And the Angel removed this last scruple with this assurance: The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee. And the Holy which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. (Luke 1:34-35).

And Mary said: Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word. (Luke 1:38). At that moment the Word was made flesh within her chaste womb. Her Son, therefore, conceived mysteriously, miraculously, is according to the Angel's word, also the Son of God. For while it is true that Mary gave to Christ only His Human Body, yet the living Christ Whom she bore, received His ultimate perfection not from a mere human personality, but by intimate union with the God-head in the Second Person of the Adorable Trinity.

A Person Quite Apart
How natural it is, therefore, that men should see in Mary, a person quite apart from every other human being, because of her near relationship to the God-Man! If the world honors and esteems the mother of a Washington—or a Lincoln, is it not most fitting that all men should reverence the Woman who touched the very hem of Divinity, when she bore the Eternal Son of God?

TWO
Mary's part in the accomplishment of the Redemption was no less real than her Divine Motherhood. Ordinary mothers have no certain foreknowledge of the future careers of their children. They may have well-founded conjectures based on the physical, mental and material gifts to which their children shall fall heir; but the sum of their knowledge of the children's future does not pass beyond the field of surmise. With Mary the situation was otherwise. She knew that the Child she was to bring forth was the Eternal Son of God, that His very conception miraculously transcended the ordinary processes of nature, that in the years to come her child would suffer and die, upon a Cross for the Redemption of the human race. Hence her consent to the Angel's message made her a Co-operator in the work of Redemption, and transfused her heart with a sword of sorrow.

Of the sorrows entailed by her assumption of the Divine Maternity we can speak only sketchily. The long years of intimate communion with her Divine Son in Egypt and at Nazareth, must be passed over in silence, not because they are of small importance to the understanding of her part in the drama of Redemption, but that we may concentrate our attention upon the Mother of Sorrows at the foot of the Cross. There, her generous will, at one with her Son's, offered the supreme sacrifice of His life for the regeneration of men. By a chain of events, cruelly unjust, her Divine Son had been brought to the Hill of Calvary, there to suffer a cruel and bitter death. Frightful pain pierced His tender flesh, affixing Him by hands and feet to the Cross. He was raised up, a spectacle of ignominy to all the world, the target for the ribald jests and jeers of an ungrateful people. Above His thorn-crowned head a placard proclaimed Him: Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. Yes, King of the Jews, but in a higher, nobler and more absolute sense, than it had entered the minds of the Jews to apprehend. For He is their Sovereign Lord, the Master of their lives, and the Arbiter of their eternal destiny.

Did Not Retreat
Mary is also present upon the Mount of Calvary. The heroic sufferings of her Son find their counterpoint in her soul. The dull, heavy blows of the hammer, as it rived the living flesh of Christ, fell crushingly upon her heart. The cry of abandonment which excessive bodily pain and nervous exhaustion wrung from His parched lips, was re-echoed in her tender heart, but from her soul there

SIDELIGHTS
On the Rochester
Diocesan Parish
Sodality Meeting

Almost 1,000 young women delegates attended the Convention and they represented 49 Parishes in the Rochester Diocese.

Visitors also arrived from Jamestown and Buffalo. Miss Molly Catnough, Prefect of Buffalo Union, was accompanied by Miss Clara Ball, graduate of D'Youville College, Buffalo, and an active member of the Buffalo Parish Sodality Union.

Expressions of gratitude go to the Staff of the Catholic Courier for their cooperation in publishing a special Convention edition and for distributing complimentary copies to the delegates.

The attractive background for the official platform was typically in the spirit of the Sodality with the large gold and blue representation of the Sodality Pin forming the center of the decorations.

issued a gentle response: My Son, I have not abandoned Thee. She repeated the words of the Savior spoken in the Garden of Olives: "Father, not my will, but Thine be done." She had taken upon herself this burden of suffering in the days long past when she pronounced a complete and irrevocable consent to the office of Mother of Christ, with its implied sacrifice of her Son. And now at the foot of the Cross, with the vision of pain and suffering, that had been her lifelong meditation, become a reality, her heart did not retreat one jot or tittle from the sacrifice she had pledged. When the cry is finished: rent the air, as the Savior's soul burst its earthly bonds, Mary voiced it also. Finished at last was the work of salvation and she bowed her head to the Divine Will, while offering anew her beloved Son and His merits for poor, unthinking men.

Her part in the Redemption will go far to explain the love and esteem Catholic hearts feel for the Virgin Mother. She participated in the work of ransom both by offering her Son's Passion and Death to His Heavenly Father, and by enduring heroically her own harrowing grief. Our veneration for this Valiant Woman must grow apace as we consider her in this role of Co-redemptress with Christ.

THREE
But Mary has, if possible, a still more intimate claim upon men's veneration and love. She occupies a special place in the disburial of the merits of Christ to their souls. Learned theologians and devout servants of the Immaculate Mother, have not hesitated to affirm that all grace come to men through the ministering hands of Mary. Their teaching in this matter is not an unbalanced emotionalism, but a solidly reasoned inference from truths of faith that are beyond doubt or cavil.

Mary's office in the Redemption would have been mutilated and incomplete had it ended with her part at Bethlehem and at Calvary, and this would not have been in harmony with the perfection of the divine works, which are characterized by their rounded wholeness and completeness. For only when the merits of Christ are conveyed to their souls in saving measure, is Redemption won for individual men. Thus Mary's role of Co-redemptress requires that she share also in the application of these graces to men's souls.

Offers Understanding Heart
Mary's charge in the matter of men's supernatural life and destiny is epitomized in the office of Spiritual Mother which she holds. This office is hers both by direct divine commission; since Our Savior in the person of St. John committed the entire human race to her care: "Woman, behold thy son," and by reason of her place in the Mystic Body of Christ. Of that Mystic Body we are members, and Christ is our Head, for through Him we are made partakers of the spiritual life of grace. Since Mary is the Mother of Christ, Who is our Head, she is also Mother of us, who are the members of His Mystic Body.

Her relationship to men, therefore, is that of a kind, protective, provident Mother, one who knows and understands each pitiable idiosyncrasy and weakness of her children, who apprehends their waywardness and proneness to evil, who knows that sin and temptation attend upon their steps, seeking to trap the unwary, who realizes the noble aspirations that often underlie coarse, even sordid natures, and who judges with that complete comprehension and sweet reasonableness, with which a mother's understanding heart regards her wayward child.

And if this Mother understands and sympathetically judges the stragglings and the fallings of her children, hers is no idle sympathy, but a powerful and strong support, which after sweetly alluring them back to the path of grace, strengthens their enfeebled spiritual forces for valiant combat against the enemies of salvation. She is a ready champion of her children's cause, and a generous dispenser of needed graces. This is not to say that she has scaled the heights of heaven and become divine, nor that she is the principal cause of men's Redemption, but simply and solely

that by her prayers and other kindly offices, she is perpetually interceding for men before the Throne of God, and thus is the Guardian of their spiritual life and their powerful Mediatrix in heaven.

FOUR
Who then can reasonably accuse Catholics of excessive devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary? We Catholics are rejoiced to prize and cherish Mary because of her nearness to the Eternal Word. We love and venerate this Heroic Woman who consented to the sacrifice of her innocent Son for our salvation. We petition her friendly offices, as the divinely appointed Mediatrix between God and man. Such homage is not extravagant nor undue; rather it is the natural expression of a reasonable and truly Catholic appreciation of Mary's place in the whole economy of salvation.

Nazareth College News

On Thursday evening, May 11, the Albertus Magnus Science Club held its last supper meeting of the year. Plans were mapped out for the new studio and for the Science booklet, "The Condenser," which is to be published by the end of May. Miss Mary Louise Bennett was appointed editor-in-chief of the paper. Elections of officers for the next year resulted in the following: Grace Carroll, president; Mary Elizabeth Norton, vice-president; Marion Pappert, secretary; Betty Wogman, treasurer.

The officers of the Junior class for the coming year are: President, Hilma Connors; vice-president, Florence Flynn; secretary, Dorothy Smith; treasurer, Florence Smith.

On Friday, May 12, students of the various Catholic High Schools went to the various Catholic High Schools to see a dance when they visited the college for Sub-Freshman Day. Miss Betty Jones, president of the Sophomore class and Miss Virginia Kircin, president of the Senior class, were in charge of the day's program which included an inspection of the buildings and the campus.

On Tuesday morning, May 16, the college was pleased to welcome the Rev. Patrick Cleary, a Brooklyn, who for the past ten years had been laboring in the Mission Field of Korea. In an address to the students Father Cleary told of his work in the Orient, saying that the Korean people are of such a nature that it is comparatively easy to convert them to Catholicity; the great difficulty in learning the native language is a terrible hindrance to these young missionaries who arrive there religiously equipped to do the important work of conversion. Father Cleary also stressed the fact that these people, whom we of the Occident are wont to think of as uncivilized, have a civilization that is older and in many respects superior to our own.

On Friday evening, May 26, Nazareth College will give its annual Mission Dance at the Renaissance at Summerville. The following committees have been appointed: Ballroom, Betty Nash, Catherine Fontana, Gertrude Troll, Eloise Schwind, Orchestra, Virginia Winkler, Margaret Blumrick, Winifred Murphy.

Publicity: Margaret Wegman, Eleanor Hollock, Mildred Hosonfeldt. Ticket: Geraldine Folt, Rita Barry, Ida Horman, Margaret Siegl, Frances Owens, Florence McCormick, Leona Meyers, Betty Doyle, Janet Renaud.

Conesus Lake Chapel
Has Mass at 9 O'Clock
Mass is being celebrated each Sunday at 9 o'clock in St. Margaret's Chapel, Conesus Lake. It was announced this week by the Rev. Gerald C. Lambert, in charge of the Chapel.

The title of "Our Lady" first came into general use in the days of chivalry, for she was the Lady "of all hearts" whose colors all were proud to wear. Hundreds upon hundreds had enrolled themselves in brotherhoods vowed to her especial service, or devoted to acts of charity to be performed in her name.

Blessed is the servant who keeps the secrets of the Lord in his heart. —St. Francis of Assisi.

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Rochester Diocesan Council of the National
Council of Catholic Women

Office: 1020 Columbus Clinic Center, 50 Chestnut Street

Interest of the Rochester Diocesan Council is centering this week on the lecture to be given by the Rev. Francis P. LeBuffe, S. J., at the Columbus Clinic Center ballroom on Sunday, May 21, at 8:30 p. m.

He is an authority on his subject, Catholic Evidence, having been one of the prime movers in the Catholic Evidence Movement in this country. As both men and women are invited, and there is no admission charge, this will be a fine opportunity for all to become acquainted with the progress of this movement in the United States.

Father LeBuffe is well known in Rochester through his lecture on Evolution, and retreats which he has given to Nazareth Academy Alumnae, and to social workers at the Sacred Heart Academy and the Columbus Clinic Center. His monthly articles in "The Sacred Heart Messenger" on "My Changeless Friend" have endeared him to the thousands of Messenger readers.

Father LeBuffe's lecture will take the place of the usual monthly meeting of Rochester Diocesan Council of the N. C. C. W.

The following tribute to Our Lady of Good Counsel by our national president, Miss Mary G. Hawks, is taken from the Monthly Message to affiliated organizations of the National Council of Catholic Women:

"We are urged to this devotion by love of Our Lady and by the consciousness of our need for her counsel. 'We need Counsel of her who is the 'Seat of Wisdom,' to realize, both for ourselves and others, the spiritual values of the Holy Year. 'We need Counsel of her who is the 'Queen of Peace,' in order to see and do our part towards that peace on earth so greatly desired, for us."

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