

Their Activities

OUR CATHOLIC WOMEN

Their Interests

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions



WILL MARY OBTAIN MY REQUEST?

By REV. RAYMOND G. SCHLITZER, C. S. R.

EDITOR'S NOTE: One of the boys of St. Joseph's parish who later became a Redemptorist priest is the author of the following article...

We are told repeatedly that the Blessed Virgin Mary is, in very truth, "Our Mother of Perpetual Help." In the course of sermons on the Mother of God, and more particularly, at the beginning of a public novena in her honor, we are urged to ask with the fullest confidence for whatever favors we may desire...

All this sounds very familiar. But more, I will say that our prayers, now, I think, hear some objections raised. There are many, I doubt not, that read these lines, who will claim that their experience would seem to prove false our claims for the un-failing help to be obtained from the Blessed Virgin Mary...

How often have I not heard complaints of this nature? There is scarcely a priest, I suppose, who has not been asked to explain this or a similar difficulty. "Father, I find it hard to pray any more. I cannot help feeling that it will not do any good anyway. Here I have been making novenas, one after the other, for a certain favor, and it just seems that my prayers are thrown away."

I can well sympathize with such a person. I feel sure that our Mother of Perpetual Help also sympathizes with all those who are in such a predicament. A few words of instruction on this matter will, I hope, serve to console those whose experiences have been similar to the one indicated, and may help to restore their faith in prayer in general, and especially as regards prayers to our Mother of Perpetual Help.

In the first place, then, let me state that our prayers are always heard, at least to the extent that Almighty God is aware or conscious of the fact that we are addressing Him or one of His Saints. Further-

lose heart. Only after the lapse of eighteen years did she at length have the consolation of seeing him give up his career of sin and impiety. But when the grace of God did touch the heart of the young man, Augustine's conversion was so thorough and genuine that he soon attained to great sanctity and is now revered as one of the great Doctors of the Church and will always serve as the model of true penitents. So we must take care, when we pray, not to grow impatient if our prayers do not meet with the desired effect at once, and be persuaded that, if the thing asked for is really conducive to our own best interests or those of the one for whom we ask the favor, God will not fail to grant it at the time and in the manner that He sees fit.

Will Not Fail. I have just said that God will not fail to grant the favor we ask, if it is conducive to our own or some one else's best interests, and here I mean especially either our own or his spiritual interests. When we pray for some spiritual favor, we may expect with far greater assurance that our prayers will be granted than when we pray for some temporal favor. A little thought should suffice to convince us that temporal requests will not always be granted. Let me explain this somewhat in detail. Let us suppose that students from two Catholic schools are about to engage in a game of foot-ball. Suppose, too, that prompted by a desire to win the game, these students all pray to our Mother of Perpetual Help for victory in the game. Every one will readily see that the prayers of all these students cannot be granted, for only one team can win the game. Or again, let us suppose that a prize is offered to the one who submits the best essay or makes the best examination. Only one can win the prize, so if several have prayed for this purpose, all but one will be disappointed.

Again, let us imagine that a certain group of Catholics are planning a picnic or some celebration for a certain day and accordingly pray for fair weather. At the same time, a Catholic farmer, whose crops are suffering from a drought, prays that it will rain that day. Since these people are praying for two objects, mutually opposed, not even God can grant their prayers, precisely as they wish.

Then, too, even though we admit that God can and actually does work miracles, we cannot expect that He will do so to exempt someone from the common law of nature. Let us say, that the father of a family, a man well advanced in years, is taken seriously ill. His children, who are devout Catholics, make a novena to our Blessed Mother, to secure his recovery. Now, although God can restore the sick man to health, He probably will not do so, for the man, like all mortals must die sooner or later, and if the sick man receives the grace to die a holy death, he is receiving a far more precious favor than would be the case were he to be restored to perfect health.

Permissible to Pray. God, with His perfect and unlimited knowledge of the future, foresees, too, whether or not we would employ well some temporal favor, which we ask for. Some there are, who ask for a raise in their salary for a better position, or to obtain better rent for some property. Of course, it is perfectly permissible to pray for these things, but when we do so, we ought to be fully resigned to the will of God, and in fact we ought to pray for such things with the condition that we wish our prayers to be granted, only in case that God foresees that such a thing will be good for us.

Whatever I have stated with regards to prayers addressed to Almighty God directly, should be applied to our prayers, directed to the Mother of God. The intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary is all-powerful with God. St. Alphonsus says of her, that she is "Omnipotence on bearded knees," meaning by this, that whatever God can do by His infinite power, the Blessed Virgin can obtain for us by her prayers. But, as I have endeavored to show, there are certain favors which, for one reason or another, God will not grant. So, also, there are certain favors, which, for the same reasons, the Blessed Mother will not obtain for us.

What are we to conclude now, from all that has been said? Simply this. Let us, by all means, go to the Blessed Virgin, our Mother of Perpetual Help, with our petitions. Let us implore her intercession prominently, earnestly, confidently, perseveringly. But, whilst admitting the effectiveness of her intercession, let us leave it to our Mother, to obtain our request or not.

Our prayers will not be in vain, St. Bernard assures us, in his beautiful "Memorare," that no one has ever called upon the Mother of God and was left unaided.

Household Hints. When preparing a room, remember that a plain or striped paper of a light hue will make the room appear larger, while large patterns and dark colors will give an impression of smaller size.

Prayer of a Mother on Her Son's Ordination

A priest to-day my son was made; Upon his head the Bishop's holy hands were laid— And o'er my boy those solemn words were spoken:—"Thou art a priest forever!"

Dear God, the joy seems more than I can bear; Yet now I kneel and breathe to Thee my prayer.

Keep him dear Lord, Thy chosen one; Within Thy Heart so fair; No harm can come to him, I know, If he be sheltered there.

Keep pure his heart which daily knows The secrets of Thy love— To lead the erring soul from sin, To heaven and Thine above.

Keep clean those hands which each new morn Careless Thy body—Blood, Divine. Keep chaste those lips that daily speak Those awful words o'er bread and wine.

And now, dear Lord, one more sweet gift Of Thee I now should pray: Keep me, his mother, in Thy love— The mother of a priest— to-day!

—Marcellus Foltz, C.P.S., in "Messenger of Precious Blood."

FRANCES MISSIONARIES

Madrid—(NCWC—Fides) — The gratitude of Japan to Spanish and Portuguese missionaries for their heroic efforts to bring the fruits of western science to the Empire, was expressed by Professor Chut Oguchi, Japanese Delegate at the International Conference of Ophthalmology which has just been concluded at Madrid.

"A Spanish Jesuit, Francis Xavier, came to Japan in 1549," Professor Oguchi said, "not only to teach religion but also the physical and astronomical sciences. Medicine too was introduced by Spanish and Portuguese missionaries who founded the first hospital for us. They saved the lives of thousands of lepers. Later the missionaries coming from the Philippines continued this noble task."

If the Japanese authorities had not taken such a contrary position toward Christianity, civilization would have taken hold in our land much earlier than it did. There is a duty of justice, therefore, to point out how much we owe to Spanish and Portuguese missionaries who have done so much to broaden the horizon of our culture."

Much interest is being shown in the Garden Bridge Tea which is to be held under the auspices of the Rochester Diocesan Council of the N. C. C. W., at the residence of Mrs. Charles W. Mayer, 546 East Avenue, on Wednesday, June 21, at 2 p. m., rain or shine. There is to be a prize for each table, in addition to a handsome garden gift donated by Mrs. Mayer. Mrs. M. H. Keogh and Miss Cecilia M. Yawman as co-chairmen, announce the following members of their committee:

Mrs. Louis A. Whalen, Mrs. Frank Curtin, Mrs. Ben Ebbmann, Mrs. J. F. Sproat, Mrs. Thos. J. Cashman, Mrs. Henry E. Norton, Mrs. F. J. G. Connor, Mrs. Richard Kalb, Mrs. Wm. H. Rossenbach, Mrs. Anthony J. Ryan, Mrs. F. B. Hall, Miss Monica McHugh, Miss Marie Staub, Miss Louise Meyers, Mrs. Elizabeth Dean, Mrs. Wm. B. Moynihan, Mrs. Joseph A. Ochs, Mrs. J. M. Brennan, Mrs. John McLaughlin, Mrs. George J. Falls, Mrs. Richard Fitzharris, Mrs. Emily O'Donnell, Mrs. Joseph Statt, Mrs. Leo Frayer, Mrs. Perry J. Burke, Miss Lucy R. Sheridan, Miss Margaret Sheehan, Miss Margaret Hahn, Mrs. Louis A. Langle, Mrs. John Gysel, Mrs. Francis J. Keogh, Mrs. P. D. Kane, Mrs. John F. Lamphier, Mrs. Jox. J. Flannery, Mrs. Christian Rehholz, Mrs. James J. Tighe, Mrs. James Conolly, Miss Margaret Trant, Miss Alice F. Kirk, Miss Ann Fisher, Miss Marie Heislein.

The acute conditions in the dress industry are every woman's problem. The National Women's Trade Union League of America called a conference on identification labels for women's clothing in New York City on April 11, 1933. Rose Schneiderman presented the problem to the conference in a short opening address, saying, "We are meeting today to consider a woman's problem—the dress she buys—or wants to buy. The manufacture of women's clothing is one of the important industries of the United States. The depression has had its effect on this industry as on others—short time, shut-downs, pay-offs, pay-cuts have all played their tragic parts in the lives of the clothing workers and now the industry is faced with a most serious form of competition—the undercutting by unscrupulous employers, who are taking advantage of the desperate need of many men and women to earn something no-matter how little. Women are getting paid two and three dollars a week for full-time work, in some of these factories, a every Catholic woman.

Mercy-High Issues Second Volume Of "The Cold Frame"

The second volume of "The Cold Frame," an anthology of verse and prose, has been published by this year's Senior Class of Our Lady of Mercy High School. Its dedication "To all those who love the beautiful things in life," is indicative of the contents. The "Foreword," written by the Rev. John Bernard Kelly, Chaplain of the Catholic Writers' Guild of America, points out clearly that these young women have sought their inspirations at the fountain of truest beauty, the Catholic Church, the "Mother of Culture." Like Joyce Kilmer's "Singing Girl", those who have contributed to this volume, reflect in their works the utter charm and modesty, the beautiful simplicity, and the depths of virtue of true children of Mary.

The volume contains an abundance of bits of quaint, delightful verse, a one-act play, and selections of prose that in beauty of thought and expression are true art. Such snatches of imagery as, "Snowflakes," by Jeanette Thompson, or "Winter Twilight" by Esther Cleary, deserve special comment. The order and well-defined plan of "Windows of the Soul" by Jeanette Thompson, the philosophical treatise of "Roads" by Elizabeth Burkhardt, and "Time" by Margaret Brady, the simple whimsically of "Baby" by Esther Cleary and of "Baby Fingers" by Margaret Malloy, show in part the variety of theme and expression to be found within this book.

Perhaps some of the finer, more philosophical material finds expression in such pieces of prose as "Resignation" by Jeanette Thompson and "Drifting" by Esther Cleary. Others who are deserving of mention for the artistic quality of their productions are Helen Burke, Margaret Giasor, Dorothy Fennessy, Regina Maloney, Marjorie Otto, and Catherine Ribson. All have betrayed their skill in the use of the choice diction. The young writers are characteristically like many current writers in style. Their works are marked in spots with a stamp of modernity and fluency—but always with descriptive ability.

We may say that the entire volume is but a true reflection of the inner lives of young women who are being trained under Catholic auspices. The naive and charm of expression show the desirable fruits of Catholic influence and Catholic education.

Give the cake a few bumps on the kitchen table before putting it in the oven and it will not fall; this causes the air bubbles to come to the surface and break, thus removing the cause for falling.

Historical Sketch of the 1st N. Y. Regiment of the Knights of St. John Commandaries and Auxiliaries

1933 EDITION Compiled by Lt. Chas. H. Mura

St. Boniface Auxiliary, 47 St. Boniface Auxiliary, No. 47, was organized October 6, 1898 with 24 charter members of whom seven still survive. Ladies Auxiliary, No. 47, has for its purpose and aim the securing of mutual assistance in case of sickness or death; the providing of an opportunity for spiritual and bodily recreation and the assisting of the Knights of St. John, especially Commander No. 25 of which it is a part, in any and all of their undertakings, social and otherwise.

The first officers elected in 1898 were: President, Julia Pappert; First Vice-President, Sophie Schillek; Second Vice-President, Anna Grab; Recording Secretary, Adeline Renner; Financial Secretary, Margaret Koller; Treasurer, Anna Farnung; Messenger, Mamie Spacher; Sergeant-at-Arms, Matilda Ritz; Guard, Catherine Pappert; Trustees, Catherine Miller, Christina Peters, Clara Schuster, Anna Schreiner and Margaret Niel.

In 1931 Auxiliary No. 47 organized its own drill team composed of 24 young women. The drill team made its first public appearance in full uniform at the annual Field Mass at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in 1932, and made a splendid showing as to appearance and drilling under Captain Wendel Meader of St. Boniface Commandery, No. 25, at the recent convention at Detroit, Mich.

Present officers are: Spiritual Advisor, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Duppel; Past President, Agnes Elber; President, Barbara Wahl; First Vice-President, Mary Schwabach; Second Vice-President, Eleonore Ritz; Recording Secretary, Teresa Grivet; Financial Secretary, Catherine Miller; Treasurer, Margaret Koller; Messenger, Mary Kaneman; Sentinel, Josephine Leitau; Guard, Anna Mack; Trustees, Madeline Roy, Mrs. Haysa St.

THE MIRACLES OF VALOR A parish branch of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith is measured by the number and caliber of the men and women who are called to the great missionary work of the Mother Church. Their work is so arduous that the mere collecting of membership dues from their associates, but it extends to any and all forms of mission programs that come within the scope of their lives. Thus, by word and example they talk and live in a mission way—a way that wins friends to support, by prayer and alms, the apostolic workers in barren parts of the Lord's Vineyard. The Church needs such workers and the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, in its traditional organization, is dependent upon them. May their number increase.

Matilda Kaneman and Teresa Frankenberg. Auxiliary No. 47 today has a total membership of 210 in good standing and has recently won high honors at the membership drive conducted by the Knights of St. John which closed in 1932 at the Detroit Convention.

FRANCIS MISSIONARIES Joseph A. Murphy, Pastoral Director, 188 CHILL AVENUE, Rochester, N.Y.

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AS ONE WOMAN TO ANOTHER

By SUZANNE

HEAR YE! All ye members of the fair sex! Bernstein's, at 682 Park Ave. (beyond Berk.) are featuring the best-looking sweater coat dresses in both prints and polka dots at \$4.95. You know (or perhaps you don't) that they are the newest and smartest things out. They also have chic, washable crepes in white or pastels. Such values you can't conceive. The only thing to do is go and see for yourself. Open evenings until 9 o'clock.

THE "up to the minute" bride-and-groom-to-be can budget both time and expense by using Tailor Laundry Service. It is being known that 77 cents will cover the service for a family of two per week. Call Main 3291.

ISN'T IT about time for a new hat? You won't be able to resist getting one if you stop in at the Genesee Millinery, 170 Genesee Street, near Bronson. They have a diversified assortment to suit any personality. Linens, tough straws, chalk crepe... in turbans and large brims to be had in all headsets at \$1 and \$1.85. Open evenings.

SOMEHOW a thoroughbred never can be beaten in any race. Forman's, the "blue-blooded" store of Rochester has always maintained quality, the essential thing. Their incomparable beauty shop follows the dictates of Dame Fashion to the minutest curl. So don't dally around, come where reliable and capable service is a habit not an event. Dependable, lasting permanents \$5 to \$15.

IT SEEMS to me that somewhere I have heard these hot summer days referred to as dog days. Anyway, appreciate our paper and consider it sometimes one feels too dog-gone hot.



Calendar for June 1933 showing days of the month.

A MERE SUGGESTION—We, of the faith for which this paper is symbolic, are very familiar with the phrase Catholic Action. It stands for many and different things. It seems to me that one of its forms could be the patronizing and mentioning of the advertisers in our Catholic Press. In this way, we make the advertiser realize that we appreciate our paper and consider it a worth while organ.

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