

Their Activities

OUR CATHOLIC WOMEN

Their Interests

Weekly Calendar Of Feast Days

(N. C. W. C. News Service) Sunday, July 2 - The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin. This feast recalls how the Blessed Virgin, through motives of Christian charity went to visit her cousin St. Elizabeth...

Monday, July 3. St. Heliodorus, Bishop, was born in Batnata. He sought out St. Jerome in order not to follow the latter's advice in matters relating to Christian perfection...

Tuesday, July 4 - St. Bertha, Widow, Abbess, had five daughters, two of whom are numbered among the saints. After the death of her husband she entered the nunnery which she had built at Blancy in Artois...

Wednesday, July 5. St. Peter of Luxembourg was born in Lorraine in 1369. At the age of twelve he went to London as a hostage for his brother, the Count of St. Pol...

Benjamin Franklin wrote: "Only two things in this life are certain - death and taxes." What the taxpayer resents is that they don't come in that order - Punch (London).

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions



THE MIRACULOUS PICTURE ITS HISTORY

By THE REV. FRANCIS J. CONNELL, C. S. S. R. (EDITOR'S NOTE: This article by Father Connell, noted Redemptorist author and radio speaker appeared in the Baltimore Catholic Review and he has given permission for its reprinting in the Catholic Courier in connection with the Via Merulana being conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers at St. Joseph's Church. Father Connell received his S. T. D. degree in Rome and has been teaching Dogma for 15 years. He is at present located at Mount St. Alphonsus, Esopus, N. Y. His writings have appeared in the Ecclesiastical Review, the Homiletic Review and other publications of high literary standard.)

On the Via Merulana in Rome there is a little church, over the main altar of which hangs a picture of the Blessed Virgin Mary. At this altar many of the young men ordained to the priesthood in the Eternal City offer the Holy Sacrifice for the first time; every year thousands of devout pilgrims from every quarter of the globe kneel in devout prayer before this sacred image.

The church is that of Saint Alphonsus; and the picture, that of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, of distinctly Byzantine type, the picture represents Mary holding in her arms her Divine Son, as a child of three or four years. Two other figures are depicted - the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, who are presenting to the gaze of Our Lord the cross, the nail, and the other instruments of the bitter passion and death which He is to endure on Calvary's heights. Fear and sorrow are manifested in the face of the Divine Child, while on the countenance of Mary is vividly portrayed an exquisite blending of compassion, mercy, love.

The history of the picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help furnishes a striking example of the unflinching solitude of the Almighty for the glory of her from whose immaculate flesh was formed the human body of the Eternal Word. About the year 1495 this image of the Mother of God was brought to Rome from Crete by a traveling merchant. When and by whom it was painted, we know not, but it seems very probable that it had been previously venerated in one of the churches of Crete, and was stolen by the merchant with a view to selling it in Italy. Shortly after his arrival in Rome, however, and before he could dispose of the precious picture, the merchant was stricken with a mortal illness. Approaching death inspired remorse, and wishing to make amends for his theft as best he could under the circumstances, the dying man summoned to his bedside a friend who resided in Rome, and begged this man to have the picture restored to public veneration in one of the many churches of the Eternal City. The friend promised to do so, but after the merchant's death, was persuaded by his wife to retain possession of the image. Several times Our Lady herself appeared to the fickle man in his sleep, reminding him of his promise; and he spurned these supernatural warnings. Then heaven's vengeance manifested itself, and he was seized with sudden sickness and in a few days was no more. His widow kept the picture for a time, but again Mary appeared, this time to the little daughter, and bade her tell her mother that the image must be enshrined in a church. Finally, urged by these apparitions and by several other supernatural occurrences in connection with the picture, the woman relented and delivered the painting to the ecclesiastical authorities. In speaking to the child, Mary had entitled the picture "Our Lady of Perpetual Help," and by this name it was henceforth to be known. Moreover, the Mother of God had herself selected the church in which her image was to be placed - the church, as she said, between the basilicas of St. Mary Major and St. John Lateran. This was a little church dedicated to St. Matthew; and here, on March 27, 1499, the picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was solemnly enshrined.

Remained in Obscurity For three hundred years the sacred image was venerated in the church of St. Matthew, and the numerous votive offerings placed before it spoke eloquently of the many favors obtained through Mary's intercession. But in 1798 the French military authorities, who had wrested Rome from the Vicar of Christ, ordered the church of St. Matthew to be demolished. Accordingly, the cherished picture was placed in the chapel of a religious community, and there it remained in obscurity for more than sixty years. In 1862, a Jesuit Father, preaching in the church of the Gesu in Rome, related the story of the famous picture, and especially emphasized Mary's desire to have the image enshrined in a church between St. Mary Major and St. John Lateran. This sermon aroused great interest, and people began to wonder where the picture was now located. It happened that the Redemptorist Fathers had built a church - Sant' Alphonsus - in 1856; between the two aforesaid basilicas. By a happy coincidence - or, rather, it would seem, by the providence of God - one of the Fathers remembered having heard as a boy the present location of the picture. Accordingly, the Superior General of the Redemptorists referred the matter to Pope Pius IX, and at the command of Christ's Vicar the image was carried to the church of Sant' Alphonsus and there restored to public cult on April 26, 1866.

The spread of the devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help throughout the world during the past sixty-seven years has been marvelous. Under this consoling title Mary is now known and loved in every land. In France alone there are more than 12,000 churches and public chapels in which reproductions of the celebrated picture are venerated. Between 1866 and 1897 one French firm manufactured more than fifty million medals of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. In the United States, especially through the efforts of the Redemptorist

SODALTALK

Recording the Activities of Rochester Parish Sodality Union

The plans for picnics and more picnics are progressing rapidly. St. Bridget's Sodality are planning their annual picnic which is to be held at Stella Maris on Conesus Lake on Sunday. By the way, did you know the primary title of St. Bridget's Sodality is Our Lady, Queen of Peace and that the first shrine ever to be erected in honor of Mary, Queen of Peace, is the shrine in St. Bridget's Church. Over the shrine is a beautiful painting of Mary interceding with Christ, the Prince of Peace. The history of the title and the shrine was a part of Father Bresnahan's sermon on the Sodality reception day. In connection with the reception, too, the celebrant at Benediction was a newly-ordained priest who was also a graduate of St. Bridget school.

In line with all these festivities that are going on, St. Peter and Paul Sodality held a social Wednesday evening. Dancing and cards and amusements for everyone made it an enjoyable evening for its patrons. The proceeds of the social go to the Church. Sunday evening, July 3, is the date of St. Peter & Paul Sodality reception. About fifty candidates are to be received. The Rev. Eugene Hudson is to be guest speaker.

St. Peter & Paul Sodality has a wonderful idea for raising money for their delegates to the Summer School of Catholic Action in New York City. Outdoor movies are to be shown throughout the summer. A revival of the pictures of the gay nineties promises great fun. Holy Ghost Sodality is also having its picnic Sunday, July 3, at Seneca Park. Not content with planning, organize these Sodality have their finger in the church picnic pie to be held on August first and second. The Sodality are going to make articles to be sold at the social. The money is to go to the Church. The prefect of Holy Ghost Sodality did a very lovely and thoughtful thing, although she modestly protests my praise. She made a convention scrapbook in which she put a copy of the program, Committee Literature, folders and typed copies of Father Lord. Father Fox and Miss Willmann's talks which she had taken down in shorthand on the day of the convention and she is giving this scrapbook to the Sodality Director who was unable to attend the Convention. I think he will be very pleased at this little considerate act.

Immaculate Sodality gave a little get-acquainted party to the new members last Wednesday. This is a wonderful step forward in making the Sodality a success for everyone seems to work so much better when all are acquainted. Just one little thought for your consideration - In Korea, every fall, every Catholic from the smallest child of seven to the oldest of the flock is given a Catechetical examination. What do you think your score would be on that exam? I wonder. GRADUATES TAKE PLEDGE St. Louis (NCWC) Christ The King Catholic School in University City, a suburb, here, has received pledges from 16 of its graduating class that they will abstain from intoxicating liquors until they are 21 years of age. St. Fathers, the devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help has taken deep root in the hearts of the faithful. The first public shrine in our country to Mary under this title was erected in St. James' Church, Baltimore, in 1868. In 1871, a shrine was established in the Redemptorist church in Boston, which has been the scene of many wonderful favors bestowed on the sick and the sorrowing. The city of St. Louis is another stronghold of this devotion; and in New Orleans, every Tuesday, the three Redemptorist churches together hold twenty-four services in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, at which the average attendance is 34,000. The basis of the title "Our Lady of Perpetual Help" - a title which it must be remembered, was chosen by Mary herself - is the comforting truth that the Mother of God, being Our Mother also, will never fail in her love and solicitude for her earthly children. Whether our limbs are throbbing with the vigor of life's springtime, or our time is shortening like a winter's day; whether our life is passed in the holy calm of the cloister, or our lot is cast among the distracting cares of the world; whether our soul is the sanctuary of innocence or is the den of sin - in any case, the assistance of Mary will be ours, with infallible certitude, if we but seek it with humble, confiding prayer. As deep as the sea is her love for us and as constant as the stars of the firmament; and because, of her love and her constancy, she is truly our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Rochester Diocesan Council of the National Council of Catholic Women

Office: 1020 Columbus Civic Center, 50 Chestnut Street

The Garden Tea and Bridge held last week in the garden of Mrs. Charles W. Mayor for the benefit of the Rochester Diocesan Council of the National Council of Catholic Women was a social and financial success. The Garden Gift, a beautiful amber necklace, donated by Mrs. Mayor, was awarded to Mrs. Fred Heindl of 231 Garson Avenue. Mrs. Thomas Cashman was the winner of the gift drawn for by the committee in charge, and Mrs. John Lamphier received a prize for selling the greatest number of tickets.

There will be no regular meetings of the Rochester Diocesan Council during June, July and August. The quarterly meeting of the board of directors of the Rochester Diocesan Council, National Council of Catholic Women, is to be held in Geneva, N. Y., on July 19th. Reverend Edmund A. Walsh, S. J., will be the guest speaker at the luncheon following. His subject will be "Soviet Russia and the United States."

We quote from our president's message for June: "The Bishops of the United States have entrusted the National Catholic School of Social Service to the National Council of Catholic Women. Its future is in our hands; what shall we do about it? As individuals? - As organizations?" Make the Vision a Reality Social work in the United States is at the cross-roads. In its three major fields - dependency, bodily and mental illness, and crime - it must decide which way to go. In the shaping of the larger social policies of our country, we Catholics may not hold ourselves aloof. However unworthy, we are the trustees of the social teachings of Jesus Christ, and we are faithful to that trust only in proportion as we give of our energy and substance in seeing that His teachings are put into practice. The task calls for trained intelligent leadership. Numbers are necessary but leaders are more necessary - leaders grounded in Christian justice and charity and second to none in experience and scholarship. Over a decade ago, in 1920, the National Council of Catholic Women recognized this need. They wanted to do something concrete, something that would in a practical way permeate the social fibre of our country with the life and ideals of our Saviour. They founded the National Catholic School of Social Service,

St. Monica's Auxiliary Has Annual Floral Day

At the regular monthly meeting of St. Monica's Ladies' Auxiliary, 161 Knight of St. John, held Monday evening of last week at the home of the president, Mrs. Annie Rosenthal, 645 West Main Street, this auxiliary observed its annual Floral Day. On Friday the members met at St. Mary's Hospital where they presented flowers and donations to the auxiliary. As in previous years the boys of St. Mary's and the girls of St. Patrick's Orphanage were remembered. For them there was an abundance of lily-pens, gum, soap, pencils and stationery as well as flowers. The annual picnic will be held at Ontario Beach Park at Pavilion No. 2 on July 17, from 10 A. M. to 10 P. M. Miss Eva Dengler will act as chairman. At this time friends and families of the members will be entertained by them.

VACATION TOURS

Chicago's World Fair

23 - Includes round trip rail ticket, 23 nights hotel room with bath, four admissions to fair, breakfast, 200 miles of Chicago, 24 hour bus, 24 meals, 24 transfers between hotel and station. Leave July 10, 17, 24 and every other Monday until August 10 or any day you wish. FROM - WELLS - or CALL -

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Edward L. Raftery

ROCHESTER TRAVEL BUREAU Powers Bldg., 15 State St. Main 1072

AS ONE WOMAN TO ANOTHER by SUZANNE Advertisement - Illustration of two women in a garden setting.

YOU VE been looking forward to the month of July vacation holiday. Many business people are not able to take a long vacation and the 4th offers a good chance to break the summer's routine. Just think this year you will have four whole days and six nights. You can start on Friday night and won't have to be back on the job until Wednesday morning. What an opportunity to indulge in care-free recreation!

But vacation doesn't mean the same thing to everyone. For example you may find great relaxation in rowing a boat but have you heard about the sailor who is even found in a boat while on shore leave? Hence these suggestions on how to make the Fourth take first place as a joyous jaunt.

HAVE YOU taken advantage yet of the sale of the Genesee Millinery is having? Before going away for the 4th, drop in and complete your wardrobe with a couple of new hats. Hats for 50c and 75c. Also their regular whites for \$1 and \$1.85. Genesee Millinery, 170 Genesee St. (near Bronson). Open evenings.

Consider bathing. For the majority it is the first attempt of the season. A great thrill to dive into cool refreshing waters and then to stroll along the beach, or to lie in the sun acquiring those vitamins!

There are those whose vacation longings are completely satisfied by mere bathing, but for others who yearn for something different, let's continue.

THE NOOK RESTAURANT, 14 Gibbs Street, serves the most delicious honest-to-goodness home-made pie and cake. They simply melt in your mouth. If you haven't had lunch there yet, the thing to do is to stop in some day, and let the food and atmosphere convince you that you should call again.

MAYBE, I'm peculiar, but if so, there are lots of others peculiar, too. There is just a certain way that I like my first wave. If it is right, the rest of the waves just somehow seem to be right. That's why I like Loretta's finger waves. She is really an artist at making the waves shape to fit the face. If you're peculiar, too, why not call Stone 4943, Loretta's Beauty Shop, 793 Avenue D. Evening appointments.

For the tired business man (and his wife), there is nothing like a game of golf. To a mind such as his, this game has a special appeal (and his wife likes to beat him at it!) His pride in his success in breaking par (or even winning a game) will serve not only as a topic of conversation, but also as a tonic for many a day.

For the smart young thing, tennis always holds an attraction. Every part of the body is used and stimulated. The yoke of listlessness resulting from bending long hours over a typewriter is thrown off and a new being emerges, gay energetic and lovely.

Before you go on that Fourth of July trip, whether it be to the lake shore or the mountains, be sure and get topped up at Bernstein's, 682 Park Ave. (beyond Berkley). The \$4.95 dresses are the very latest in silks, while the \$2.95's are the choicest of chic cottons. Open evenings.

There are few sports from which enthusiasm derives more honest-to-goodness pleasure than fishing. Every nibble sends a tremor of delight through the whole body, while waiting expectantly to see if the nibble will develop into a bite. Fishing is a perfect sport - for those that like it.

I enjoyed my lunch hour (spent in the Columbus Dining Room) so much last week that I took mother with me yesterday. She is even much more ardent in her praise than I was. You know, she is an expert cook herself and consequently knows what's what in dining. She as well as I recommend it to you. It would be a big treat for the whole family, so why not bring them up to dinner some-where. Columbus Civic Center Dining Room, 4th floor - Columbus Building.

Dancing is mostly an attraction for effervescent youth. Soft lights, and sweet music lend enchantment and brings romance, which is after all the greatest recreation.

Now does the call of cool, shady restful spots entice you - do you feel the urge to search for vital vim, vigor, and vitality? If so, our effort has not been wasted. We wish you a glorious holiday on the Glorious Fourth!

"752" LAKE AVENUE RESTAURANT ... Refined in Atmosphere... Superb in Foods and Service. DINING CHOICE DISHES prepared under the mastery direction of Chef Fred Pearson... DANCING SUAVE MUSIC by Alfie Valentine and His Orchestra... In the Main Dining Room EVERY DETAIL contributes to your enjoyment... In the Rathskeller BELOW STAIRS a friendly place where you can sit or stand to quaff a frothy glass of perfectly served "pre-cooled" beer. PRE-COOLED BEER means beer at its best. From the moment the beverage is made to the moment it foams in your glass, beer must be kept constantly at the right temperature. Otherwise, its fine flavor is lost. "Pre-cooling" equipment is just one more detail (and an important one) that makes this an outstanding restaurant.