

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions



NEVER VENTURE FROM HER SIDE

By THE REV. WILLIAM A. DOHERTY, C. S. S. R.

(The following article on the Resurrection was written for the CATHOLIC COURIER by Father Doherty, Redemptorist priest in charge of the Novena of Wednesdays in honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help conducted each Wednesday in St. Joseph's Church, Rochester.)

"Come and see the place where the Lord was laid." How I would have liked to have heeded that invitation of the Angel of the Resurrection. How I would have valued the privilege of seeing with my own eyes the great undeniable proof of Christ's Divinity. In these far off reflections that dimly bring me back to that grandest miracle of God on earth, I hesitated wonder just how I would have acted. Would I have responded to the angel's invitation with a heart that knew no doubt? Would I have knelt where God had been wrangled in shrouds and thanked Him for this glorious weapon that I and all the Church could wield victoriously against disloyalty to the Cross, and

against denial of its Victim's Divine Nature?

Would I have been as beautiful, as persistent, as self-sacrificing in my love and fidelity to my Rabbit as the apostle of the Apostles, Mary Magdalene? How would I have acted in that little episode in the garden? Would I have been as quick to recognize my Master in the garden or a disguise as she was? Would I have dropped to my knees in adoration as gratefully as she did, and would I have been as resplendent in my display of appreciation for the recognition that Christ had given me?

The Risen Christ and His Mother

These questions must remain unanswered except in the imagination and in the desires living in the heart. We are all inspired by the account of the Resurrection by the Evangelists but no matter how enrapturing it is, does not something seem to be missing? We all would like to have been there. We can all imagine how we would have acted. But into our musings creeps a thought of another. We wonder why nothing is said of Her. There is no mention of an apparition of Christ to His Mother. Why is this? No one knows why the inspired writers omitted this important detail. We know however that God never does useless things. Was it necessary to tell us that the Redeemer appeared to His Blessed Mother? Hardly. The mother would be the first that a human child would appear to if it had wandered into the land of death and returned. Were not the human traits of Christ enhanced and made more beautiful by His Divine qualities of Love? Then my opinion is formed. It was moulded by the writings of some of the ancients. St. Ambrose informs us that the Virgin was the first to see Jesus after His Resurrection, and that seems to be the tradition among the early Christians. So we too may hold that pious belief.

Was Mary Forgotten?

If we peruse the lives of the saints we become acquainted with the fact that Jesus was wont to console them in some way after they had endured a period of suffering. Maybe it was a sensible consolation. Perhaps another would be afforded a vision that would soothe the soul and leave in it a delectable peace and a refreshing gladness. In some way or other we see them receiving a remuneration from the hand of Christ for having suffered for Him. He spent forty days on earth after His glorious triumph and these were days of joy and happiness for the Apostles. Each apparition filled them, strengthened them, rewarded them. Was Mary forgotten? Who could even surmise it? Her recompense must have been the greatest. Her sorrow had been the deepest. Her joy must have been the highest. She was first in the Heart of the living Christ. She was indeed first in the Heart and the thoughts of the Risen Christ. Her love needed no strengthening, yet Her eyes no doubt longed for a vision of Death's Almighty Conqueror. Would Christ allow His Mother to pass down the remaining days of Her life with Her eyes dripping blood just because He had not effaced from them the terrible scene of Calvary? Why would He neglect to impress upon them alone the gorgeous picture of His Victory? No, we do not suppose He neglected this part of love. Our faith in His devotedness to Mary impels us to the opinion that She was the very first to gaze upon the bright and lustrous panoply of glory that adorned Him as He emerged from the war with Death.

Next of Mary's Protection

Again I wander off into the land of fancy. With what breathless awe I would have run with the Apostles to glimpse the Risen Saviour. My eyes would not be filled with seeing Him just once. I would be like Peter had been on Thabor: within me a heart burning to be there forever. But when I found out that such could not be I think I would have run in search of another in whose company my soul delighted to be. Maybe when I had found Her, I would avoid any introspection for fear I would detect in my actions a selfish motive. I know that I would have found in my soul somewhere this thought: "Be close to Mary, because She will certainly see the most of Her Risen Son." Nevertheless, I would be with Mary anyway, and does it not seem that this thought might have been in the minds of the Apostles? How they clung to the Mother of God during the aftermath of the Resurrection. Their fearful souls were timid of their own thoughts and until the coming of the Holy Spirit they were afraid to be seen on the streets. She was the Star

DENIES CHARGE SCHOLASTICISM THRUSTS VIEWS

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The point is a simple question of fact. Did the scholastics adopt the method of solving the problems of philosophy by an appeal to authority, or did they not? Your editorial writer says they did. I say they did not. I maintain that no reputable scholastic philosopher has ever advocated or defended this principle ascribed to scholasticism, that most great scholastic philosophers from St. Thomas Aquinas in the thirteenth century to Cardinal Mercier in the twentieth, have specifically and categorically repudiated the slavish and stupid doctrine as rightly charged to their account.

Cardinal Mercier Quoted

"In the nature of the case, the only rational way to resolve the sharp conflict of opinion is to appeal to the scholastic writers themselves to find out what they do teach. Here is what one of them has to say on the subject under discussion. He happens to be one of the greatest scholastic philosophers of our day. Cardinal Mercier, in matters bearing on doctrine, St. Thomas does not hesitate to declare that the argument based on human authority is the weakest of all arguments. After quoting Aquinas he makes the following observations of his own: 'These words contain a valuable answer to those superficial minds who imagine that scholasticism stands for the abdication of personal reasoning in favor of a blind following of authority' (Scholastic Philosophy, Vol. II, p. 187, 2nd Impression.) A host of scholastic writers sustain the same thesis."

Expect 5,000 at Elmira Holy Name Rally Next June

Elmira.—At least 5,000 men will gather at the first rally of Holy Name Societies of the Rochester Diocese to be held in Elmira this summer.

The date for the gathering has not been set, but it will probably be the middle of June.

Delegates to hold the rally in Elmira was reached at a meeting Sunday in Columbus Center attended by 100 delegates from all the societies in the Elmira diocese and of dioceses of the diocesan union.

The Elmira Holy Name Society, Union composed of the societies in Elmira, Owego, Waverly, Elmira Glen was organized at Sunday meeting with Clarence H. Kennedy elected as president.

Other officers chosen were: Vice-president, Dr. Walter C. Erwin; secretary, Thomas H. Dean, treasurer, John T. Reidy, marshals, Stephen Bednarck of Elmira and J. J. Anzeto, Watkins Glen. The diocesan rally has been held for two years in Rochester where more than 10,000 men gathered in the Rochester baseball park at dusk and participated in an exciting and delightful service. The Elmira rally will attract delegations from every church in the Rochester diocese. The Rev. Daniel C. McCarthy, spiritual director of SS Peter and Paul's Holy Name Society, presided at the election of officers Sunday afternoon. R. Edward Shlesinger and R. W. Criss of Rochester, Diocesan Union officials explained the organization of the Holy Name rallies in Rochester and pledged the support of the Diocesan Union and the Rochester societies. He stated that Rochester would send a delegation of 1,000 members to the rally here.

Seattle Priest Talks To Auburn Athletes

Auburn.—Rev. Terrance Loftus of Seattle, Washington, attended the Catholic Church Basketball League games last week at the St. Alphonsus Recreation Hall in Water Street. Father Loftus delivered a brief address to the members of the circuit during his stay in this city. Father Loftus was the guest of Rev. Frederick G. Straub, pastor of St. Alphonsus Church.

APPEAL HAS 120,000

London.—(NCWC) Signatures totalling 120,000 will be bound up for presentation to the Holy Father with the petition which is being carried to him seeking the canonization of Blessed Thomas More.

of the Stormy Sea upon which the Infant Church was being tossed. She shed Her influence over the cradle of Christianity. Never during all these centuries has Mary's watchful care grown colder. It is as constant now as then. It will always be constant.

We all want to see the vision of the Glorious Christ. That is the purpose of all our striving. But we never shall attain to it unless we cling to Mary's protection. Never upon our eyes will the Blessed spectacle of the Risen Saviour burst unless we are faithful to the Mother of Him who out-battled the staying sword of death and sin. We must never venture from Her side unless we care not a whit for Heaven. Our endeavors should pass under the benedictions of Her Hand; our lives be impressed with the seal of Her Love.

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The Catholic World Over

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tion of Philately sent to the Universal Postal Union in session in Cairo, the following communication: "If the number of the project attributed to the Soviet Government, appearing in the world press, is being in the near future a series of stamps having a clearly anti-religious character is true, the International Federation of Philately, aside from any political consideration, protests strongly against this proposal in the name of respect for religious convictions, this is to express the hope that the Soviet Government will not carry out the intention attributed to it, in a contrary case that such stamps will not be permissible in the international service. Mangay, president

The Rev. Bernard R. Hubbard S. J. who will head an expedition to Alaska leaving in May and returning in September will receive the cooperation of the National Geographical Society in exploration and mapping of the Alaska Peninsula and the adjacent Alutian Islands according to an announcement from Washington. The expedition under Father Hubbard will use an airplane for reconnaissance and the making of aerial photographs. 50,000 feet of standard motion picture film will be used and 1,000 still photographs will be made detailed follow up work on the ground has been planned using trained pack dogs. A portable wireless set will be taken along and weekly reports will be sent out. It is hoped that the collection of data in this important volcanic region may aid the forecasting of eruptions.

Rapid progress is being made by the Church in South Africa judging from the number of churches that are springing up all over the country. In little over a month the Apostolic Delegate has consecrated a new church in KwaZulu and blessed and opened a new church for the natives at Bloemfontein. About the same time Bishop Meyskens blessed and opened a new church at Kaale, British Bechuanaland. Protectorate. Bishop O'Leary opened a new church at Pretoria, Transvaal, and Bishop Hennemann opened a new church at Herolds Bay, Cape Province.

HOLY FATHER'S WISH It is the wish of our Holy Father that all American Catholics become members of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

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 2. Special members contribute six dollars a year and are privileged to enroll nine other persons, living or deceased.
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- Catholics of any age may join the Society.—The daily recitation of "Our Father" and "Hail Mary" and the invocation "St. Francis Xavier, pray for us" is a condition of membership. Deceased persons may also be enrolled by their friends as ordinary, special, or perpetual members.

Lourdes Described in 'Commonweal' Article by Sister of St. Joseph Here

"Lourdes—In Springtime is a miracle of beauty" writes Sister Rose Marie, Sister of St. Joseph and the head of the English Department of Nazareth College, in an article, "Lourdes in Springtime" appearing in the March 30 issue of COMMONWEAL.

Arriving at Lourdes on the first Friday of April last year and remaining there until Palm Sunday, Sister Rose Marie was impressed by the heavenly quiet, the tranquility, the living peace. "The grotto was at all hours the scene of absorbed and quiet prayer. Each supplicant is so intent to improve his own brief tryst with Our Lady, felt here as indeed a Mother, so close so close that he almost feels an apparition could make her no more securely known, so tenderly imminent does she seem in this spot."

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Chicago.—(NCWC)—The Rev. James C. Curry, director of the Council of Catholic Women, today announced that the organization has taken over the premises formerly known at St. Margaret's Home and will open it March 25 as a shelter for Catholic women. The building will accommodate 30 guests.

According to Father Curry there are 8,000 homeless women in Chicago, and later additional shelters will be opened.

SOCIAL WORKERS AT RETREAT HEAR SPIRITUAL SIDE OF WORK STRESSED

"Social work to be effective must be horizontal that is from God to man and not vertical from man to man," said the Rev. Hubert Sweeney, C. P., who conducted the second annual retreat for Catholic Social Workers in Columbus Civic Center Building, March 25 and 26.

The first social workers retreat was Bethlehem. Father Sweeney told the 100 retreatants, who represented the following institutions and organizations, Rochester Catholic Charities, The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Old Age Security, Department of Public Welfare, Probation Department of City Court, Genesee Institute and the Charles House.

Father Sweeney stated that men and women are failing in times of distress and that for want of spiritual resources, and one of the objectives of social workers should be to build up the resources of every person with whom they have contact. Referring to the attitude of social workers, Father Sweeney said, "their attitude in ministering to needy and dependent should be

of the same nature as that of the Lord Himself. In the most literal sense of the word, even in the most literal sense of the word, the social worker is a minister of God Himself."

For most of the afternoon, the ward Mooney, Director of the Center, officiated at the Holy Hour of Benediction which closed the retreat. Archbishop Mooney in a special address to the social workers told them that in their work they were performing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, in the fullest extent and they had the opportunity to see Christ when Christ Himself has most expressly said, "I have made this retreat success."

Archbishop Mooney, said they would receive the blessing of God and resume their social work with a higher and nobler motive. The Rev. Walter A. Curry, director of the Rochester Catholic Charities, was in charge of the arrangements for the retreat. A special retreat was held in Parish A of the Columbus Civic Center Building which blessed the retreatants to assist in their work and visit the Blessed Sacrament throughout the retreat.

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