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**WHY LENT?**

By Margaret B. Gerald

Never did a pleasure mad world, more indignantly ask that question than they do in these troubled days of 1942! "Our morale needs bolstering—who knows what another year may bring why should we not enjoy ourselves while we can?" Don't settle back now and look smug, for we are speaking not of the Pagans and those good Christians who are not of our faith, but of you and you and you, Catholic Men and Women, young and old.

Come now, let us hear your arguments, not the ones you use verbally, but the little, subtle, Satanic whisperings, of which, no one else knows. "Why yes, I go to Mass every Sunday and I seldom miss the Holy Sacrifice on a holyday, but this daily Mass, why I need my sleep the Lord doesn't expect that much of me. And the other extra devotions, for forty days, why I wouldn't be able to do my work, I'll get to church on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, though."

"And this fasting and abstinence what with all the rationing they promise, I guess I'll get my three squares a day. And movies or dancing, well, the three or four nights each week, that I have to myself couldn't be used in any better way."

**God Man Fasting**

Shame on you and your hardened selfishness! Come with me for a moment to a scene over nineteen hundred years ago, behold a God Man spending forty days and nights, alone in the desert, praying and fasting for you and for me in those days of the First Lent. See Him, the Saviour of Mankind looking down through the ages and resting His sorrowful eyes on the year of 1942. Grave are the lovely features, sad is His Sacred Heart, as He sees His children in the midst of a world war—a war, which He must permit because of the wickedness of the sons of men, a conflict which will wage on because men, created to His image and likeness have thrown aside their heritage.

Hear the soft gentle tones of His voice, throbbing with His love for men, pleading with you and with me. "Oh, ye of little faith, never did you need to pray more, never should you come so close to the shadows of my tabernacle, never

did I so urgently call you to self-denial and sacrifice."

**"Down on Your Knees"**

Ah yes, Methinks, He would echo the words of the Right Reverend Fulton J. Sheen—"Down on your knees. This war will not be won by fighting. I urge you to make an unbroken Holy Hour for peace every day while America is at war. Go to Mass and receive Holy Communion daily then stay on completing your Holy Hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament."

Why Lent? Must you, my fellow

Catholics, look further for an answer to your question. Rather why not Lent—a Lent such as we never had before—a Lent devoted to a veritable storming of Heaven in the cause of a holy and lasting peace, a Lent of sacrifices and self-denial. If the Son of God saw the need to withdraw from the world in which He was doing His Father's work, can we expect for ourselves a different lot?

Why Lent? Mgr. Sheen said, "It is not enough to remember Pearl Harbor—we must re-

member to Pray Harder." Can we not say then on our knees, with heads bent in humble petitions, but with eyes raised in faith to the Cross of our Redemption, Why Lent? And answer—"So that our Crucified Saviour, may accept our little sacrifices, our tiny self-denials, our Praying Harder, and give us an Easter morn, when peace again reigns o'er the world. Why Lent? So we can remember to Pray Harder and never forget that an Easter followed that First Good Friday.

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**WEDDINGS**

**Andrews - Sullivan**

A simple but lovely Valentine Day ceremony took place Saturday morning, Feb. 14, at St. Monica's Church when Florence M. Sullivan of 115 Genesee Park Blvd. became the bride of Capt. George Andrews, Rochester Fire Bureau, of 240 Mulberry St.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. William F. Bergan, Chancellor of the diocese, and pastor of St. Monica's received the vows before an altar trimmed with snapdragons and carnations. In the Sanctuary also was the Rev. Howard W. Geck, cousin of the bride.

Attendants were William D. Staub, brother of the bride, and former Detective Captain Anthony A. Andrews, brother of the groom. Following the ceremony breakfast was served at Hotel Seneca for members of the immediate families and friends after which Mr. and Mrs. Andrews left on an extended motor trip to Miami Beach, Florida.

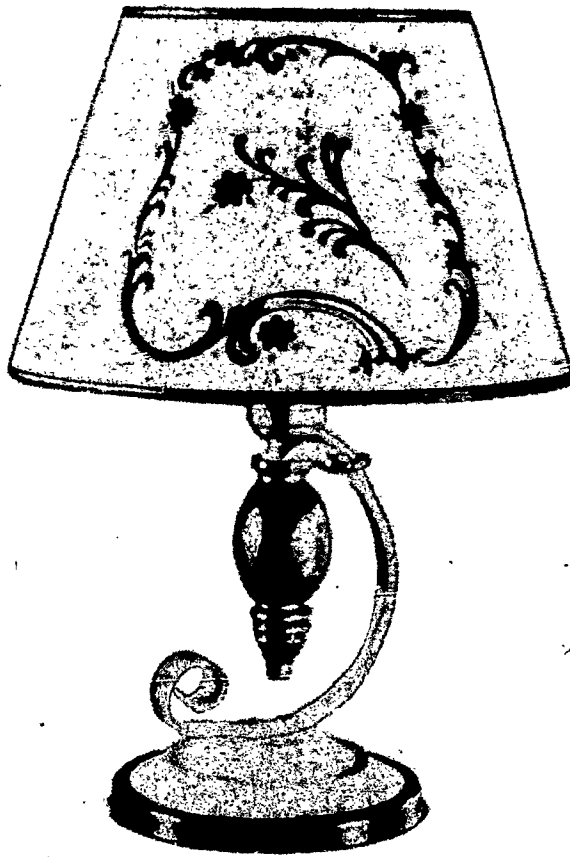
Pre-nuptial parties included: luncheon by Mrs. John Geck, a tea by Mrs. Charles Sitter, shower by Ladies' Auxillary, Knights of Columbus; shower by Rosary Society of St. Monica's Church, shower and luncheon by Mrs. F. Hubbard, valentine party by Mrs. William Strohm and Ladies' Auxillary of Locomotive Engineers, luncheon at the Rochester Club by Miss Agnes Eckl, a luncheon at Hotel Seneca by Mrs. John L. Schnorr.

After April 5, Mr. and Mrs. Andrews will be at home at 115 Genesee Park Blvd.

**Nuns Take Advanced First-Aid Training**

NATCHEZ, Miss.—Having completed the standard Red Cross first-aid course, Holy Ghost Sisters and Sisters of Charity here are taking advanced training to make them eligible for an instructors' course offered by the Red Cross. There are 22 Sisters enrolled.

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