

Eighth from St. Bon's
NYVALO. The Rev. Donald J. Mag. O.F.M., pastor of St. Bonaventure Church, Albany, and a member of the faculty of St. Bon-

aventure College has been commissioned in the Army Chaplain Corps. He is eighth member of St. Bonaventure College faculty to become a chaplain.

DR. MCGUIRE

(Continued from Page 10)

being torn, selected the author to recommend the name to St. Francis de Sales, and to present him that if the child lived she would be called Frances. The mother refused.

Of course, she was baptized in Latin by the name Theresa. But the French had their own form for the name. That is no reason for us to use the French form and reject the Spanish form after it has been demonstrated and announced by me for 200 years. (St. Theresa the Great was announced in 1522.)

It is true that the Sisters of the Saint of Lisieux advised, or at least expressed their preference, that the French form be used in English. But, with all due respect to these good women, we are not obliged to take their advice in this matter. The reason they give for the advice is rather absurd—so that she might not be confounded with the Saint of Avila! The name has the same form (Theresa) in French for both Saints. Why suggest that we are so stupid, or slow to confusion, if in English we use the same form for both? But there are other reasons why we should not use the French form. There is probably not one English speaking Catholic in a hundred—if we take the whole world of English speaking, I would venture to say not more than one in a thousand—who can pronounce the French name. Hence the actual confusion comes simply from using the French form, not the reverse. If the good nuns at Lisieux had known or reflected on that, I doubt that they would have given the advice. Besides our printers are not prepared to print correctly the French name. It requires two accents, the grave and the acute. In the ordinary printing office they have not these. Only a week or two ago I have noticed another confusion. Some one sent me a Catholic paper with an article on the Saint of Lisieux. The name in this article is repeatedly written Theresa, leaving out the "s"—and the accents too. What the writer—and the article is a very good one—means by this innovation, I cannot make out. Does he really think that the name of the new Saint is different from that of her "Holy Mother"? Or is he trying to make the French form easier for his readers who are ignorant of French? I don't know.

What of "The Little Flower"? The author of half a dozen books on Lisieux published in this country tells us in one of them that this is the name by which the Saint of Lisieux wished to be called and that this is the name by which she is known throughout the whole world. There is no truth in either statement. She compared herself to a little flower. But that is something quite different. The Blessed Virgin has been compared to a lily, but nobody will say that is her name. The Saint of Lisieux is called the Little Flower only in the countries of English speech. I have never heard or seen her called the Little Flower in any country or language of the Continent. In Spanish she is called Teresita and in Italian Teresina, in these two languages the diminutive forms of Teresa, names that must surely be a source of joy to the Saint herself. I think I have read in the past 20 years all the books published at Lisieux. In not one of them is she called the Little Flower. I have here in my room a letter from a nun in the Convent at Lisieux in which she expresses the sorrow of the Community that we still persist in the sentimentality of calling their Saint the Little Flower.

What then, is her name? What should we call her? The answer is easy. We should call her what the Church calls her, what she is called in the Breviary, in the Missal and in the papal documents—Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus (or Infant Jesus). That is her official liturgical name. In that way she is easily distinguished from the Saint of Avila, whose official liturgical name is St. Teresa of Jesus. She of Avila had chosen that name for herself when she abandoned the mitigated Carmelite rule and founded the strict Order of Discalced Carmelites.

When there was only one Saint Teresa she was frequently called just Saint Teresa, or St. Teresa of Avila. One of her biographers entitles her book Saint Teresa of Spain. There is no objection to calling her still St. Teresa of Avila, nor to calling the new Saint, Saint Teresa of Lisieux. There is no danger of confusing one with the other. There is no sense, nor logic, nor special piety in calling the New Saint, Theresa or the Little Flower.

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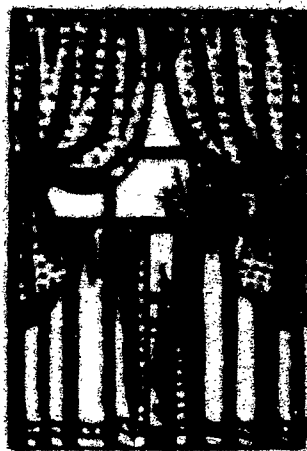
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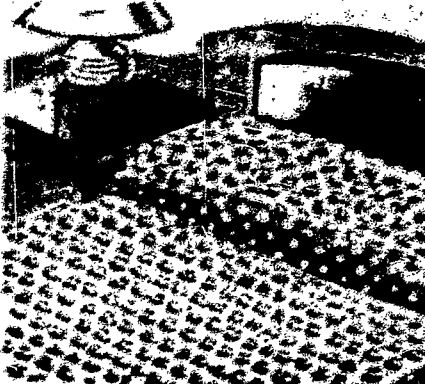
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