

The Birth of a Queen

September 8—A Virgin is Born

The lovely daughter of Joachim and Anne came into the world on the eighth of September. She exceeded in grace and beauty any child yet born. Her lovely eyes shone with

the grace of God that was in her. Wrapped tight in swaddling clothes, her sweet Countenance supplied the gestures denied to her baby hands.

Day by day she grew more beautiful and more perfect. One day her Mother set her on her feet and loosened her. Seven faltering steps were made before she was clasped again in her Mother's arms. Overjoyed, Anne exclaimed: "Oh my God! before my child walks another step, allow me to offer her to Thee in the Temple."

Joachim overheard the mother's prayer and cried out: "No, not yet; you have consecrated the child from her birth, but wait till she no longer needs a mother's care." To which Anne answered a grateful "Amen."

We know that everything offered to God ought to be very pure and lovely; and the soul of the Blessed

Virgin was inconceivably beautiful, so that in creating it God saw that it was "very good."

Her mother, too, knew something of this, but could not grasp the extent of her privileges. As the spotlessness of her immaculate Conception placed her above all creatures, so her intellect developed beyond all comprehension that she might some day understand and cooperate in the action of her Divine Son.

Before the birth of Mary the world was lost in the darkness of sin. "Mary was born and the dawn arose," says a holy father. Of Mary it had already been said, "Who is she that cometh forth as the morning rising?" As the earth rejoices when the dawn appears, because it is the precursor of the sun, so also when Mary was born the whole world rejoiced, because

she was the precursor of Jesus Christ the Sun of Justice, who, being made her Son, came to save us by His death; hence the Church sings, "The Nativity, O Virgin Mother of God, announced joy to the whole world; for from Thee arose the Sun of Justice who has given us life eternal."

So that when Mary was born our remedy, our consolation, and our salvation came into the world; for through Mary we received our Savior.—The Servite.

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Catholic Information

Subway Mystery

A young lady enters the subway and sits opposite to us. She opens her hand-bag, while veteran commuters, with ingrained curiosity, wait to see what type of compact will appear. Instead our young lady draws forth a string of beads. She crosses them in the palm of her hand while she slowly fingers each bead. At the same time her eyes close and her lips move almost imperceptibly.

To us there was nothing strange about all this. The young lady was a Catholic. She was saying the Rosary in honor of the Mother of God.

The beads themselves are merely a method of tabulation. There are five groups of beads called a "decade," each numbering ten beads, and separated by a larger bead. When Catholics finish the large bead they recite the "Our Father" or the Lord's Prayer, on each of the ten smaller beads they recite the "Hail Mary" or the Ave Maria. "THE HAIL MARY"

Now whenever Catholics pray the Rosary they believe that the Mother of Christ is listening to them, and here is what they actually say "Hail Mary"—they greet the Blessed Mother as they would their own mother when returning from work in the evening. "Full of Grace"—every woman likes to be told that she is graceful and beautiful; Catholics are perpetually attracted and amazed by the super-natural beauty of the Mother of God, and they tell her so. "The Lord is with Thee"—God's favor has been so abundantly poured out upon Mary like a sweet smelling ointment that His Presence with her and His preference for her cannot be mis-

taken. "Blessed are Thou among women"—Catholics do not know how to put it all into words, so like confused children they sum it up by simply telling Mary that among all women of all times she is the greatest. "Blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus"—Mary is also a mother, the Mother of Christ, and no woman is more deeply moved than by a sincere unaffected tribute to her child. "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners"—this is the humble, simple cry of a child to its mother. And in this case the mother happens to be one who is aware of all our difficulties and able, by her powerful intercession, to remedy them. Catholics ask Mary to pray for them "now," but especially at the hour of death—the most decisive moment of their lives. They ask her to be present with them, to strengthen and guide them through the dark portals of death into the endless dawn of eternity where she is Queen.

WHY SHOULDN'T THEY?

Too, when Catholics talk to Mary through their Rosary, they think of her sometimes as the Joyful Mother leaning over the crib of Bethlehem and listening to the voices of Angels showering the heavens with a silvery spray of music; other times as the Sorrowful Mother standing beneath the blood-drenched form of her crucified Son; or again as the Glorious Queen of Heaven.

The Rosary is a prayer Catholics love to say. Many of them recite it daily. And if it is true, as they deeply believe, that the Mother of Christ is continually mindful of them, why shouldn't they greet her in return—even in a subway car? (Catholic Information Society of New York)

Students Report Family Prayers Skipped in Homes

ALBANY, N. Y.—Family prayer is neglected in the average Catholic home, according to "an amazing majority" of students at the Vincentian Summer High School here who participated in a questionnaire sponsored by The Evangelist, official organ of Albany Diocese.

Recitation of the Rosary by the family group, and the saying of Grace before and after meals were "especially mentioned" as lacking, the publication revealed.

Over 80 per cent of the replies expressed the belief that training in Catholic high schools had "made them a better Catholic man or woman." 80 per cent declared that this training had been sufficient to enable them "to explain the Mass to a non-Catholic of their own age."

The questionnaire disclosed that 10 per cent of the boys and girls queried noted parental indifference to the presence of "trashy magazines" and the lack of interest in Catholic periodicals in the home; a few complained of reticence at home in regard to instruction on matters of sex; and a majority felt that "the Catholic school should go beyond its line of duty and make up in some way for wartime defects in home training."

HEAD MEN Two psychoanalysts met. One said to the other: "You feel fine. How do I feel?"

Send the "Children's Corner" to the children, Page 18

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