

A FAMILY PRACTICE COMMENDED BY PASTORS

The Rev. Dr. Edgar Schmiedeler, O.S.B.

Recently we asked a number of pastors for their views regarding a number of practices that might help to strengthen the family bond of religion. Questions were put to them regarding helpful practices that might be fostered within the home and such as might be fostered within the church. The responses received showed a very keen awareness of the good that might derive from efforts to vitalize anew the religious bond of the family.

One question, for example, read as follows: "What do you think of the practice, now showing some growth, of parent and offspring Communion days on a certain Sunday of each month — parents receiving side-by-side (flanking) their children at the altar-rail?" The answers of the pastors to the question will more than likely be of interest to the laity. Hence we shall give a number of them by way of examples. Approval was very close to universal, though here and there some little reservation was made, or some potential difficulty in carrying out the practice was pointed out.

sung Gregorian Chant Mass in which the whole congregation joins."

"Splendid; but doubtful whether it can be done as often as monthly."

"Perhaps with a little zeal and thought we can work out an arrangement that will foster this praiseworthy practice and still leave our Holy Name, St. Anne, and other societies intact."

"In some instances it might lead to embarrassment, namely, if one of the members would not be able to receive."

"I believe it a highly praiseworthy practice and if encouraged could do a lot of good by way of developing solidarity in the home. To me there would seem no better place for cementing the love that should be in the home than at the Communion-rail."

"I think this is one thing we should all foster. The only possible question is the extent to which it can be done to best advantage."

"That is what the zealous pastors of parishes think about the matter. And now I am wondering what the interested laity may think. Perhaps they will tell us."
(N. C. W. C. Feasares)

PASTORS APPROVE

"It is an excellent practice."

"A practice to be highly recommended."

"It is a pity that it was ever stopped."

"I know a number of pastors who are coming back to it."

"That is actually the practice here; no thought of changing."

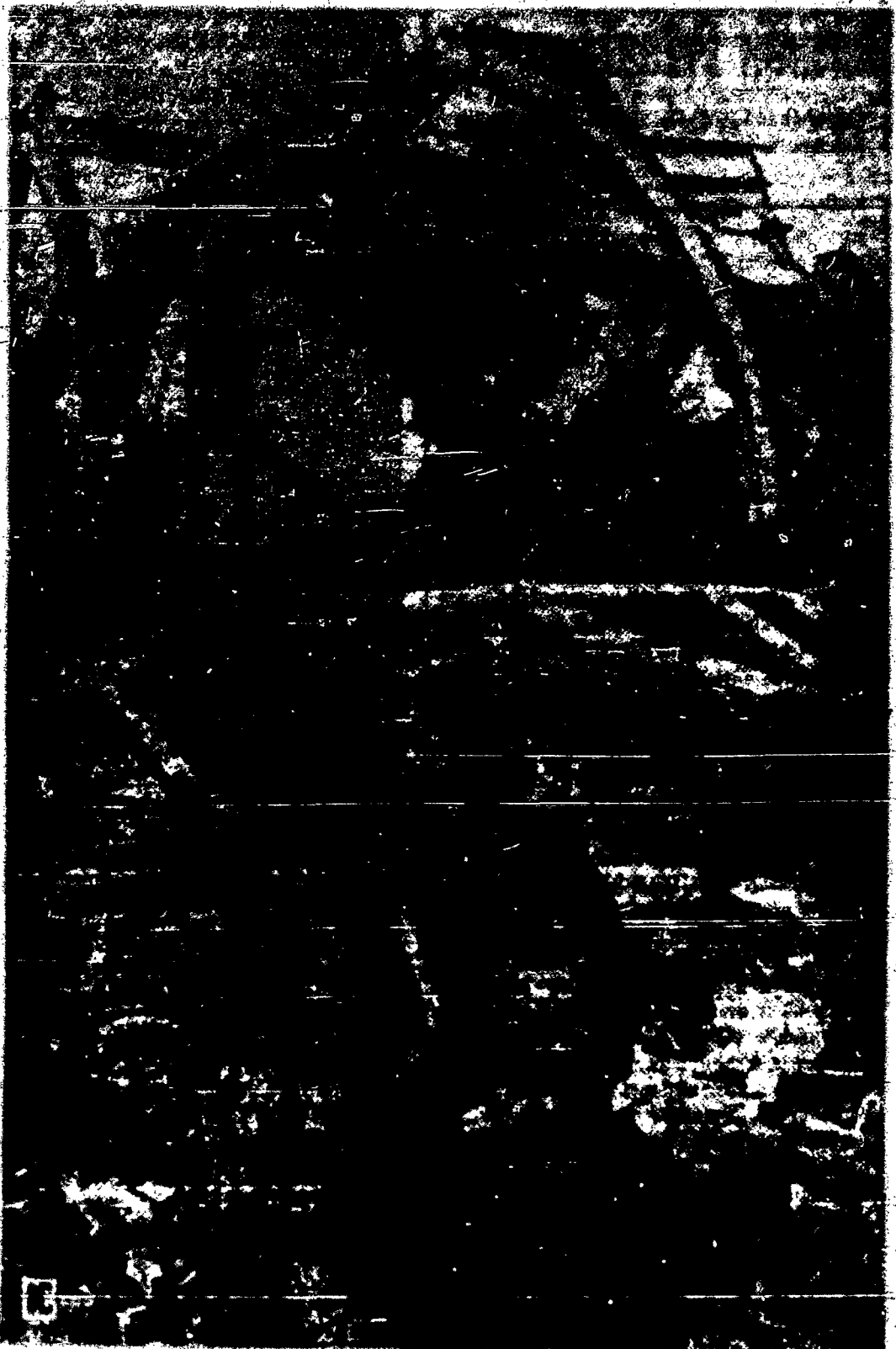
"Always observed here on the fifth Sundays that come along — no sodalities or societies to interfere."

"We have it once a year on Mother's Day. It might lose its appeal if observed too often."

"A good idea, a move in the right direction."

"We have discontinued the practice of regular general Communion days and invited the whole family to the Communion Table together. We have discontinued the children's Mass and substituted a

IN THE RUINS OF A DUTCH CHURCH



Her back to a ruined church, "somewhere in Holland," a little Dutch girl holds two statuettes she managed to salvage from the debris and watches British troops pass through her village in pursuit of, retreating Germans. INF. photo. (N.C.W.C.)

Rochester Diocesan Council N. C. C. W. Columbus Civic Centre Lobby

We quote from a letter received from our National Chairman of the Committee on Shrines in the Home:

"Christmas, the birthday of the first Christian family, seems a particularly appropriate time to bring you a thought which our Episcopal Chairman, Bishop Noll, gave us at the Toledo convention. He referred to an article written for *Columbian* by Joseph A. Breig, in which Mr. Breig said:

"The family, everybody agrees, ought to be stable. Now the way to make it stable is to make it happy. The way to make it happy is to make it holy. And the way to make it holy is to help it grow in spiritual things as it grows in other things as a unit. . . . A father and mother and children ought to sanctify one another. It is thus that any one of them will best sanctify himself."

"The efforts of our Shrines committee have always been exerted toward personal and family sanctification. Let me urge you to ever more intense dedication to this great work. There are so many things for us to do. We should continue and intensify our efforts to have a shrine in every Catholic home, to erect Christmas cribs in homes and public places, to foster the use of religious Christmas cards, to encourage family prayer.

Bishop Noll has called to our attention the need of the spiritual growth of the family as a unit. In what better way can we help than by encouraging family prayer; and what better prayer is there than the daily family Rosary? Our Holy Father sets the example in calling together each evening the members of the Papal household to recite the Rosary in common. We may join with His Holiness and with the members of our families in the far-off theaters of war when, in a family circle, we offer our prayers to Mary and ask her all-powerful intercession with Her Divine Son."

This week we gratefully acknowledge the renewed affiliation of the Rosary Altar Society and Our Lady's Sodality of St. John the Baptist Church of Elmira, and the Rosary Guild of Immaculate Conception Church, Rochester.

"DAY OF RECOLLECTION" HELD FOR MARRIED COUPLES

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (RNS) — A unique "day of recollection" for married couples was held recently at the Academy of the Sacred Heart here.

The spiritual retreat, in which 37 couples, including two Negro couples, took part, featured a series of conferences on home and marriage problems, and concluded with the renewal of marriage vows. The couples previously attended Mass at their own parish churches.

Hate is Cancerous

Love your friends and hate your enemies is not a Christian adage. Besides, it is not a happy advice. The human heart was made to love, not to hate. Hate is a cancerous growth in the heart of man. Hate makes the soul unclean. It is the opposite of love.

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JUNIOR CDA

MORNING—Meetings of Troops 1, 8 and 10 of the Junior Catholic Daughters of America were held recently at the homes of Beatrice Ketchum, Mary Brady and Mrs. Angelo Buffomante, respectively.

In attendance at the home of Miss Ketchum were the Misses Anne Lentricchia, Mary Agnes Keane, Eleanor Keane, Helen Nitsche and Mrs. Francis Rotzell, counselor.

Troop 8 made plans for a Christmas party to be held Dec. 15. Present were the Misses Barbara

Mixon, Mary Carr, Mary Brady, Patricia Ruppert, Virginia Antonacchi, Helene Gehl and Mrs. Angelo Buffomante and Mrs. Mary Woepfel, counselors.

Miss Molly Sweeney was elected president of Troop 10. Chosen to serve with her were: Miss Alice Shinnars, vice-president; Miss Margaret Currie, secretary and treasurer.

Others present at the meeting were: The Misses Freda Moses, Helen Patrick and Patricia Jack.

Germany should have bid for peace before the price was so high. —Southwest Courier.

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