Sodality of Our Lady

Give Them Mary

By REV. ROY B. MORPHY
Diocesan Director for Sodalities

The Sodality slogan, "To Christ through Mary," makes the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25) especially dear to all Sodalists. This Feast of Our Lady proclaims the first step in God's plan of Redemption, when the Word of God was made Flesh of the Virgin Mary. The Sodality aims always at reaching Christ by the imitation of His Mother. The Sodality feels that as through her Christ first came into this world, so also through her He must be given to the world again in our time.

The world as never before needs Mary. Sodalists are aware, however, of the fight viciously waged today against Christ and His Blessed Mother. One example is Upton Sinclair's books, published about two years ago, wherein Mary is portrayed in horrifying phantasy, the least of which is her amazement at the confusion arising from the innumerable legends regarding her. Upton Sinclair's book is unimportant save that it portrays the modern mind regarding Mary. I recall a recent attack of a nationally known religious leader at a huge St. Louis assembly. Assailing the preeminence of the Catholic Church in South America, this Protestant Bishop cried out amid shouts of unanimous assent that the all-saving bible must replace the monstrous statues of the Catholic Mary.

Falsely Presented

Our stage and screen today may be guilty of many offences. Their worst offence, however, is the building up of a false idea of life. They present women who are entirely different from Mary. They glorify now the glamor girl and idealize the woman of achievement, disdaining the sacredness of Christian motherhood and the truth and dignity of purity.

Against the modern conception of womanhood the Sodality pits the Mother of Christ, whose true womanliness still appeals to all. The startling results of the Scapular devotion evidence Mary's attraction to persons of all kinds. We have seen the effect which devotion to Mary has had upon our youth during the past days of war. We were astounded at the tremendous rise of devotion to Our Lady of Fatima and the singular success of Father Peyton's Rosary Crusade.

The Sodality's unique privilege is that it is the Sodality of Our Lady. We are Sodalists, companions of Our Lady. Lady is an ancient term of gallantry, which is found with like sweetness and beauty in every language. It is significant that the Sodality is of Our Lady. For we see what is happening to our modern ladies, to women today.

Must Restore Dignity

Are we giving our Sodalists the Blessed Virgin Mary? Mary is the most contemporaneous of human beings. She is the answer to the contemptuous attitude evident on the stage, on the screen and in the cocktail lounge. She is the challenge to the glamor girl and the juke box girl. Today even the professional prostitute suffers from the amateur competition offered by younger girls. There has been a dropping of the dignity of womanhood, a dignity that is the very source of man's respect and love for woman.

Mary has dignity, real dignity. Through her we must restore the forgotten dignity of women. Through her we must show that this dignity is not incompatible with decent and legitimate pleasure. Through her we must make known woman's dignity by rightly presenting woman's connection with the very source of life. Through her we must show that this dignity demands purity and decency. We must show our youth that our magazines and movies to the contrary, purity does pay by showing them that Mary the Virgin received God as her Son.

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Modern Martyrs

The Holy Father, after his recent condemnation of Soviet persecution of Ruthenian Catholics, now appeals for relief of 300 priests, who have had to flee to American-occupied Germany. Won't you help them?

TWO YEARS A BISHOP, NOW SENDS S.O.S.!

Bishop Joseph Cheikho of Teheran, Iran, became a bishop just two years ago. What a record in these two years! With zeal worthy of an apostle, he has built churches and schools, and he has lived with his poor.

When he went to Iran after his consecration, he found the Presbyterian missionaries all too active, with plenty of money to attract the seven thousand separated Christians he hoped to bring into the fold.

In one place, the Presbyterians have a beautiful church, two schools and a hospital, while the Bishop has nothing at all. You know there is a limit to his human endurance, especially when the only obstacle to working for souls is money.

Won't you answer Bishop Cheikho's latest S.O.S.? June 11 is his second anniversary and we do wish we could send him a thousand dollars for a chapel. But any gift will show him that we wish him well.

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"AIN DJAR"

In this little town outside Beirut, Syria, two lonely Sisters of the Immaculate Conception have an orphanage for Christ's poor little ones. Can we, with your help, send them two hundred dollars urgently needed? A deposit in "MARY'S BANK" for Near East nuns does much.

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UNFINISHED

A Near East friend left a bequest for a chapel in Bishop Paul Salman's diocese of Iran, but it was not quite enough. Can you give five hundred dollars to complete this house of God? It will be half yours.

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SOLEMN MASS

How would you like to boast that a whole Solemn Mass in an humble Near East chapel is specially yours? Vestments, altar, chalice, Mass book, censer can be given by you for one hundred and thirty-seven dollars.

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EASTER THOUGHT

It is not too soon to think of that gift card, which we send to your friends beloved. It tells them that you have had Mass offered for them.

"THINE OWN SOUL!"

On March 22, feast of Our Lady's Seven Sorrows, give even a mite to the fund for the memorial chapel which we hope to build on the devastated island of Corfu, in memory of our war dead.

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EVER FAITHFUL

In southern Italy are the so-called Italo-Greeks, impoverished people who have remained faithful to the Church in weal and woe. We need eight hundred dollars to complete a house we have established in the Greek College, Rome, to train one of their priests every year. Can you help?

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SINAK

Father Noel and his Carmelite Fathers run a little school at Sinak for the very poor, and they urgently ask eight hundred dollars to keep it going. Perhaps you will want to help these valiant missionaries of Iran.

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JOSEPH'S MONTH

March is St. Joseph's month, and we are hopeful that you will not forget St. Joseph's School in Baghdad. A dollar monthly to THE BASILIANS, our School Club, will help.

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BLOOD DRENCHED

Many Near East priests have become martyrs, shedding their blood through the chasubles of their Mass vestments. So the members of our MONICA GUILD, Near East Altar Sodality, are proud to give a dollar monthly for vestments. You will be in holy company, if you join.

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WHAT A SAINT!

St. John of Damascus, feasted on March 27, was tax-gatherer for the Mohammedans. During Lent, read "God Wills It", our pamphlet on 300,000,000 Moslems in the world. Ten cents for the missions brings it to you.

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STRINGLESS

"This day thou shalt be with me in Paradise!" That's what a stringless gift to Christ's poor in the Near East can merit for you.

Send all communications to
Catholic Near East Welfare Association
480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York 17, N. Y.

Maryknoller to Visit Diocesan Schools

The Rev. James Courneen, M. M. of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of Maryknoll will visit schools in the Rochester diocese in the interests of "Vocation Month."

Father Courneen, whose home is in Rochester, is coming on the invitation of the Rev. Dr. Charles J. Mahoney, superintendent, Catholic Schools, Diocese of Rochester.

K. of C. Squires Grow

Chicago — (NC) — The Chicago organization of Columbian Squires, Knights of Columbus youth auxiliary, is planning to increase from six to 18 units before the organization's first anniversary here in June.

Hint or Two on What to Do About Spring Formals

By Sheila John Daly

EVERY year around this time fellows and gals in high schools get dewey-eyed and sentimental, send their tuxedos to the cleaners or start leafing thru fashion magazines looking for something smooth in striped taffeta, and begin to look over the field in search of an interesting date partner.

Sheila John Daly

So let's start from the very beginning, with the invitation to the dance. Some eager beavers ask their gals as much as three or four months in advance, working on the theory that the girl might want to raise her formal from a silkworm. But two weeks is about the minimum notice to give a gal for a big school prom. She can't just whip up a formal out of a few safety pins and an old bedroom drape if you postpone the invitation till too late for her to plan otherwise.

And then, of course, there are "the flowers that bloom in the spring, tra-la." A smart joe will check either with the girl or with one of her friends to find out what color formal she'll be wearing on the big night, 'cause no gal wants to turn up in a sheer yellow formal weighted down with a corsage of orange and red zinnias. Gardenias, camellias, or an orchid (all right, so you're being a big time operator tonight —two orchids!) still rate tops on a gal's list of posy preferences. With one of these you can hardly go wrong.

Happy as a gal is to receive the extra thrill of flowers, it's sometimes a problem to locate them comfortably where they'll last out the night. If you want to wear them on your dress, pin them on the left shoulder or at the waist to keep them from being crushed while dancing. But you can pin a posy almost anywhere. A girl may wear them pinned at the side or the back of her hair-do, tied with a velvet ribbon around her wrist, or pinned to her fabric evening bag. But even if she has to carry it in her teeth a la Carmen, the girl must wear the corsage the boy sends.

And then there's the transportation problem. On any other night your date would probably be happy to hop a street car with you, or even put on her hobnail boots and trek cross-country; but this is a special evening. So if you weren't able to talk your family into letting you use the car, arrange to double with some one who is driving or plan to take a cab both ways. In planning your share-the-ride club try to have two couples per car, or at the most three. You don't want the corsages to wilt from lack of oxygen, now do you? Just make sure to have some plans for coming and going, for no girl, no matter how good-natured, wants to gather up her skirts and puddle-jump all the way home.

And no matter how eager you are to trip the light fantastic as soon as the music starts, make it a point to greet the chaperons within the first half hour after you arrive. If either you or your date knows the chaperons, that one introduces the other. But if you're both strangers, the fellow introduces himself and then his date. Just a few bright words like "Aren't the decorations nice?" or, "I simply love the band we have," and then off you can go again, your duty done.

The dance programs may now be only something to save in your memory book, it's still fun to go thru the ritual of filling out the schedule. Perhaps you want to dance with your girl straight thru the night, but give the other joes a chance, too. You'll get a minimum of the first, middle, and last dance with your favorite honey chile, so don't be eager, beaver — she'll be around all night.

And after the band has played three extra dances and has run "Good Night, Ladies" straight into the ground, it's time to go home. Or is it? Often families make concessions on special nights like this and move the curfew up a few hours. Perhaps you'll want to go in a group to a theater-restaurant or (heaven forbid!) some place where you can dance. In many towns it is the custom to go to private parties after the prom, often starting at one house and making the rounds, ending at some wee hour with a bacon and egg breakfast, then wending your weary way home to be set on the doorstep with the milk and the morning dew. So long as you have the parental okay, and there are two or three older persons hovering in the background at the parties, this is an all right arrangement on such festive evenings.

Do you have the rules well in mind? Can you reel them off backward and forward? Why, you're all set! Then waltz me around again, Willie — we're going to have a wonderful time!

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