

Rochester, N. Y.

## Holy Childhood Association

Rev. John S. Randall  
Director

(Twenty-seventh of the winning essays on mission topics is the following by an Eighth grade girl of St. Francis Xavier School, Rochester.)

### ST. THERESE (THE LITTLE MISSIONARY)

By Mary Ann DeLauria

On January 2, 1873 in Rue St. Blaise, France a baby girl was born. Two days later she was christened Marie Frances Therese Martin. Little Therese was a lovable affectionate child. She brought great joy to her parents and her older sisters. Though she was so lovely, this small girl was very stubborn until she was three years old. Then she understood that God does not want his children to be stubborn, and from that time she was never known to disobey anyone.

At the age of four years Therese's beloved mother died; she then chose her sister, Pauline, to take the place of her another.

In a few years Pauline entered Carmel. Therese missed her so much that she became quite ill. It was at this time that she decided, she, too, would become a nun.

Therese longed to receive our Lord in Holy Communion but according to custom she had to reach the age of eleven before she could receive our Lord. The preparation for her First Communion lasted for long years. On that long sweltering day Therese was very happy. Later she spoke of this day as the most beautiful day in her life.

At the age of fifteen Therese decided she was ready to enter the convent; she had many troubles before she could do so. The superior of the convent thought she was too young, so the Bishop, though, and did her hair up when she went to see him, so that he would think she was grown up. These easily broke her heart; however, she was patient and did not complain, because she knew Jesus was just trying her courage. She was determined to enter, so she went with her father on a pilgrimage to Rome to ask the Pope's permission. But even he said she must wait until the superior of the convent would consent. It seemed that all hope was gone. But at last on December 28, the feast of the Holy Innocents, she was notified that she could enter at Easter Time. On April 1, 1888 Therese entered Carmel. The parting from home and her dear father were hard, nevertheless, she was willing to do anything for Jesus.

On her clothing day Therese waited for snow. The day was mild and clear outside. In the afternoon it started to snow. This pleased the Little Flower very much.

She spent nine years in the convent and during that time and all the other years she spent on earth, few people had ever heard about her. Therese did not wish to be known on earth, not until she was in heaven. She never wanted to do anything great, she just wanted to love Jesus. That was her only thought.

Sister Coletta had inquired most carefully at the seminary, and was assured that the child was perfectly safe. They hoped Sister would let her come often. This was the first time this soldier had shown an interest in anything.

MARY LILY gathered up her lunch basket, and held the crown very carefully.

"Then I'll call you Air Soldier," Mary Lily decided quickly.

"And I'll come to see you whenever I can."

He did not expect to see her again. Mary Lily told Sister Coletta that evening about her adventure. She never knew that Coletta had inquired most carefully at the seminary, and was assured that the child was perfectly safe. They hoped Sister would let her come often. This was the first time this soldier had shown an interest in anything.

MARY LILY only knew that every fine day when she possibly could, Sister Coletta gave her permission, and she hurried through the woods to the break to the hedge to visit Mr. Soldier.

Sometimes Mr. Soldier talked to Mary Lily. More often he sat silent and still and listened to the little girl's conversation. He learned great detail about the child as the warm days came and went.

Then suddenly the light of the sun seemed to gather into a rainbow of color. Dogwood trees bent to form an arch. The singing of the birds and the murmur of the brook swelled into heavenly music. And walking through the woods came a Lovely Lady.

The soldier fell to his knees in wonder and awe. It was the Queen of Beauty, Mardon of Nazareth, Queen of the Angels. Tears filled the man's eyes when he saw that on her beautiful hair Our Lady wore the crown of flowers on which his little friend had labored with such devotion.

St. Joseph is the patron of a happy death. His own death, before Jesus began His public life, must have been beautiful with Jesus and Mary to comfort him.

## The Courier Journal

### JOE AND JUDY



## A Crown for Our Lady

By Sister M. Marcellina, S. C. U.

MARY LILY slipped through the hedge which separated the boarding school grounds from the sanitarium. The man sitting by the brook smiled a welcome.

"Good afternoon, Mr. Soldier," said the little girl. "I can stay a long time today. The girls have all gone home for the week—and Sister Clement is the cook."

Sister packed a lunch basket. All the others just boarded and went home sometimes to their way through the woods. Wait awhile for vacation. The girls

spoke of her school work, her playmates, her friends and always in her talk he sensed the beauty of her faith as it touched every part of her life.

HAD HE EVER believed these things, he wondered. Well, he didn't believe in anything now, that was sure. But he listened and loved the child for her sweet simplicity.

On this bright spring day Mr. Soldier and Mary Lily enjoyed their cookies and milk. Then Mary Lily brought from their cool place her flowers—violets, star flowers, buttercups and dandelions.

"This is the month of May," he said. "Our Lady's month. Would you like me to tell you about her while I make these flowers into a crown?"

Mr. Soldier nodded, and Mary Lily told him all about the lovely Maiden of Nazareth who became the Mother of God, and while she spoke she made the flowers into a crown. When she had finished the story and the crown, Mr. Soldier said:

"And will you put this crown on the statue of Our Lady?"

"Oh, no," said Mary Lily. "I'll put it at her feet. When we put a crown of flowers on her head we have a big procession and sing hymns. It's the very biggest honor a girl can have to put the crown on Our Lady. I don't think I'd ever be worthy to do that."

MARY LILY gathered up her lunch basket, and held the crown very carefully.

Sister said to tell who you may walk in the woods if you like, Mr. Soldier. Why don't you? They are Mary's woods. I think maybe she walks there sometimes at sundown. Maybe you'll meet Her!"

When the child had gone, Mr. Soldier looked into the woods. It did look inviting, so he went through the hedge and walked along the stream. How peaceful it was!

Then suddenly the light of the sun seemed to gather into a rainbow of color. Dogwood trees bent to form an arch. The singing of the birds and the murmur of the brook swelled into heavenly music. And walking through the woods came a Lovely Lady.

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## III Housing Brings Crime—Msgr. O'Grady

Hopelessly inadequate housing in which individuals and families are packed together under most horrible conditions that make decent living, and above all decent family living, impossible," was named no major cause of current and critical juvenile delinquency increases in the address delivered by Msgr. John O'Grady, secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Charities, to the Rochester Police Holy Name Society's annual Community Breakfast at the Seneca Hotel last Sunday.

Such conditions make law enforcement "a most difficult task," the Monsignor said, since they are incompatible with wholesome and decent family life" and "people packed together in inadequate and unsanitary quarters, struggling for a bare existence," fail prey to such "forces of disintegration" as "vice and crime" and "racial tensions." Police Attitude Stressed

Of course, something could be accomplished by the adoption of an understanding attitude on the part of law officers. A policeman who makes an effort to help delinquents "has something that all policemen need in these days. He can reach the hearts of tough boys. He can get next to them

He can do so without surrendering to their whims and fancies. He can be fair without being cruel. His road will not always be easy but there is no easy road to tough youthful offenders against law and order."

But, all things considered, the most important step toward the control and treatment of juvenile delinquency is citizen organizations on a neighborhood basis and such an organization must necessarily consider the housing problem. It is "one of the greatest problems confronting them."

Here, in rendering assistance to such groups, said Monsignor O'Grady, is where the part of Government may well come in.

"It should stimulate and encourage voluntary groups" and "this is precisely what the Government has been trying to do in the field of housing."

The speaker made reference to the Wagner-Ellender-Taft housing bill, passed by the Senate on April 15, 1945, saying that the bill "is designed to make home ownership possible for a large group of people to whom it has hitherto been impossible. What greater contribution could be made to the stabilizing of family

life in our cities at the present time?"

Outlines Housing Bill

The bill would achieve its ob-

ject by a reduction of interest rates from 5% to 4% on insured loans on small homes;

2. By increasing the insurable percentage of the mortgage from 80% to 90% (and in the case of non-profit organizations and certain other institutions, 95%);

3. By increasing the life of the mortgage at the discretion of the FHA administrator from 20 to 32 years;

and by special provisions pro-

tecting veterans from loss of

their homes through unemploy-

ment or similar misfortune.

At least 10% of those requiring

homes would belong to low-in-

come groups finding it impos-

sible to pay adequate rental charges; to these the Govern-

ment would provide the required

assistance.

Under the heading "A Chal-

lenge to Rochester," Monsignor O'Grady voiced his surprise at noticing that "Rochester is not

among the cities in which a le-

gal housing authority has been

established in spite of the pro-

tection of State law for the set-

ting up of such an authority."

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These local housing authorities

had since 1937 constructed 155,-

000 housing units in 400 U. S.

cities.

"I believe," he said, "that Rochester is one of the very few cities of its size in the United States that does not have a housing authority. Rochester is known throughout the country for its fine community spirit, for its great progress in the physical sciences, for its progressive and enlightened business interests. I am sure that Rochester

will now want to give more and

more attention to those finer

things that make for the rebuild-

ing of neighborhoods, for the re-

building of family life."

"These are common problems

in all our large American indus-

trial cities. They are the chal-

lenges our cities must face if

they are to survive."

"This is the great challenge

that all our planners must face:

what are we going to do with

our city dwellings that will give

family life an opportunity to sur-

vive and to prosper?"

## 50,000 Prague Children Suffer from Tuberculosis

New York — (INC) — Fifty thousand children in the Prague area under 14 years of age are suffering from tuberculosis, and as many as 50 per cent of the others, particularly in the urban areas, are tubercular and in need of special feeding and medical attention.

This report is made by Msgr.

Ondřej Zímal, for the last 22

years pastor of Our Lady of

Lourdes Church, Cleveland, who

just returned from a three-

months tour of Czechoslovakia.

The children need milk," Mon-

signor Zímal said. "Nearly all

of the cows in the area have

been killed or stolen. Institutions

for children need the most de-

mentary things, such as bed lin-

en, bedding, clothes, soap and

shampoo, all for eighty-five dollars."

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We hope the United States will

help with these items and also

with X-ray units to detect and

control the spread of tuber-

culosis."

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