

# The Catholic Woman

By Dorothy D. Higgins

There have been many women in the world who have been called "Catholic women." Some of them have been called "Catholic women" because they were Catholics. Some of them have been called "Catholic women" because they were women who were Catholic. Some of them have been called "Catholic women" because they were women who were Catholic.

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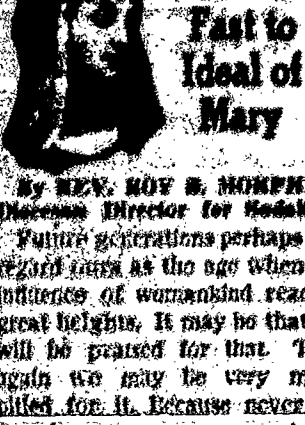
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# Hold Fast to Ideal of Mary



By Rev. Roy M. Murphy, Director for Sodality

Future generations perhaps will regard this as the age when the influence of womanhood reached great heights. It may be that. Then again we may be very much mistaken for it. Because never before have women so completely dominated the "market place."

Women in these days have left their homes (though even there they retain their dominance) to enter every field of profession and endeavor. They are at the head of all the great national movements, they are in the legislative halls, they are in the professions, they wield great influence in literature and art.

The unfortunate and deplorable thing is that, simultaneously with this great influence, have come a swift decay of faith, a wholesale disregard of morality, movements which threaten to destroy marriage, home and the right of children to be born, let alone live.

We do not mean that women's presence in public and commercial life is necessarily the cause of these great evils. But certainly it has made the opportunity and occasion all the more prevalent for the commercializing of women and the increase of sin and unbelief everywhere.

We are not laying the blame upon women, at least not entirely. Nor are we attempting to shift the responsibility from the men. But we are saying, if that will emphasize it, that evil leaders are worse because they lead women. Women who lead against God and goodness are the greatest force of destruction.

They are the modern Deilahs leading people and nations to utter ruin. Women will take their place as the good and splendid world leaders only if they keep before themselves the ideal of the one perfect woman, only if they hold fast to the ideal of Mary, the Mother of God. And the world of men will be safe only if women choose Mary as the most perfect and highest example.

All the men of great concern to Sodality. We who have consecrated ourselves to an imitation of the perfection of Mary, cannot be undisturbed at this alarming condition. Strange and wicked women are in these times being held up to the admiration of our youth. Women engaged in nefarious and diabolical movements. Hollywood glamour women whose blasted lives are loudly publicized, women from shocking and sordid Broadway revues are displayed in accepted admiration. One cannot but realize that virtue among women has been openly regarded as considerably less than out-of-date and out-of-place. Men are frankly encouraged to look upon women as cheap vulgar common, free objects of desire and slaves to their laziness and whims.

Mary is the key to this. We will rise above our selfishness, our sin, and our unbelief only when the face of Mary is reflected in the faces of our women. Unless the purity of Mary is remembered, especially by our women, the home will be utterly broken, our children will be lost, our men will become more and more like beasts, the stage and movies and radio will become more deeply decadent.

# The Catholic Girl

By Susan Blum

SQUARE FEET IN ROUND ROOMS

Every girl at this season's letter comes from many sections asking for an opinion regarding stenography as a business career, and "if every young person can't learn shorthand and make a success of it."

Most of the letters are from girls who are leaving school days behind them to enter the business world. Nearly all of them are visions and dreams of certain success, so real to them they are already forgetting all else.

Anyone's opinion regarding the value of a commercial course to any one else, would be utterly worthless; for the success of any course depends upon the important fact that it is fitted to that kind of work.

We are told that more than 30 million people throughout the world today use shorthand, and almost a million new students are learning it each year. But we are not given any idea as to how many of these using it are a success or failure, or how many of the new students are fitted for that type of work, because it would be physically impossible to do this unless we knew each one individually.

In giving the first figures, consideration must be given to the fact that many of the thirty million learned stenography at a time when there were few opportunities open to women—practically two—teaching and stenography, which were considered not socially degrading and for a long time stenography was on uncertain ground. But also included in that thirty million are women and girls of later years who took advantage of the opportunity stenography offered, and who are making wonderful success as stenographers and private secretaries.

Individual Aptitude

The success of any career depends upon the individual. Because we fall in one type of work doesn't mean that we are a failure. Every one can't be a painter, or a musician, or a poet. But this is no reason why they will not be of equal importance to the world in some other field. Failure in large measure is due to trying to accomplish the impossible. By nature some of us are fitted for one thing, some for another. There never yet has been the square peg that fitted into the round hole.

One mother wrote me that her daughter is stupid, that she has had an expensive commercial course, and yet she is not successful. "Your destiny is at stake today, Catholic Women and

Obeys him, Though she draws him, yet she follows. Useless each without the other. What the cord is to the bow and arrow, what the bow is to the violin, woman is to man. Only with her can man regain that completeness of being which he must always lack without her, since she is flesh of his flesh and bone of his bone.

Like the home of the widowed Squire Cass in George Eliot's classic "Silas Marner," cold, bleak, disorderly, so devoid of society without woman. Something is missing without her, and that something will be missed. Therefore, public life needs you. Moreover, "your destiny is at stake today, Catholic Women and

# Winged Shoulder



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What a privilege! Equal rights, it is called. But all it means is to give a woman the right to do a man's work.

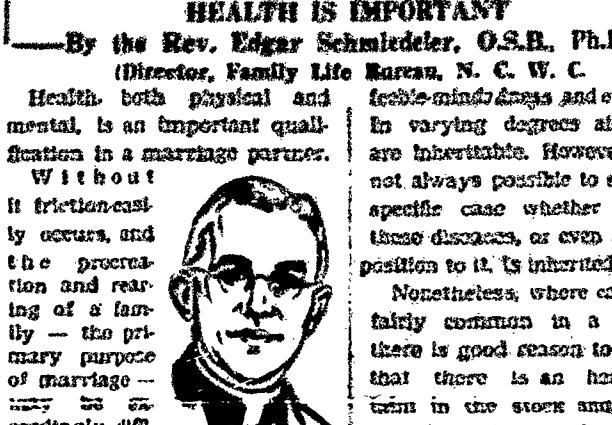
What a right! To dig ditches, work in mines, barrooms, etc. In reality such equality means degradation, the loss of her privileges.

Even now we see glimpses of this leveling down process. A man no longer stands when a woman comes into the room, no longer does his hat come off in the elevator, no longer does he rise to give her his seat in a bus. Monaghan Sheen tells the story of a lady on the subway. A man arose to give her his seat. She faints.

When she came to, she said, "Thank you," and he fainted. Your destiny is, indeed, at stake.

In fact, the fate of society is in your hands. The level of civilization is the level of its womanhood. For there is a difference between knowing and loving. In knowing we bring things down to the level of our mind. That is why we use examples, illustrations etc., in teaching. It follows, therefore, the nobler the woman loved, the nobler will be the man. It is the woman who can make or break the man. As a humorist put it: "For every woman who makes a fool out of a man, there is a woman who makes a man out of a fool."

# The Wedding Ring



HEALTH IS IMPORTANT

By the Rev. Edgar Schmiedeler, O.S.B., Ph.D. (Director, Family Life Bureau, N. C. W. C.)

Health, both physical and mental, is an important qualification in a marriage partner. Without it friction easily occurs, and the procreation and rearing of a family—the primary purpose of marriage—becomes exceedingly difficult. To be sure, except Fr. Schmiedeler's cases can be found, cases in which husband or wife was handicapped with prolonged illness and delicate health, and yet the marriage proved altogether successful and happy.

But far more commonly poor health serves to multiply difficulties to stall efforts at building a successful and satisfying home life and, at times, makes such an achievement quite impossible. There is no need of laboring the point. It is very generally recognized.

The Question of Heredity

In selecting a life partner a person chooses not only one individual and his immediate relatives but also, in a measure at least, his more remote ancestors. This is true insofar as the prospective spouse carries certain hereditary traits in his germ plasma which he may pass on to his children. This is a matter of particular importance to the potential children. It is a matter of some consequence insofar as the physical is concerned. It seems to be even more so with respect to the mental.

The deaf and dumb apparently, transmit these defects to their offspring at times. For years it was thought that a number of physical diseases were transmitted by heredity, but the truth of this is questioned more and more today in the case of tuberculosis, for instance. It is granted today that this is not hereditary. It is an infectious disease, that is, one produced by bacteria, and a child cannot inherit bacteria. However, a child may inherit a susceptibility to tuberculosis. There are a number of other germ diseases which are contagious but not inheritable.

Mental Health

That mental health is important in a marriage goes without saying. The three diseases to be kept in mind in this connection are insanity, feeble-mindedness and epilepsy. In varying degrees all three are inheritable. However, it is not always possible to say in a specific case whether one of these diseases, or even a predisposition to it, is inherited or not. Nonetheless, where cases are fairly common in a family, there is good reason to believe that there is an hereditary taint in the stock and, consequently, a danger of transmission to offspring. An individual should think seriously before marrying into such a family. Indeed, he should do more; he should consult a competent counselor before seriously contemplating marriage with a member of such a stock.

A word might be added regarding attractiveness. This is not a qualification to be desired, although more than physical attractiveness should be sought. It should go hand in hand with other and more substantial qualities—such as, for instance, as moral character and virtuous living.

To consider merely physical attractiveness or beauty in the selection of a life partner is foolhardy. Beauty passes away and, even while present, lends little support in time of family storms. Incidentally, there is considerable relationship between beauty and good health.

Jesuit in Movies

Rome (RNS)—Two movies, to be called "Demonstrations of the Existence of God" and "Demonstrations of the Divinity of Christ," are to be produced here by an Italian motion picture company. Both films will feature the Rev. Robert Lombardi, famed Jesuit lecturer and editor of Civiltà Cattolica.

# Legion

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