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At Our House

Markie Makes Up Her Mind and Casts Off Pigtails

By MARY DALY

Markie finally lost her pigtails last night.

For years she has been begging Pat—the official barber at our house—to cut off those long, heavy, red pigtails; but every time she brought up the subject we all talked her out of it. She loves her hair, because, as she says, it's "different," not merely brilliant red, like most red-haired girls, and she would never be glad to have it any other way. But, she argues, long hair when she grows up, etc., etc.

All the usual family arguments were set in motion. Markie had an answer to every one—and besides, she was just sick of having her mane messed up, at Elleen's store, dark during "Mr. and Mrs.," and—in general. She would look entirely different, she insisted, with her hair short. How would it look? Like Joan, like Elleen, like Gregory's hair? It might, she ran on, look like Peter's, only redder. That was where she was in for a disappointment.

"JUST THINK, Mom," she said, "I will save you so much time every morning. If you don't mind, I'll do it myself."

The last convincing thing, all right, was quite true. I hate to admit it, but I'm afraid I agreed unconsciously, pointed that advantage out.

"And think of stamped days," she went on. "When my hair is short I can wash it myself under the shower the way Eileen does."

The sweet on her side was piling up.

"I really be so much help, Mom—I just hate those pigtails," was the clinching argument.

"All right," I finally agreed.

Pat, of course, was a stupid, pigheaded, unfeeling person. I suppose I should have known it. Without a word he picked up his scissors and, with a couple of chomps and that operation was over. The deed stood out on the bathroom floor before I had a chance to change my mind—

Markie was all aglow. Markie had an appeal to every one—and besides, she was just sick of having her mane messed up, at Elleen's store, dark during "Mr. and Mrs.," and—in general. She would look entirely different, she insisted, with her hair short. How would it look? Like Joan, like Elleen, like Gregory's hair? It might, she ran on, look like Peter's, only redder. That was where she was in for a disappointment.

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Half an hour later Markie presented herself for inspection. The result was all she could possibly have hoped for. Of course she didn't look like Eileen—no miracle had managed her hair from red to bleak—but she did look mighty cute and grown-up. Pat had talked her out of the idea of bangs and had given her a rather short bob and curled the ends on a curling iron. Markie looked like a different child. The effect was due partly to the curls—one of her accomplishments—she finally was rid of her great cross. There would be no more silly anguish of combing tangles and long, tormenting hours of plaiting. Indeed, on shampoo days waiting for that mop to dry.

Joy downstairs who has just had her third child could have been prouder of the street than Markie was as she trained her red "curls" and ran her fingers lovingly through their short ends.

THE REJUVENATION took place on Saturday night and of course, Markie took special pains with dressing for the 9 o'clock children's Mass on Sunday. That was to be the premiere before her public. We all went to 9 o'clock Mass and watched the congregation and paintings and pillars bowed Markie's way, spoke to "the star's" delight.

Father Miller's sermon was on determination.

"Learn to make up your mind," he said. "Our Lord wants people to decide what's right and stick to it."

At breakfast, the Head of the House asked Markie teasingly:

"Did you suggest that sermon to Father Miller?"

"No, I didn't," she replied, then laughed: "But he had something there. I'm sure glad I made up my mind and stuck to it—and got rid of those darned old pigtails!"

Holy Name Society Honors St. Louisan

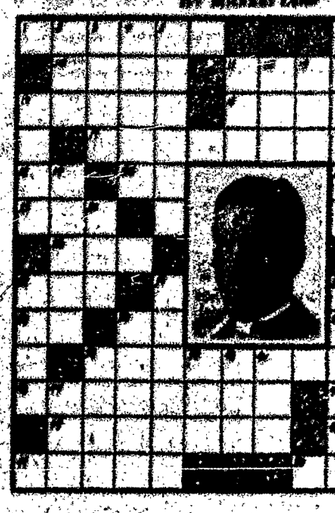
New York—(NC)—Rudolph W. Hoogstraet, president of the St. Louis Archdiocesan Holy Name Society from 1931 to 1943, has been awarded the Vercelli Medal for 1948, according to an announcement at national Holy Name Society headquarters. The Medal, which honors outstanding service to the Society, was conferred for the first time upon five men at the national Holy Name convention in Boston last October.

Mr. Hoogstraet, during his leadership of St. Louis' Holy Name men, campaigned vigorously against the sale of indecent literature on newsstands. A student for 20 years at the night classes of St. Louis University, he first obtained his law degree and then graduated from the School of Commerce and Finance. He is now vice-president of a printing and stationery firm.

The Vercelli Medal is named after the founder of the Holy Name Society. Blessed John of Vercelli, who lived in the 13th century. The second Sunday in January has been chosen as the date for the yearly award of this medal by the national headquarters of the Society.

Who's Who? Follow the Clue

By Michael Zane



ACROSS
1. CATECHISM CLASSWOMAN
11. Range for the wind
12. Norwegian
13. Tapers away
17. ——— WITH CATHOLIC
18. Condescension
20. Somewhere
21. Civil Service AMERICANS
22. Form of "to be"
23. Ladies
24. Discounted portfolio
26. Insurance
27. Gold vendor
28. Be located
29. Supplement
30. Ship manned by Greeks
32. Body
33. Knowledge
34. Ethan ——
35. Is MAN AMONG THE
38. MANY LEADING
40. Amount in archives
42. Ireland
44. Conjunction
45. Revelator
46. Legal claim
48. Envy
49. Spouse
50. Old BIRTHPLACE

DOWN
1. Abolition
2. Dread
3. Gaelic
4. Chilly fruit
5. Bells
6. Lament
7. Pineapple
8. Number
9. Point of compass
10. Kind of ox
12. River (spain)
14. Organization (abbr.)
15. Grain
16. Shortage
19. RE IS A ——— ORATOR
22. RE IS THE AUTHOR OF MORE THAN 30 ———
25. Weary
31. Wrath
33. Fire
35. Entrance
36. Paddy
37. Direction
41. Treason
43. Dark leaf
45. Coin
47. Mediterranean
49. Point of compass
51. The thing
52. Never (comic)
53. Here
54. Curtsy

(Solution on Page 11)

Philippine Priest Shortage Acute

By REV. PATRICK O'CONNOR

Lingayen, P. I. — (NC) — "What percentage of dying Catholics receive the last Sacraments in this Province?"

Bishop Mariano Madriaga thought for a moment.

"Maybe 2 per cent," he answered.

The explanation is obvious. If you travel through this fertile, populous province of Pangasinan, which has more than 1,000,000 Catholics, large churches — some of them shelled in 1945 — and a famine of priests.

The youthful, Philippine-born, Rome-educated Bishop gave some examples.

"Single-handed, the parish priest of Mangalden has been trying to take care of 27,000 souls. Some of his barrios (villages) are six or nine miles from the town. He may be called to half-a-dozen places at the same time.

"You've been in San Carlos. That's a parish of 50,000 persons, the majority of them Catholics, with only two priests, one of whom is 83 years old and an invalid. They have eight or 10 funerals a day there."

The bishop spoke of Camiling, home town of General Carlos P. Romulo, head of the Philippine delegation to the UN.

"Camiling has more than 30,000 souls," he said. "Yet for it and three other large parishes we have only two priests. Sant' Ignacio, with more than 17,000, has no resident priest. Neither has San Clemente with its 5,000 or more Catholics."

While dying Catholics miss the last Sacraments, new-born children of generations of Catholics are missing the first Sacrament. Bishop Madriaga tells of a census made for him by Father James McDevitt of St. Columban's among the high-school students. He found not more than one-third baptized. Instruction is soon lacking when priests are lacking.

Lingayen, in its history, needs and potentialities, stands for all the Philippines. On its silver beach armies have landed to invade and liberate. But where we gave freely to land an army, we have failed to land enough priests and Sisters to reinforce the depleted Church in the Philippines.

Legion of Mary Planned for China

St. Columbans, Neb. — (NC)— Father Aedan McGrath, Columban Father, who already has spent 16 years in China, is going back again, this time with instructions to establish the Legion of Mary throughout the nation. He will sail from San Francisco on January 9.

Father McGrath, the founder of one of the first groups of Legionaries in China in 1935, has been released from active work as a Columban missionary for the sole purpose of spreading the Legion of Mary. In a country like China, where there are 500,000,000 people with only 7,000 priests to care for them, establishment of the Legion of Mary will speed up its conversion, it is hoped.

Wanted Attention

Jackie's Parents Fail In Duty to Their Son

By GEORGE W. MONTGOMERY, JR.
Rochester Catholic Charities

When Jackie was arrested by a police officer shortly after he had taken some money from a cash register in a store, he freely admitted his guilt, and returned the money. Several times previously he had taken money. On these occasions, as over this one, he was unable to give any reason for his acts.

G. Montgomery

His mother had her explanation for his behavior. "Jackie is a bad boy. He's always been bad. No matter what we've done for him, he's just gotten worse and worse." She traced the history of his thirteen years of life. She pointed out the many ways in which he had been "bad." He always wanted a lot of attention, she said, and misbehaved if he didn't get it. When his little sister came, he was "mean to her." The mother described her daughter as the direct opposite of Jackie—a lovable conforming child. She said she loved Jackie but couldn't understand why he was so "bad." For the last year and a half he had been stealing. Now everyone else knew he was a "bad" boy and should be punished.

JACKIE WAS interviewed by an experienced child psychiatrist. Now, it was true that Jackie could not explain why he had stolen. But he talked freely with the psychiatrist, and gradually the story began to be clear. Jackie was an unhappy child. He felt that his mother did not love him. He realized she preferred his sister to him. His father spent little time at home. He was "busy all the time" and spent most of his evenings "at the club."

Jackie wanted the affection and attention of his parents. When he tried being affectionate with them, they did not respond. But there was one way he could get their attention—by being "bad." So he was "bad" at home.

Eventually, that attracted little attention from his parents. He then stole outside of the home.

Jackie was a "rejected" child. After his birth, his father resented "being tied down." A child interfered with his social life. He began to go out with other women and to spend more and more time away from home. This led to domestic quarrels. Soon the mother began to blame Jackie as the cause of all their trouble. She began to dislike him, to reject him.

WHEN A MOTHER begins to dislike her child, she feels guilty about it. Therefore, she must seek some convincing reason for rejecting her child. If a child is "bad," who would blame her? So she began to regard Jackie as "bad" to tell him he was "bad," and to tell others he was "bad." The father wasn't particularly interested. Usually, he paid little attention to his wife's opinions, but he accepted her evaluation of Jackie and regarded him as "bad."

Because Jackie was "bad," the parents punished him. (Actually they were punishing him to meet their own emotional needs.) But when they punished him, they at least paid attention to him. So, Jackie used his "badness" to get attention.

That, briefly, explains why Jackie stole. It has been said "there is no such thing as a bad boy." That is true—the "bad" boy is usually an upset youngster, whose behavior is symptomatic of his disturbed emotional state.

WHAT COULD BE done for Jackie? First of all, the psychiatrist and the caseworker tried to help the parents to realize that Jackie was not "bad." Efforts were made to find worthwhile activities in which Jackie could succeed and derive satisfaction. Regular treatment by the psychiatrist was scheduled to give Jackie a chance to "talk through" his feelings, and gradually to come better adjusted.

In this case, the parents were unable to accept the interpretation of Jackie's behavior. Eventually, it was necessary to place him in a good foster home, where he could get affection and attention. When Jackie was happy and secure, he no longer found it necessary to steal. Under the guidance of the psychiatrist, he was able to make a good emotional adjustment. Jackie is no longer a "delinquent" child.

Again, this is a story of parents who failed their children. Jackie was a "bad" boy, because his parents made him "bad." There is one sure insurance against delinquency — normal happy family life, with mutual affection and understanding. So long as families fail, delinquency will be a social problem.

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