

At Our House Family Checks Up as Days of Lent Pass

By MARY TINELEY DALY

With Lent well launched, individually consciences at our house are causing all kinds of confusion. It's so hard to remember just who has given up what.

February sets no pace for Lenten observance. That's because, being a month, it doesn't have a definite beginning and end. It's just a period of time, and the Lenten observance is a matter of the heart.

After all, Pat said, "The soul and body are counter-dependent. I'm certainly using will power, and an improved figure on Easter will be just an added bonus."

Eight-year-old Mary's self-imposed penance is original. It's a matter of the heart, she says, and she's not going to let anyone interfere with it.

Various favorite radio shows are also on the table list, but when one person has given up a certain program and another has not—and everybody has good hearing—the result does not make for harmony.

Belgian beer gives up the daily fumes as well as cake. Being the most loyal devotee of the coffee in our house, this caused the strictest Lenten program.

After all, she insisted, "The Lenten observance is a matter of the heart, and it's not going to be interfered with by anyone."

Archbishop himself said that Sundays aren't Lent. Well, if that's what conscience dictates and if she wants to undo that cupboard shelf to follow her favorite comic characters—and to put everything back on the shelf—that's all right too.

Only the Head of the House and Markie failed to announce their Lenten intentions. They both seemed to eat everything offered at meal times—thank goodness—and the only Lenten change I could see was a slight added cheerfulness in both of them. Maybe they have some secret method of developing the inner life.

THIS MORNING it all came out and we discovered one thing that they had both resolved on: Ash Wednesday.

The Head of the House came down to breakfast, picked up the morning paper as usual, and also as usual fumbled in all his pockets. Subconsciously, I waited for the familiar remark: "Now where are my eyeglasses?"

Something new has been added to our morning routine: the Head of the House went back upstairs and got his own glasses! "I've decided not to bother anybody finding my glasses," he announced. "I'll get 'em myself or without."

Markie looked up from her boiled egg as the Head of the House came down and settled himself with his morning paper. "Heck," she said reproachfully. "Now you've gone and spoiled my Lenten resolution. I'd decided to take Daddy's glasses for my cross—to find 'em no matter where he left 'em and not to grumble once. The Lord loves a cheerful giver, and I was going to be that—but how can you be cheerful giver when there's nothing to give?"

"O.K., Markie," grinned the Head of the House. "You take on the cross of finding my glasses and I'll take some other penance—like putting the price of a pack of cigarettes each day in your piggy bank. That'll do us every good."

Now everybody is satisfied and we can go along until Easter on our penitential way.

World Women's Units Form Committees
Yacorno, Switzerland—(NC)—The establishment of special committees on childhood, sports, culture, and family aid and preparation was studied at a three-day committee meeting of the International Federation of Catholic Young Women here, an organization claiming the representation of 68 youth organizations in 60 countries.

Other topics discussed by the committee were the question of admitting to the organization's executive committee the secretary of Pax Romana on a consultative status, the problem of German youth, and the affiliation of new organizations in Brazil and France.

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School Meet Studies Youth Adjustment

Washington—(NC)—"Life Adjustment Education for Youth" will be the general theme for the program of the secondary school department at the 45th annual meeting of the National Catholic Educational Association in San Francisco from March 31 to April 2. It has been announced here at the association's headquarters.

The U. S. Office of Education has been invited by the NCEA to suggest a speaker to discuss the general topic at the opening session of the department's deliberations on March 31.

Two panel discussions, each featuring widely known educators as speakers, will be included in sessions the following day. The morning session will deal with four implications in the life adjustment program.

BROTHER JOHN McCluskey, S.M., principal of St. Monica (Calif.) high school, will discuss the implications concerning citizenship. Sister Mary Annette of the Presentation Convent, San Francisco, will speak on home and family life implications; James Phelan, nationally known football coach at St. Mary's (Calif.) College, will deal with leisure time implications, and the Rev. A. E. Egging, superintendent of schools for the Grand Island Diocese, will discuss work experience implications.

The afternoon panel will be devoted to contributions that Catholic religious education can make to life adjustment. The Rev. Thomas A. Lawless, O.S.F.S., of Wilmington, Del., will discuss the practical Christian basis for life adjustment; Sister Joan Marie of Oakland, Calif., will speak on Christian morality; the Rev. William Smith, S.J., of Brooklyn, N. Y., will compare modern economic and Christian ethics; and Mrs. Patrick Dignan of Los Angeles, will have as his topic "Catholic Dogma—A Challenge to Collectivism and Secularism."

Speakers for the final session of the department, which will treat of the tools of learning and the total experience of the school child for life adjustment will be announced later, the association stated.

Mother Elizabeth Brit of Albany, formerly a member of the community of the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Rochester, will be president of the new college in Tokyo.

Mother Brit was Mistress General of the Prince Street house in 1940 when she was chosen to go to Japan to teach in the Tokyo houses of the community. Interested in the war, she returned to America as an exchange prisoner on the "Griffith" and lived in Rochester until her latest trip to

Japan 2 years ago to reopen the Sacred Heart Academy in Tokyo. The palace contains about 40 rooms. Plans are already being considered for a large concrete building to be erected later, but the present building will be adequate for immediate needs. Because of its historic significance, the building will always be preserved as something of a monument, and the room where the empress was born will be maintained without change as a Japanese guest room. The former audience chamber has been designated to serve as a library, while two other rooms, beautifully decorated, will be combined to serve as a chapel.

The Religious of the Sacred Heart lost all but one of their nine buildings by fire during the war, but such is the esteem in which they are held in official circles that theirs was one of the five girls' schools in the Tokyo area to be raised recently to the rank of a full fledged college and authorized to grant the bachelor's degree in arts and sciences.

Youth Commission Backs Marshall Plan
Washington—(NC)—Unanimous support of the Marshall plan was voted at the meeting here of the National Commission on Children and Youth. The group, in which a number of Catholic organizations are represented, met under the sponsorship of the U. S. Children's Bureau of the Federal Security Agency.

Among those taking part in the sessions were the Rev. R. A. McGowan, director of the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference and member of the National Commission on Children and Youth; Mabel Shannon of the N. C. W. C. Youth Department; Ruth Craven, executive secretary of the National Council of Catholic Women; the Rev. Robert Brown, assistant secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Charities, who represented Msgr. John O'Grady, conference secretary and member of the commission, and Ruth Kathryn Clark, of St. Rose College, Albany, N. Y., a member of the commission.

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There were 110 (you can't count them) candles on the birthday cake of Mrs. Margaret O'Neill, pictured sporting an orchid corsage and cutting the cake at her home in Waynesboro, Pa. Believed to be the oldest resident of Pennsylvania, she is a parishioner of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Berwick, Pa. (AP Photo)

Japan Empress' Birthplace Becomes Catholic College

Tokyo—The palace of Prince Kuni, father of the present Empress of Japan, will soon house Japan's first full-fledged Catholic college for girls.

The palace itself has already been bought by the Religious of the Sacred Heart for this purpose, and negotiations with the government for the purchase of some ten acres of ground attached to the palace are expected to be completed in the near future.

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Like Sardines Low Cost Housing Need Should Be Told Solons

Later this year we shall see a good many politicians and a few demagogues too, swing into their highest gear for the election can bring. Perhaps amid the ensuing bombast and tub thumping some statesman might inject a thought about low cost housing; or, would it be too much to expect that out of some smoke-filled, pre-campaign conclave the problem of shelter for our poor would get some consideration?

Much heat but very little light has been shed on the question of housing for our vast low and middle income groups—in fact, one of our major political leaders admitted last week that his party had done nothing to further low cost house planning. Of course it's a tremendous problem, and besides many state and municipal governments are not properly tooled to deal with the administration of such a program.

SO WHAT are all the Jones families doing meanwhile, as they await in hushed expectancy some positive plan from our National leaders?

Chiefly, they are struggling madly to meet their exorbitant rentals. On the other hand, many family units have been broken up, the children placed by social agencies and the parents left empty-handed and rudderless until they can, in some fashion, re-establish themselves.

It is most difficult for social workers to have to place children from families whose only problem is lack of a roof. We can understand caring for children who are neglected in the home, but for no other reason than the fact that our great, rich America cannot seem to provide shelter for them is indeed sad.

So often our newspapers feature articles and pictures of hapless families who have been evicted; later we hear how these people are given refuge by either relatives or kind strangers. This may seem to solve their problem, but often a whole set of new ones arise.

ALL THE OLD jokes about one's relatives and in-laws seem suddenly most un-funny and utterly devoid of humor when one lives thru such a situation. The problems of young mothers attempting to discipline children while Aunt Jane looks on, dour and forbidding, are not amusing. The tempers which MUST flare, the wounded feelings, the inter-

family recrimination, these are things only psychiatrists get to know about. We often see the beginning of marital discord in much of this crowded living. In addition of course, there are health aspects of this problem with which every visiting nurse and social worker is all too familiar. These physical factors frequently are common to find, where it is not uncommon to find perhaps two families confined to three or four rooms.

We have a moral obligation in this election year to contact our congressmen not just once, but many times, about the need of low cost housing. We have the moral obligation to study each party's platform for housing legislation, and to vote accordingly. It is by our American Dream we mean a somniferous public opinion, we have certainly realized our Dream. It is time we awakened to the needs of our fellow man.

Hospital Critic Scored
Peterborough, Ont.—(NC)—The Peterborough Examiner, local daily, has taken to task a delegation from the Peterborough Ministerial Association which appeared before the city council to test a municipal grant to St. Joseph's Hospital here.

Abp. McIntyre Installation
Los Angeles—(NC)—Installation of Archbishop J. Francis A. McIntyre, Coadjutor of New York, as Archbishop of Los Angeles, has been set for March 19 in St. Vibiana's Cathedral.

Reported Vision Lacks Approval
Vatican City—(NC)—A second warning has been printed in Osservatore Romano, Vatican City daily, that the Church has "not pronounced favorably" on a reported apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary at a grotto near the town of Contane in Rome.

According to some press reports from Rome the Blessed Virgin appeared to a 34-year-old communist and his three small children on April 12, 1947. The apparition was said to have predicted she would work "mighty miracles for the conversion of the incredulous."

Declaring that it was reprinting information given in its issue of October 26, Osservatore Romano stated: "Since a committee has been formed in Rome which proposes to establish and promote the cult of the Blessed Virgin in a grotto near Tre Fontane, where it is said that an apparition of the Madonna has occurred, notice is hereby given that the ecclesiastical authority, which has not pronounced favorably on the so-called apparition, does not behind the formation of this committee and its collection of offerings." Nothing has happened since last October to detract from the vigor and full reality of this announcement, the paper adds.

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