

### At Our House Family Fights Light Bill But Lights Burn Brightly

By MARY TINLEY DALY

Last "bill day" at our house was especially sad. It's never a day of rejoicing; but last month when the Head of the House went through the stack that had been accumulating during the month, there was much head shaking.

Of course, there were the Easter clothing bills and the one from the upholsterer for the two chairs that were falling apart—and the one from the plumber who had to tear out pipes in the kitchen. There was also a bill for a 2-year-old Virginia thing.

Mary Daly said there is only one receptacle in the house to be used as a waste basket. Then came the milk bill with the seven quarts a day and extra cream and which this month was augmented by an order for extra eggs for Easter. After the Head of the House had passed that particular bill, I had a sign of relief. The next would be the gas and electric bills. The gas bill was opened without comment. Then came the telephone bill—with just a few long-distance calls. Finally we opened the electric bill.

"Holy smokes!" he exclaimed. "Seven dollars! What are these kids doing—staying up all night with the lights on?"

"But the other bills are all higher than that," I said, then could have bitten my tongue. "That's just it," he growled. "With income taxes and insurance and all those," he waved disgustedly at the opened pile, "and then they even have to run up the electric light bill!"

"What should I do?" asked Eileen, listening in.

"Well," said the Head of the House, "it has been as low as three-sixty but I'm willing to pay five. How about one of you watching lights each month? Anything above five dollars comes out of allowances—anything below that is yours."

It was a deal. The three middle kids were eager to take a month's peek at Eileen's list of the month. The first month went to Eileen.

She has been working furiously at it and turns off so many lights that we find ourselves groping in the dark. She has always been the one to turn on a radio upstairs, then walk away and leave it on until somebody's nerves frazzle enough to turn the thing off. No more of that! She listens only to favorite programs and has ruled that only one radio is to be going at a time. Sometimes we have to hear a murder mystery when we'd prefer listening to news—but it's all in a good cause.

THE FIRST MONDAY of the month Eileen ran into difficulty with Ollie, the laundress. Before leaving for school Ollie went to the basement where Eileen was doing the washing.

"Please don't run the machine long, Ollie," she begged. "And couldn't you do some of the things in the tub?"

"You may tell you to say that," I heard Ollie ask. "It's no joke washin' for this family any-how and I gotta wash by hand, I quit!"

"Oh, no, Ollie!" I called down the basement stairs. "Go ahead with the washing machine—and Eileen, go on to school!"

That afternoon when Eileen came home she saw Ollie ironing. "Don't bother ironing pajamas, Ollie," Eileen advised, "or underwear. They get messed up anyway—and electricity costs money."

"What all that child?" asked Ollie. "I takes pride in my work and I ain't gonna send no clothes upstairs lookin' bad."

More of the appeasement policy—maybe the economy idea wasn't so bright after all.

THE SLOW FELL for Eileen when she had a touch of bronchitis and Dr. Rude ordered the vapor lamp to burn in her room all night.

"People got well before the days of electricity," she wailed. "Why couldn't he just give me some medicine?"

We compromised on a couple of hours of the vapor lamp in her room, in exchange for the rest of us all sitting huddled together in the dining room that evening—reading studying and sewing.

"This is the darndest arrangement," grumbled Pat and Johnny.

"She's trying so hard," said the Head of the House, "let's give her a break."

We saved Eileen possibly a quarter that night.

THE HEAD OF THE HOUSE has given Eileen \$5 to pay the electric bill at the local bank. Each day she watches the mall for that bill.

But last night I made a horrifying discovery . . .

After dark I went out to the mail box and, coming home, happened to glance up. There were the attic windows ablaze with light! Then I remembered . . .

Two weeks ago on a gloomy day I had given the attic its spring cleaning and had forgotten to turn off the lights!

Now it is I, and not Eileen, who must wail the millman and smuggle out the electric light bill. There is the problem: cost of paying the bill and giving Eileen her "change" from the \$5.

Well, maybe Markie's electric month will be more successful. I know one person besides Markie—who will watch lights next month!

### Catholic Women Plan Effort For Christian World

Washington (NC)—The Catholic woman today should strive to make the social doctrine of the Church her own, to imbue her personal life with Catholic social teaching, and to contribute as much by her individual actions as by the united action of women's groups, to the building of a Christian social order, achieving harmonious human relationships and an equitable distribution of wealth.

This is one of many recommendations urged upon Catholic women throughout the world by the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues, which held its first postwar congress in Rome last September. The conclusions of the congress are presented in the current issue of Catholic Action, official organ of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, under the title "Contribution of the Christian Woman to Society."

Delegates representing Catholic women's organizations affiliated with the Union from more than 60 countries attended the congress. Nine representatives of the National Council of Catholic Women participated, and Mrs. Henry Mannix, president of the N. C. W. C., was elected as special vice-president charged with representing the Union in the Americas.

Recommendations of the congress concern the mission of the Catholic woman as woman, her family mission, her contribution to public health, to economic life, to education, aid to mothers of families, the Catholic woman's part in civic and political life, in the building of international peace, and the role of the Catholic woman in teaching religion.

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### Nurses Hear Prelate Back Human Values

Boston (NC)—Without doubt, many people in the Americas and Europe are proclaiming the dignity of man because they are embarrassed by criticism of communists, which is disconcerting because partly it takes on the appearance of reality, but there is a simple answer for it, Archbishop Robert E. Lucey of San Antonio, declared in a featured address at the National Council of Catholic Nurses convention here.

The prelate said that the communist challenge contends 2,000 years of Christian principles have failed to bring peace, justice and happiness; that the Christian Church has no influence on public institutions and little influence on the private lives of men; that the Christian Gospel in the field of international relations has proven impotent, and that if Christian nations continue to commit suicide by armed conflict only the primitive savage and the pagan will survive.

"THE ANSWER is simple," Archbishop Lucey continued. "Christian principles are still valid and necessary in human relations; the difficulty is that Christians have ignored them. They always knew the innate dignity of man but they tried to forget it. Now the unbelievers of the East are compelling the people of the West to reaffirm the ancient doctrine that people are important. Perhaps the religious truths that form the foundation of human values are not clearly understood by those outside the Church but for the sake of democracy and justice and peace the value of human personality is now being proclaimed wherever Western culture still lives."

The theme of Archbishop Lucey's address was "Service to the patient is service to Christ." He pointed out that Catholic doctrine by identifying the sick man and the strong man with Christ, recognizes the dignity of the human person that persons outside the Church are being influenced by the ancient Faith and coming to the conviction of the natural dignity of man.

"I do not think," Archbishop Lucey said, "that the improvement which has taken place in wages, hours of labor and conditions of employment has been caused exclusively by the fact that labor is better organized or that enlightened self interest has taught management that greater

profits can be made when workers are contented."

He added that the American people will not tolerate conditions which flourished in shops and factories 25 years ago. He said that the situation in the field of racial relations "today is not too good but it is a great deal better than it was 10 years ago and constant progress is being made." In the field of international relations, he continued, a larger appreciation of the value of men and women is noted and subject people, once exploited in economic servitude, are now being granted political and industrial freedom.

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### Unknown Heroes Family of 10 Evicted— Result, Family Separated

By MARIE WEIDMAN  
Rochester Catholic Charities

Landlords! By all means keep on evicting families with children. We understand—they're noisy, they make the wallpaper all finger-spotty, besides, they're unable to pay as much as other more "desirable" tenants. So, you give them notice to move, take them to court, set their belongings on the street, their rent your precious property to three maiden ladies with a cat. Less noise that way; cleaner wallpaper, too. Sure.

What about the family of children you evicted? Oh, they're bound to find something. An outsize orange crate, perhaps, with a southern exposure. Someone's bound to help them. Well, just ask the Bates family. They really know NOW.

There are a lot of Bateses, we admit that. Besides the parents there are Robert and Donald and John and Michael and Mary Alice and Jerold and Thomas and Ruth Ann. Yes, eight, count them.

THEY'RE LIVELY, all remarkably attractive, noisy and normal. Mr. Bates works a good day's work at Railway Express and Mrs. Bates does her daily utmost to keep her family clean and well fed with today's astronomical prices. But they weren't complaining, and as the children developed, the Bates family was a going concern paying dividends in contentment and security to each other, as a good and sober Christian family should.

Then they received notice to move from a benevolent landlord who, undoubtedly had the Bates quarters already assigned to some maidenly threesome with a tabby. Only those who have experienced an eviction can know the horror of the Bates family. What relative could accommodate them with so large a family group?

It was almost ridiculous to look for another landlord who would accept them, but of course they looked, up and down the city and

### Elected



Miss Mary Rose Maley, Rochester, former president of the Rochester Council of Catholic Nurses, was elected to the post of first vice president of the National Council of Catholic Nurses at the annual convention last week in Boston. A member of the Strong Memorial Hospital staff, Miss Maley formerly served as vice president of the National Council.

Profits can be made when workers are contented."

He added that the American people will not tolerate conditions which flourished in shops and factories 25 years ago. He said that the situation in the field of racial relations "today is not too good but it is a great deal better than it was 10 years ago and constant progress is being made." In the field of international relations, he continued, a larger appreciation of the value of men and women is noted and subject people, once exploited in economic servitude, are now being granted political and industrial freedom.

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EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD  
Sister Marie Patience, a novice of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart at Sohag, Egypt, is just eighteen years old. We must provide three hundred dollars for her two years' training. Will you adopt this missionary Sister? She will be your glory on earth and in heaven.

LIGHT AS ASSUIT  
In the new diocese of Assuit, Egypt, Bishop Scandar must provide many chapels. A thousand dollars is perhaps too much for you to give but you can have your eternal light burning for you in one of them, by providing the sanctuary lamp for twenty dollars.

BLIND MOTHER  
The Mother Superior of the Sisters at Santorino, Greece, still blind after the terrible bombings on 11/23/47, begs help for her little orphan children. She asks for three hundred dollars, and we wonder how we can get that much for "ORPHAN'S BREAD." Can you help us?

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