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Women's Viewpoint

Disinterested Smugness

MARIE WEIDMAN

The forty-second Annual Elks' Clambake would excite a good deal more enthusiasm and anticipation than our current presidential election. The candidates' railway platform appearances are attracting only half the numbers of previous years, and evening radio audiences seem to prefer winning ice boxes to hearing any political philippic.

Marie Weidman

The thrill of the contest has disappeared. Since the advent of Dr. Gallup and his poll takers, together with the radio commentators, election day is merely the necessary formal ending of an event they have brooded over, analyzed dissected and of course, accurately predicted, weeks or even months before.

So this leaves the great American public with one thing less to think about, thereby allowing more time to devote to the winning of fat radio jackpots. The responsibility therefore, for conducting the affairs of the most important government in the world today is left to that select coterie of party members who await the spoils of office with fangs more or less in evidence. In the past few years the number of Americans who voted was hardly more than half of those who MIGHT have cast ballots. Nothing, but definitely nothing can stir us out of our smug, plastic, foam rubber slough of lethargy and disinterest.

We get our views of current events thru the clever gaffes of our professional wags. The President's estrangement with Congress sounds like a small boys' quarrel when Winchell, thru the courtesy of hand lotion, finishes lampooning him each week. Thru many political cartoonists' pens, Mr. Dewey looks like a knight in tin foil armor.

We laugh at our public figures, but so few of us have any first-hand knowledge of the basic issues involved. Last June the Gallup Poll (all right, let's use Dr. Gallup — everyone else does) showed that sixty-five percent of our great American public had never even heard of the Marshall Plan. We then take our voting lightly,if at all, and go on being comfortable, amused and really quite stupid.

• • •

OURS IS A bleeding, pain-racked world facing the worst crisis in history. Millions are starving, millions hate God, and more millions are callous and insensible to the oncoming darkness. We have already suffered the hell of the two most staggering wars in history and we now come head-on toward Christendom's terrifying enemy, Communism. Day by day, it becomes more and more apparent that our planet cannot support these two creeds. It falls to our era, to our lot, to crush the anti-God.

The people on our side have much to think about. For three years now they have been trying to cajole and wheedle Russia into cooperation with the United Nations. For three years Russia has used the boycott, filibuster and other assorted obstructive tactics to interfere with the solution of at least a few of the world's problems. They are directly responsible for the present chaos.

In addition we are in possession of the most frightening war weapon ever invented, and we don't know exactly what to do with it. It is the duty of the men we somehow manage to elect and to solve this dilemma, if a solution could exist.

Our generation has a heavy task, indeed. We, as the most fortunate segment of the world, must be more sober, conscientious and aware of what lies ahead. It would be intelligent to know, each for himself, just where we are going, why and how. Our first task toward this enlightenment is solemn and sincere prayer for grace and fortitude to bear the scourges we must suffer before we are rid of this ghastly anti-God gospel.

JESUIT BROTHERS
Men, who do not wish to become priests but feel called to the SOCIETY OF JESUS AS BROTHERS are invited to write to REV JOSIN J McMAHON S.J. 801 East Fordham Rd, New York 58, N Y—Tel SEdgwick 3-4160 An elementary education suffices—a high school education desirable Preferred ages 18-45 Jesuit Brothers do not study or teach but help in the temporal concerns in colleges, churches and foreign missions

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Purgatorian
For November, month of the Holy Souls, why not enroll a loved one deceased in our Purgatorian Society of Masses. Perpetual enrollment is twenty dollars, annual is one dollar. A special Mass for deceased is offered every morning in St. Peter's, Rome.

WE NOW TRY ST. JUDE
We are now going to pray to the Saint of the Impossible, so that by October 28, his feast, we shall be able to answer that plea of Bishop Scandar for a little chapel at Komsfaht in Egypt.
This young Bishop, just appointed, has gone into a very Mohammedan section of his country to bring the faith back. He was counting on an old chapel at Komsfaht to be a rallying point, but the Nile River overflowed and washed it away.
Won't you encourage this young Bishop as he asks us to help him build a House of God on higher ground at Komsfaht? It will cost a thousand dollars, but it will enroll more thousands of souls in the Lord's Sheepfold. Do think of what you can do.

TOO SOON?
Christmas will be a happy holiday for all our orphans if you give for "ORPHAN'S BREAD." Of necessity it will be a white Christmas for our lepers. You can make it joyous by your mite for the DAMIEN LEPER FUND. Have you thought of sending our beautiful GIFT CARD to friends at Christmas? Write for our free circular.

FLYING HIGH
For months now we have had to fly in packages of food to Father Dlusky, lone Russian Catholic pastor in Berlin, for his starving flock. And now we must supply the same for the starving and homeless of Palestine. Ten dollars will give one package. Here is real mercy, exquisite charity.

MONTH OF MASSES
A Mass day after day for a departed loved one for thirty days. These are the Gregorian Masses. Our free leaflet tells all about them. Ask also about arranging for these Masses after your own death.

WITH WHAT LOVE!
[illegible] of the priesthood! [illegible] now, my Jesus, would [illegible] in my hand when my [illegible] down from [illegible] Tourcoing, the [illegible] Won't you adopt a [illegible] and give the [illegible] Mass for years [illegible]

YOUR HEART'S FIRE
A sanctuary lamp, purchased for a Near East chapel for twenty dollars, will hold your heart's fire for the Sacrament of Love day and night.

CROWN OF ROSES
During October, month of the Holy Rosary, please do not forget those wonderful Sisters of the Holy Rosary and their orphans at Beit Mery, Lebanon. Make a deposit in "MARY'S BANK" for them and be assured of interest stored up in heaven.

BERNADETTE
Sister Bernadette is a novice of the Sisters of Perpetual Help, at Harissa, Lebanon, with one year more of training before she becomes a missionary. Can you make her your adopted daughter and give $150 needed to complete her novitiate?

RACHEL'S CHILDREN
With Nazareth and Bethlehem packed with the starving and homeless, Christ's own Land will have none of the peace of the first Christmas night. Please do help us help them. Thousands are dying and the Lord and His Mother appeal to you.

ALWAYS ACCEPTABLE
A golden chalice, with your name engraved, in the hands of a missionary priest, how acceptable is this gift to God. You can give a beautiful chalice for fifty dollars.

HOW CAN I?
When you feel unable to answer the larger appeals, why not write for our leaflet "HOW CAN I HELP?" The smallest gift helps us.

NOT MY WILL
It is not my will, but God's will, when I remember the Near East missions in it. Remember them in your last will and live forever in the hearts of God's grateful poor.

RARE INDEED
Rare, indeed, is a gift of thirty dollars for vestments, but members of the MONICA GUILD by giving a dollar a month help us to clothe poor missionaries at the altar. Won't you join?

Address all communications to
Catholic Near East Welfare Association
[illegible] 4th St.
New York 17, N. Y.

GOOD NEIGHBORS' ROSARY

A unique observance of October as the Month of the Holy Rosary, was observed in Washington, D.C., where a "Block Rosary" was recited each evening at the home of Mrs. Philip Jenkins. Some 30 neighbors, residing in the same block, and including a few non-Catholics, gathered nightly to pray for world peace and the conversion of Russia. In the picture, Mr. F. Sheldon McCabe leads the group in the "Block Rosary."

Fr. Brennan's Tenth Book, "Just For Juniors' Is Ready

Twenty-eight new tales for children — about such wonderful characters as The Horse That Liked Sandwiches, Maxie the Mouse, and The Flying Lady — are contained in the latest book by the genial Rochester author, the Rev Gerald T. Brennan, pastor of St. Bridget's Church.

Father Brennan's tenth book, "Just for Juniors," will be released next week by the Bruce Publishing Company of Milwaukee. To date, the publishers estimate, Father Brennan's books — which, while they excite youthful imaginations, at the same time teach important lessons of knowing, loving and serving God — have sold well over 150,000 copies.

FATHER BRENNAN

THE HUMBLE pastor comes naturally by his knack of story telling. Much of his time is spent instructing large classes of public school children. He always has placed special emphasis on a sermon for children at the Sunday Children's Mass, with the technique of telling a story to them and drawing a moral lesson from it.

Eleven years ago Father Brennan was dared to put some of his stories in book form. He wrote his first book "Angel Food." Clergy and laity alike hailed it as an answer to their prayers. They proved a practical and effective way of teaching religion. He received letters from pastors, teachers and parents for more books.

Despite the heavy schedule of work in his parish, he took up the challenge. He has managed to write at least one book a year. Among his titles are Angel Food, Angel City, For Heaven's Sake, The Ghost of Kingdom Come, God Died at Three O'Clock, Going His Way, The Good Bad Boy, The Man Who Dared a King, The Man Who Never Died.

Hospital Becomes Seminary

London — (NC) — A British naval hospital during the war, Thistleton Lodge, near Kirkham, Lancashire, has been opened as a junior seminary for the Lancaster diocese. It covers 93 acres in beautiful rural Lancashire.

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Teen Talks

On Being Genuine

By NORMA DE PREZ

What is this thing called sincerity? That weighty tome named dictionary defines it as "the state or quality of being genuine. The jokester insists it is much like the parlor piano, being square and upright. The Latin scholar (and there are a few, you know) traces its lineage from a word meaning clean and pure. But regardless of its derivation or definition, sincerity should be synonymous with you.

Norma DePrez

But speaking of derivations (and at this point you are doubtlessly wondering who wants to), we heard the very interesting tale of how the word sincerity found its way into our vocabulary.

• • •

AS ALL good stories begin, so does this. Once upon a time, in the days of the dim, distant past, every church had a bell that sounded to gather the faithful, to announce the Angelus time and the like. But a bell like other things, could not last forever -- and soon the inevitable day would arrive when the bell began to crack.

Now the only way that those enterprising ancients could condition the bell for further use was to coat it with wax. This being done the bell tolled once more, but it's sound was not the same. What has all this to do with sincerity? Just this: those bells without the wax (or to be Latin about it sine-cera — ("without wax") could always be distinguished as those that rang true.

Gals, that is what we are striving for, to be belles that ring true (sine-cera). We do not have to be told again and again that no one appreciates a girl who is artificial and affected in her manner. We may think we are wowing the coke crowds, staggering the stag line with false flattery and affected eye cues, but we are only deceiving ourselves.

Sincerity not only will simplify things considerably, it also will make you a better friend. Combine it with a sense of responsibility and dependability and you will never be singing the lyric, "I'm somebody nobody loves."

• • •

JUST AS there is no sin in sincerity, there is little self in selflessness. Being aware of others, and a willingness to do for others, is as contagious as the three-day measles. You can catch it anywhere and at any time. The symptoms are easily discovered. If you find yourself helping Jane with that difficult math problem, or asking shy Suzie to the Friday evening frolic at your house, you are in for a siege of this wonderful thing called selflessness.

Along with sincerity and selflessness goes the art of making allowances. There are times in every teentimer's life when other people are just plain annoying. At that point we just sit back and let tolerance take over.

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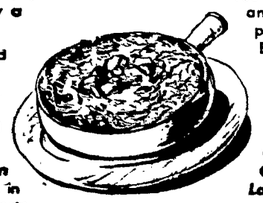

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