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At Our House Homework Headache

By MARY TINLEY DALY

For years we have argued at our house over the "Help vs. No-Help" theory of homework. "Let 'em work it out for themselves," the Head of the House has always maintained.

"School is their lifework right now and they have to stand on their own feet."

"But it keeps them up so late," I complained, as the three middles sat chewing at their pencils at the dining room table.

"Don't you know a bluff when you see one?" asked the Head of the House cynically. "Anything will keep them up."

"He had something there. Fact is, they come of a long line of people whom anything will keep up—anything or nothing. But the poor kids look sleepy—and overworked."

"Huh," I thought, "he just doesn't want to be bothered." Neither did I—but opposition always brings out the martyr in me, but strongly.

"Well, if you won't help them, I suppose it's up to me?" I asked, giving him another chance.

"Suppose it is." The Head of the House returned to his newspaper.

"I HAD ASKED for it, so I joined the three middle girls at the table, casting a longing glance at the new book that the Head of the House would have confiscated before we were through.

Markie opened the session: "I can't find the natural resources of the Belgian Congo."

Mary independently went along with her homework—no questions asked, writing neat papers, placing the whole thing together—then went upstairs to take her bath, while Markie and I searched the Belgian Congo.

"What did St. Sebastian do?" Eileen asked.

"How should I know?" was on the tip of my tongue, but the Head of the House had an earcocked. "He was a very holy man," I stammered. "Let's read some more about him."

Locating the natural resources of the Congo for Markie, I scrounged my chair over to Eileen's side and we went after St. Sebastian.

Finally, homework was done and the girls went upstairs. "Bet I get a D," Markie whispered. "She sure wasn't on the ball tonight."

"Good story?" I asked pointedly.

"Well, wanna read it?" He offered the book.

"Oh, no," I answered, still the martyr. "That homework did me up."

"You coddle 'em," he grunted. "Ought to make 'em independent."

"But look at the marks some of the children get—the ones whose parents help them with homework."

"Who deserves the marks?" he asked. "And maybe they're smart parents."

"Yeah, maybe they are. I remembered the night when Markie was getting a cold and I had done her arithmetic, spent more than an hour on 'story problems,' and the next day Markie rated a zero."

The remembrance cut me down to size and routed the martyr complex.

The Head of the House said seriously, "We didn't let Pat and Johnny when they were in grade school."

I nodded. "But then the three middles were babies and I was always too tired—but you used to help them now and then."

"There you have it," he said. "Now and then," when they were stuck. And they're doing all right now, aren't they?"

I had to admit that, as senior and junior in college, Pat and Johnny handle their studies and extra-curricular activities nicely.

NEXT DAY was time for parents to call in person for the children's report cards. My first interview was with Slater Melanie, Eileen's teacher.

'TO THE FOLKS AT HOME ...'



A New Year's greeting for his folks at home is dedicated by a patient in the Manhattan Beach Veterans Administration Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y., to Helen Wallace, National Catholic Community Service volunteer, who will send the message for him. This program, sponsored by the NCCS in New York, is typical of the VA hospitals throughout the country where NCCS volunteers contribute to the welfare of the hospitalized war vets. (NC Photos)

Women's Viewpoint Call Your Culture

MARIE WEIDMAN

Ever since Lot's wife, looking backward has been a favorite human pastime, and as we're now one year further along in our tumultuous twentieth century, a year's end

cultural retrospect might confront us mightily. However, the most we can hope for is that what we view will not, what we hope, make us worthy to share the fate of Lot's unlovely spouse.

It is not difficult to deduct that Americans are a many-sided people indeed, as interpreted by the cheap, sensational, light and lurid layers of our culture found in our daily press.

The technicolor escapades of Lana Turner and Rita Hayworth have far more mass appeal than details of atomic control.



Marie Weidman

SO WHO CARES about the UN when Miss Turner is dripping diamond diadems on page three; what does Miss Hayworth have that Stalin hasn't got on the page one headline? Well, Joe, La Hayworth has good legs and an Eastern Sultan swooning after her over three continents. What do we Americans care about your significant gains in Greece and China this year? We've got Rita.

We also have lots of other interesting celebrities, who get married, divorced and intoxicated all over the daily tabloids. Should we accept this as standard American practice and behavior? We shouldn't, but do we? Do our children? Do other nations? As a people we are not serious enough. The cakes and ale, the milk and honey have never failed us.

Even in the depths of war there was always that snug sound feeling—perhaps it was just the dull lethargy we often refer to as public opinion. You know—the public that rushes madly to find out what innately that dull-witted little slaver, Orphan Annie, is mouthing each morning.

Breathlessly thousands each day follow Dixie Dugan turning down her fifty-sixth sultor and Dick Tracy as he outwits Cement Face. Our children devour the comic books by the silly thousands and graduate from high school unable to read a simple direction on an employment blank.

By far the most outstanding trend in our present day culture is the strong emphasis on the material, on one's tangible possessions. In the year that has just been laid to rest, the give away radio program has reached its ludicrous height.

A steady stream of milk coats three-way vacuum cleaners, and one-way tickets to China (on a slow boat, one assumes), is let loose on radio listeners who are convinced that Duz does everything. All this abets the firm belief Americans have that a chrorneplated ranch-type house and a '49 Ford are basic requirements for living a full life.

IN THIS DECADE that is rapidly rounding out the segment of the public receiving the greatest attention has been our young adolescents. We've invented the intriguing term "Teen Ager," given them guidance, sympathy with their problems, pleasant gathering places, juke boxes and bebop music. So far the results have been good.

The young seem more aware of themselves as a force for good in the community, they appear more aware of themselves as a force for good in the community, more aware of their futures, their responsibilities. Unfortunately though, many of them—and many of their parents—are still of the opinion that attending college for four years guarantees a better job, more money so that one may have a helicopter in every room.

More and more of us are coming to realize that worship of science is not the answer to man's deeper needs. Many know the answer is to return to God and religion, but it's pleasant to be pagan. With the air blowing cold and fresh on the infant year, let Catholics pray more firmly for all our futures.

New Youth Pamphlet Issued on Vocations

New York—(NC)—A pamphlet entitled, "H. You Heard Christ's Call?" has been published here by the Catholic Information Society. The text and 50 illustrations offer young prospective candidates for the priesthood, sisterhoods and brotherhoods information on various fields of activity toward that end. The pamphlet was prepared by the Rev. Godfrey Poage, C.P.

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'Block-Rosary' for Peace Urged as Neighborly Devotion

New York—(NC)—A plea for the adoption of the "Block Rosary," a practice in which neighbors gather nightly in a different home to say the Rosary for world peace, was made to Catholics across the nation by a speaker on the Hour of Faith program, produced by the National Council of Catholic Men and carried by the American Broadcasting Company.

"Not only does it practice the great virtue of charity," declared the Rev. William J. Clabby, an Air Force chaplain stationed at Wright-Patterson Field, Dayton, O., "but it breaks through the walls of apartment houses and spreads the spirit of neighborliness so much needed in our day. People get to know one another in the union of prayer."

"In this day when our population has become so transient, when there have been tremendous movements of families from one end of the country to the other, and when there are so many people who are lonesome, without friends, a marvelous device the Block Rosary becomes to open the doors of friendship to those who have wandered far from family firesides."

THE BLOCK ROSARY is at the same time an excellent way of fulfilling the request of the Blessed Mother at Fatima that the Rosary be said every day in preparation for the sins of the world and in devotion to her Immaculate Heart. Father Clabby pointed out.

"The Blessed Lady begs us to rally the forces of good for a crusade of prayer and penance," he said. "In 1917 Our Lady of Fatima promised that if my requests are granted, Russia will be converted and there will be peace. If not she will scatter her ashes throughout the world provoking wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, various nations will be annihilated."

Pointing out that His Holiness Pope Pius XII has called upon the 35,000,000 league members throughout the world to pray especially during January for "those suffering in persecuted countries," Father McGrath noted that arrest of the Cardinal is an "almost harrowing coincidence when we advert to the timeliness of the Pontiff's plea"

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 Before It Is Too Late
 The day after he arrived in Palestine— Monsignor McMahon called, "ship immediately Ladies of Nazareth all clothes in Warehouse, plus all Food Packages possible. Within two hours we shipped 1,500 pounds of clothes and fifty food packages. Before it is too late—gather up those clothes that you will never use—men's, women's and children's—and send them to our C.N.E.W.A. Warehouse, 52-15 Flushing Avenue, Maspeth, L.I., N.Y. We must pay for the food packages. They cost ten dollars. How many can you give? Please—please send us a check today!

"TOUCHED IN THE HEAD"
 The immortal War Men of the East were considered "touched in the head" when they said they would "follow the star" to find and adore the newborn King, whose coming had been foretold long that you would be "touched" to give a thousand dollars to build a chapel for Father Mansour in Iran. But, this House of God will win a whole village for Christ. And that is far more than the Wise Men gave Him.

GOLD
 The Magi brought gifts of gold—for the Child was poor. A Chalice for fifty dollars, a Monstrance or a Ciborium for twenty-five dollars will be a precious gift for the Christ who is still poor in His Near East Churches.

FRANKINCENSE
 A censor, boat and goodly supply of incense, costing fifteen dollars, will wait clouds of incense round the earthly Throne of God—His Altar.

MYRRH
 Did you know that the second last ceremony in the consecration of a Bell is the placing of a smoking censor, with incense and myrrh under the bell; so that the smoke arising will fill its concavity. A Sanctuary Bell will be yours for four dollars.

THEY WENT BACK ANOTHER WAY
 Warned by God's angel, the Magi went back another way. But they were changed men. They had seen God face to face. The newly ordained priest goes back from the Altar of God—a changed man. He is another Christ—who holds God in his hands each day. Will you give God another priest? One hundred dollars a year (instalments if you wish) for six years will do it. We give you the student's name, and the seminary where he is studying.

RELIQS OF BETHLEHEM
 Carefully preserved in the Church of St. Mary in Rome are a few pieces of wood—genuine relics of the manger—where the Divine Babe was laid in Bethlehem. But just as precious in God's eyes is the altar where Christ is born each day in Holy Mass. Archbishop Ivanos still needs altars where the Bread of life may be broken for his new converts. You may give a memorial Altar for fifty dollars.

DID YOU HAVE ONE?
 The growing custom of having a Christmas Crib at home teaches the meaning of Christmas far better than a Christmas tree. Children love it—so do we. A picture of the Holy Family in the place of honor over a Near East altar will teach the martyr a year (instalments if you wish) for six years will do it. We give you the student's name, and the seminary where he is studying.

BAPTIZED IN BLOOD
 Theologians tell us that the Holy Innocents—the first martyrs for Christ—received baptism of Blood, in the Eastern Church and Antiochianism—a corporal containing relics of the martyrs. Take the place of our altar stone. Without this a priest may not say Mass. Bishop Cheikh needs many. Will you give one for ten dollars?

CLOISTERED BRIDES
 "The cloistered nuns of Palestine—the Poor Clares and Carmelites are in dire circumstances." We quote from Archbishop Teasdale's letter. You may not be able to do much, but can you send at least a dollar for these cloistered brides of Christ?

Send all communications to
Catholic Near East Welfare Association
 480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York 17, N. Y.

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