

Irish Monstrance Planned for Fatima

Dublin — (RNS) — Ireland will present a solid silver monstrance of great value to the Shrine of Fatima, Portugal, later this year. Heavily plated with gold, the monstrance will be hand-made by a Dublin firm of metal workers. When completed, it will be carried to Fatima by a group of Irish pilgrims to the shrine.

At Our House Party-Season Woes

By MARY TINLEY DALY

The holidays bring joy and the renewal of friendships—but they are upsetting. For instance, there is the matter of sleep—lack of, that is. It seems that even the run-about set comes in for its share of partying.

Stretch, aged three, has been invited to four shindigs, each accompanied by wild excitement. In taffeta dress, laundered from its last bath of ice cream, Stretch goes forth to pin whiskers on Santa Claus—the old donkey game reward for the season—and indulge in unrestrained eating.



Mary Daly

Then somebody must call for her and practically put into her mouth the little but polite, "I had a very nice time."

Home again, Stretch weeps at not being able to eat the rest of the sticky candy in the rumpled paper basket, takes her dose of milk of magnesia, and plops into bed.

MARIE AND MARY, eleven and nine, have their share of parties too and of course they must give one, an exact replica of those given by their friends. These are gala affairs for Marie and Mary, especially since they have passed the milk-of-magnesia postscript stage.

Eileen, a sophisticated nearly-13, has broken away from "kid stuff" and attends "night" parties from seven to nine—with reluctant boys standing in groups in one corner of the room, valiantly resisting the urging by the loveliest moths to "kiss with that pretty little girl."

Even after Eileen gets home the party continues with a giggling refrain over the telephone.

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AT THE EDITOR'S DESK



Among the newly-appointed editors of Catholic magazines who have recently assumed their posts are, left to right, Rev. Robert C. Marinetti, S.J., formerly of the University of Detroit, now editor of the national Catholic weekly, "America"; Rev. Francis E. Garland, C.S.C., formerly of Notre Dame University, named editor of "The Catholic Boy," recently acquired by the Congregation of the Holy Cross; and Rev. Thomas H. Moore, S.J., noted educator and author, who has been appointed editor of "The Messenger of the Sacred Heart," New York (NC Photos.)

Teen Talks Fire Versus Frost

By NORMA DE PREZ

For some time now, ever since Emily imparted a lengthy list of informative facts on the do's and don'ts of social custom to too loudly at such counsel about juggling the tea cups with the crumpets, and the proper disposition of a salad fork, I believe that all of us, in our own way, like to be posted on such matters.

From Marie and Mary: "Johnny made us come home or we woulda won."

THEN JOHNNY DASHES off and we open the door to Pat's date—spruced up as if he had had no difficulty with his sister's using up all the hot water. (The young men are all so elegant it's hard to remember their names.)

Politely we discuss the weather and ask "How's school?" while the young man of the evening toys with a cigarette or awkwardly balances a corsage box on his knee, until Pat makes the grand entrance enthused over the corsage and nonchalantly tosses my pride-and-joy short cape over her shoulders.

"Well, have a good time," says the Head of the House with relief as they leave, and I bite my tongue to keep from warning, "Drive carefully. Be home early," but usually manage to chime in brightly, "Yes, do have a good time."

Then our holiday evening starts. A Nights the Head of the House and I go out to the waiting hours. When we get home I look hopefully and futilely in Pat's and Johnny's beds—always empty—and think comfortingly, "Well, they'll be home soon," go to bed and worry silently.

But how long that time can be! After a nightful of hours I creep out of bed and look at the clock. Exactly 35 minutes have passed and the Head of the House is snoring.

THE NEXT STEP is watching the cars go by, thinking that each one is stopping in front of our house—but it's always in front of somebody else's. Finally, a car does stop—Pat's home, praise be. I hear the front door close softly, then the refrigerator snaps open and shut. Soon the front door opens again and Johnny comes in.

A giggle and a rumbling laugh in the kitchen as the frying pan clanks on the stove. I reach for a robe and slippers and sneak downstairs. Suddenly I'm hungry.

"Crack another egg," says Johnny "Here's Mommy and she's not getting enough sleep."

While the three of us enjoy pozing egg sandwiches and news of the evening, our ewwle-erl snorer comes down—so we crack another egg.

"You kids keep too late hours," gumbles the Head of the House sleepily. "Here we stay up and worry about you, just any more eggs?"

Egg sandwiches and milk dishes appear as fast as the specks we've released. So we hear all about the parties.

It's fun—but how we will welcome those long dull days of January!

Priest Promotes Care of Sailors

Mobile, Ala. — (NC) — A young but widely experienced priest of the Diocese of Mobile is meeting with refreshing vigor, the inflow of American and foreign seamen at this Gulf Coast gateway to Latin Americans and other visitors to these shores.

ARMED WITH bundles of magazines, games, religious articles and the potent faculties of administering the Sacraments, celebrating Holy Mass on shipboard and inviting the blessing of God upon the ships and those who sail them, the Rev. Henry McGill is a familiar figure to crewmen of vessels of many flags.

As Port Chaplain of Mobile, Father McGill asserts convincingly that American as well as foreign seamen represent a distinct group that must never be forsaken by their brothers of the Church, because, he explains, the lonely seafaring man more than any other stray from the fold. On the other hand, he says, many carry the mission of Christ throughout the world.

Second Fatima Pilgrimage St. Meinrad, Ind. — (NC) — A second national pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal will be held in May, the Rev. Jerome Palmer, O.S.B., editor of "The Grail," has announced. The American group will be led by Archbishop Paul Schulte of Indianapolis, who will visit the shrine on the 32nd anniversary of the first apparition at Fatima.

Women's Viewpoint The Poetic Monk

MARIE WEIDMAN

The beauty of even one man's discovering God and thereby warming to his timorous and cold struggle, intellectual yet passionate, in the mind of a man before he is able finally to embrace the

Truth together with the pain of renouncing Mammon, constitute his trial by fire. He emerges from it tempered a fine spiritual steel, burnished and shining, to reflect the

awe-stricken faces of the rest of us.

Such a one has recently come to the notice of the thinking public. A young intellectual in our midst has found God in the deep and holy silence of a Trappist monastery. He is a poet, a unique vocation these days, which might indeed serve to classify him for some, as an anemic poseur who doesn't make sense.



Marie Weidman

Certainly every Catholic can look with pride on Mr. Merton's book which is yet another revelation of how our Faith causes spiritual re-birth in man. His book serves to show that the contemplative life, always recognized as the highest form of human endeavor, plus the unceasing prayers of very human beings in convents and monasteries, serve to stay the avenging Hand of Almighty God.

At any rate, this book will have a very wide audience. It will be read not only by the sincere and the questioning, but also by those who have the compulsion to read every book on the best seller list. After some unaccountable delay, Seven Storey Mountain has recently been added to this slightly ignominious literary barometer.

For those, too, who merely want to know what the author has to say about Communism, Columbia University or Nicholas Murray Butler or the situation in Harlem, there is much to be gained. No one will rightly know the force of this one man's reflections on his search for God in the spiritual development of our age.

Merton's poetry is a trifle avant-garde, long haired, and in his earlier days, a bit difficult to sell. Yet in his poems, adjudged very modern, he is aware of the modern misery; the spirit and heart of his work is Catholic, and as his insight deepened with his conversion it became not only richer because of his religion, but sadder as he contemplated the bleakness of the modern mind.

Ours is not an age, somehow, for poetry — the literary form of the novel has flourished while the best of our poetry seems to have fallen on barren ground. Merton's work, though, is among the best, because, having recognized the truth and therefore having something to verify about it, may yet make him the worthy successor of Gerard Manley Hopkins, 19th century Jesuit poet.

HOWEVER, HIS stature as a poet will be determined later on by those who will have a long over view of our total literary efforts. At present his autobiography, named after the seven-towered mountain of Dante's Purgatory, we hope, will cause some measure of deep thought among those members of the reading public for whom a little deep thought might perform a great deal of good in a disquieting sort of way.

U. S. Catholic Aid For Holy Land Will Be Doubled

Amman, Transjordan — (NC)

The Catholic relief program in the Holy Land will be stepped up to permit doubling of rations of food and clothing to be given the poor during the remaining winter months.

This was announced by Msgr. Thomas J. McMahon, national secretary of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association in the United States and the representative in Palestine of War Relief Services National Catholic Welfare Conference, during a two-day visit here surveying the needs of refugees in this area.

THE U. S. PRIEST said that Catholic aid will increase even after the \$30,000,000 relief program of the United Nations goes into effect "because the local populations who are not refugees, and therefore do not come under the U.N. program are now becoming more destitute."

Questioned on his impressions in an interview here Monsignor McMahon said, "The most consoling fact in my journey has been the ability to rely on the already established personnel of 2,000 priests, Brothers, Sisters and workers distributing Christ's merciful charity to the poor in the land he loves."

"Already these religious houses have spent their own meager resources aiding homeless refugees and the increasing number of destitute I have requested Msgr. Antonio Vergani, Vicar General in Palestine for the Latin Rite Patriarchate of Jerusalem to distribute aid in Galilee."

One of the only tried and true antidotes for sophistication is enthusiasm. Someone has said that enthusiasm is like a fire. It always draws a crowd. The proof of that can be found right next to you in home room or in front of you in assembly. Why is Bill head of the student government? Why is Jane class president?

The answer is obvious. It is because they are enthusiastic, filled with life and spirit and ready to spend that spirit on something worthwhile. You know yourself you would much rather be with a person with that kind of pep. Their zest gives life to everything they do. It makes them successful leaders and equally successful followers. They are interested because they are interested.

BUT HOW ABOUT sophisticated Sue? She's not much fun to double date with, absolutely a dead beat at the basketball game and decidedly an ice-cube at the coke clutch. Altho it may seem that she has lost interest in life, we can't be that harsh. Let's just say she has not lost interest but has lost the right vision.

The inevitable moral to the story? Be interested, be enthusiastic, be alive. Want to do for others, whether it is writing the great American novel, participating in student government, or building a better mousetrap.

However for everyone of us there is an abuse. We can never pretend enthusiasm, because if we do, it usually ends up as an unconvincing string of artificial adjectives, called by some "gush." Real enthusiasm is a fire, not to be confused with a false alarm, sounded merely for the purpose of attracting attention to ourselves.

We may stagger the stag line with such tactics, but it will only be for a few fleeting minutes. Artificiality just does not wear well. How about it Teen-timers, are you willing to accept a challenge?

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GHOSH TOWN Listen to Monsignor McMahon "I went out to the old city of the Crusaders, called Acre, right on the sea and I found it a ghost town. Three thousand people near starvation are there. The only symbols of salvation are a lone Franciscan, Father Albert Roch, and Mother Six with her Ladies of Nazareth. They have spent all their resources — so I must beg for clothes and food." Please help our Refugee Fund

ANGELS OF MERCY In the wake of starvation we always find sickness, disease and death. Will you help our good Sisters of the Near East to minister to the sick and dying? One Medical Kit costing fifty dollars may save a hundred lives. We can use one hundred kits. "Will you give one?"

TATTERED AND TORN Frayed and worn vestments are better than none. The Basilian Sisters at Btgerine, Lebanon, need vestments for their little chapel. Our Sacristy Guild for the poor churches of the Near East, the MONICA GUILD, needs members badly. Won't you join and give one dollar a month?

LONG LIVE THE POPE Vive le Pope — Long live the Pope! To hear these words not only from the lips of Catholic (Coptic) children, but also from the lips of children of the dissident Copts, is the actual experience of Bishop Scandar of Assiut. In these far lands, both young and old are strongly impressed by the beauty of God's House. This new bishop is attempting to restore his Cathedral. Would you give a Memorial Altar for fifty dollars? Any donation to restore this House of God in Upper Egypt will go far to command respect and make converts from the dissident Catholics.

CHINA, TOO Father Wilcock's little Russian school and orphanage in Shanghai is one of our neediest Missions. Please don't forget him. Send all communications to Catholic Near East Welfare Association 480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York 17, N. Y.

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