Bishop Gerow Jubilee

Natchez, Miss. — (NC) — The 25th anniversary of the consecration of Bishop Richard O. Gerow of Natchez will be celebrated October 20 at Old St. Mary's Cathedral.

R. B. I. Success Story

Miss Claire Cecilone

Graduated from Nazareth Academy in 1947. Entered R.B.I. in September, 1947. Graduated (Medical Secretarial Course) in November, 1948.

Present Occupation: Miss Cecilone is now doing secretarial work at Scranton's Book and Stationery Company. While at R.B.I. she was a member of the R.B.I. Newman Club, an affiliate of the National Federation of Newman Clubs.

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At Our House

'How Dear To My Heart'

By MARY TINLEY DALY

"Come back to reunion," said the notices sent out from the alumnae office, in the early spring. Can't possibly make it. . . .

"It'll be fun to see the old gang again," wrote one of "the old gang."

Mary Daly

Maybe I could make it—it'd be fun to see the girls; we'd forget the years in between and recapture our lost youth. Even more than that, for one carefree week-end we'd forget the dull duties of everyday life and be back in that happy irresponsible period.

No household chores, no settling of squabbles, no attempt to be wise and understanding—and the cookie jar could get itself emptied and stay that way unless somebody else did something about it!

Pat came across with a promise to take full charge of the house, also, to give a treatment with her clay pack, promising a renewed youthfulness. As I lay under the thick white mask I felt like a concrete sidewalk slowly drying, but anything to turn the clock backward!

• • •

AND SO we met, at the class dinner, everybody thrilled to see everybody else. "Why, uh, sure I remember you!"

Could that large matron possibly be the cute thing we'd called "Tiny"? After a second look, it was easy to see Tiny. The eyes were the same, and the grin, and who cared for a few extra chins? And that stunning, poised woman in blue? She'd been the class "brain"—the most unappealing characteristic one could have had in those days!

As we sat around the long tables — all 53 of us — we began picking out one, then another familiar face — and a song rang through my head: "Some enchanted evening, across a crowded room, you will see a stranger . . ." Our own classmates — strangers? They weren't strangers long, though. Reminiscences flew and it was "an enchanted evening," with double chins, gray hair, bifocals and dentures all forgotten.

• • •

NEXT DAY "Baccalaureate" we lined up in class groups. Why we looked exactly as we had always looked! How silly to think we'd changed. The senior class walked in first, perfectly drilled with that little hair-step we used to know. And we alumnae — but we landed.

Seated in chapel, everything was as it had been on that long-ago Baccalaureate — that is, until I glanced across the aisle at the seniors, girls who are Pat's age. Scholastic caps sat jaunt ly on glossy, vibrant hair, gowns hung in graceful folds upon slender young figures . . .

The Mass began, then the splendid sermon, and a peculiar odor crept in: Incense! The deacon had just incensed the altar . . . Odd sort of incense they use . . . Must get those blankets put away in — why, that was the smell: moth balls! Somebody hadn't aired her gown ahead of time . . . Inconsiderate, I thought smugly why I'd aired mine days ago and drawn together the moth holes and inked in the battered edges of the cap.

Came the recessional; the seniors with that perfect half-step, then the alumnae. Al Donohue and I, partners, tried the half-step but we couldn't make it — and out rolled a half dozen moth-balls — from the hem of my gown! The classmates smiled tolerantly, bless 'em!

All day the reminiscences continued, everybody fully reacquainted, with exterior changes completely forgotten. It seemed as though only the best qualities of these classmates survived. Then, of course, came the inevitable, "How many have you?"—and we were launched.

Snapshots were brought out: "This really doesn't do them justice . . ." "She's coming here to school" . . . "And young Tom won his letter for football" . . . "She's going to be married in the fall" . . . "I have a wonderful job." And so we talked, late into the night.

• • •

AND THEN commencement, and the commencement address ". . . What you have learned here . . . Realize your responsibilities . . . Take your place in life . . ."

It might have been our own commencement, so many years ago "Your place . . ." It was satisfying to have found one's place. Why, and it was fun too . . . Why don't commencement speakers ever tell about the fun of finding one's place?

The nuns among us had found their places, and the career girls, and the mothers . . . a place where you were doing what should be done . . . Blankets! Tomorrow, I'd wash all the blankets and put them away in moth balls—with the cap and gown.

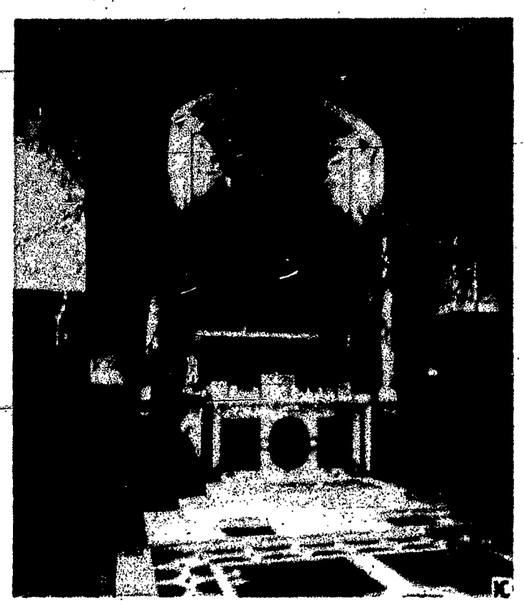
After the exercises, the alumnae gathered briefly. "So nice to have seen you. I'm catching the next train . . ."

"Wonderful reunion, wasn't it? If I can catch the two o'clock plane home I'll be lucky . . ."

"Bye now! Tomorrow's another commencement. Eddie graduates from high school . . ."

I said good-bye to all the classmates within sight could write to the others and if I hurried I'd be home in time to make a chocolate cake for dinner

BIGGEST MARBLE JOB



One of London's biggest and longest jobs, that of marbling the interior, is being carried out at Westminster Cathedral, a task interrupted by the war. In the photo, the Father Sacristan is shown in the recently completed Chapel of St. George and the English Martyrs. The reredos over the altar is by Eric Gill.

Thousands of Canadians Have Enrolled in Marriage Course

Montreal—(CIP)—Thirty-five thousand young Canadians have benefitted from the "Marriage Preparation Courses" established five years ago under the auspices of the Young Christian Workers (Jocist) movement of Canada, according to the Rev. Albert Sanschagrin, O.M.I., who founded the courses and is now Vice-Provincial of the Oblate Fathers in Chile.

(Rochester Diocese has had a similar movement for the last two years under sponsorship of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. Rochester and Auburn have annual Pre-Cana Conferences for pre-marriage couples, while many groups participate throughout the year in Cana Conferences for newly-wedded couples.

During the past year, Father Sanschagrin declared, approximately 5,000 engaged couples have taken part in the oral courses, correspondence courses and special retreats organized by the Marriage Preparation Service, with headquarters at the Catholic University of Ottawa

THE SERVICE had its preliminary beginnings 10 years ago, Father Sanschagrin said, when 500 Jocist study circles studied the Catholic principles regarding marriage and the family

From 1941 to 1944, marriage preparation courses were organized on an experimental basis in a number of dioceses, with the permission of each Bishop. Every six months, the priests and laymen in charge held a meeting to discuss their experiences and to decide on necessary changes and adjustments.

THE ORAL marriage preparation courses consist of 15 lessons given by experts including a priest, a physician, and a lawyer.

The correspondence courses use essentially the same methods and are meant for those unable to attend the oral courses. The special retreats for engaged couples make possible a more intensive preparation.

Summarizing the principles underlying the Marriage Preparation Courses, Father Sanschagrin declared: "Let us build happy Christian families, and we shall have saved human society."

Teen Talks

Who's an Old Smoothie?

By NORMA DE PREZ

There you are, sitting on top of the world. The phone calls are all for you and every Friday night before and after exams means date time. You'll go through the parties and hops of commencement week with flying colors that is with every color except true blue. This all adds up to the sixty four dollar question, are you a heart-breaker?

Norma DePrez

A heart-breaker (call her a smoothie if you will) is one who dies a thousand deaths at the thought of being dateless. Rather than suffer the fate of a dateless weekend, Susy Smoothie latches on to the techniques of leading on a few unsuspecting victims.

• • •

SHE KNOWS that the boy who lives next door has been looking for all kinds of excuses to come sit on her front porch. For weeks now he has been borrowing the hedge clippers, lending her books and even bringing over his favorite record album, all in the hope that he may summon enough courage to ask her out.

When he has finally gathered enough nerve and a two weeks' allowance in advance, he pops the question.

As a rule, Susy wouldn't think of dating him but it just so happens that this week there has been a lull in her love life. When she says yes, she resigns herself to the movie, soda, home-on-the-bus kind of date, and sends that boy next door hopping across the hedge for his best bib and tucker.

But what happens when Tom Sharp, complete with a convertable and smooth line, calls an hour later to ask for a date. We know our friend Susy will be tempted to say yes and find some excuse to squirm out of her previous date.

If she does, our little Miss Smoothie will be forgetting one important thing — that fellows have feelings too.

• • •

THERE IS no denying that there are tricks to the trade. In fact, in every girl's date-life there comes at least one time when she must juggle her social engagements so that the jingle jangle of a phone call will not interfere with a house date.

You can be smooth without being smug, nice without being nasty. Sportsmanship along with diplomacy both have their places in the game of dating.

Now that summer vacation is just around the next exam beach parties hot dog roasts and all types of entertainment will be in vogue. The boy in the next block or that one who sat next to you in homeroom will be sitting on your porch or whisking you off to the movies.

Then you will have your chance to prove that in everything including your social life honesty is the best policy. Be fair rather than fickle.

—o—

Bishop Writes on Conversion

Salt Lake City, Utah (NC) A pamphlet entitled "My Conversion To The Catholic Faith," by Duane G. Hunt of Salt Lake, has been published here

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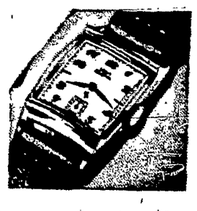

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Do You Wear This Medal?

If you wear the Miraculous Medal, you will want to have a part in the Church of our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, which we hope to build in the fertile mission field of Trivandrum, India. Down among the Jacobites, where conversions are many—there should be a great central shrine to Our Lady, where she may be known and reverenced under this beloved title—Lady of the Miraculous Medal . . . If our Lady has ever granted you a Special Favor, will you show your gratitude with a donation? We ask all who wear Mary's Miraculous Medal to help—one dollar or a thousand, five dollars, fifty or five hundred!. Be generous to God's Mother! No one—save God—has been so generous to you!

ON THE WAY—VIATICUM

When, in life's fleeting moments, you receive for the last time—the Precious Body of our Savior—the priest will bring Christ from His altar home to go—as Viaticum "on the way with you" to Judgment. What a comfort, then to know that you have prepared the way for Christ to come—each day—from Heaven to earth by offering a Special Chalice (fifty dollars) or an Altar (fifty dollars) for one of our Near East Churches in Bishop Scandar's recently established diocese of Assiut. Christ will not forget on Judgment Day, your Corpus Christi gift of chalice or of altar.

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FAMILY CONSECRATION

The lovely custom of Consecrating the Family to the Sacred Heart, on the feast day—June 24th—is one of childhood's happy memories. You can renew that thrill of byegone days with a Family Membership—five dollars a year, or one hundred dollars in perpetuity. It will bring to every member of the family unique privileges, unnumbered graces, and untold blessings. We send you—an attractive certificate or diploma of membership.

— • —

SAMUEL MANNILVADACKETHIL

This young student with the long name has six years before he will be ordained for the Eternal Priesthood in our Seminary at Trichinopoly. He needs one hundred dollars a year—for six years—to complete his course. He will become your priestly son or brother—in Christ if you adopt him, and you will share in every Mass he offers, every sacrament he administers. . . . It's hard to believe that you can receive—So Much for So Little.

— • —

LIGHTNING AND THUNDER

The eulogist of St. Basil (June 14th) said "His voice was as thunder, for his life was as lightning." In a darkened world he lived Christ, and he preached Christ! So indeed do the good sisters of our Near East Schools. They will preach Christ in Your Name—if you join the BASILIANS—our dollar-a-month club for badly needed schools. Archbishop Abed of Tripoli asks eight hundred dollars for a school to convert the Alaouites. Your voice will thunder down the years, long after you are dead and gone—if you can help him.

— • —

GOD LOVES THIS GIFT

God loves the gift that comes without strings—which we can send at once, wherever God wants it most! . . . It is pleasant indeed to choose the one who will profit by your charity. But some day—sometime—in Heaven our Stringless Givers will know why God rewards most generously the giver of gifts without strings or limitations. And that applies to every stringless gift whether it is one dollar, ten or a thousand.

— • —

"I WRITE WITH TEARS!"

"Forgive the spots—I write with tears in my eyes—that will not stop—when I think how good your American Catholics have been to our Refugee Priests, who sadly wait for a day they may never see—the day of returning home." . . . Fr. Dlussky—to whom we ship Food Packages every month for the Priest Refugees in Germany—wrote those words. Till every priest finds a place where he may do God's work—near or far from home—we must help them. . . . A Food Package costs us ten dollars. Every Mass offering helps these priests. Please do not forget them!

Send all communications to:

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