

At Our House
Eternal Questioner

By MARY TIMLEY DALY

"Mrs. Kelley, does that hatpin go all the way through your head?" It was Stretch—or Virginia as we're trying to make ourselves call her—paying one of her semi-daily calls on the next-door neighbors.

Mrs. Kelley demonstrated the workings of a hatpin, but before she had finished Virginia was off on another tangent: "Why are you going out in the car?"

Mary Daly said Mrs. Kelley explained that she and Mr. Kelley were going out for dinner.

"Why?" Virginia wanted to know. "Did you forget how to cook?"

By that time Mr. Kelley was ready to take the car out of the garage—taking Virginia along for her usual ride down the driveway. "Why do you drive so slow down the driveway?" she asked.

"We won't get hit by another car," Mr. Kelley said patiently. "If we get hit by another car we might get killed."

"And then what would happen to us?"

"Well, then we'd go to heaven, I guess."

"Why, don't you want to go to heaven, Mr. Kelley?"

Mr. Kelley explained that he hoped for heaven as an ultimate but not an immediate destination. Then, as he discharged his passenger at the foot of the driveway, he said, "Virginia, you've got the why-ama."

"Where'd I get the why-ama, Mr. Kelley?" she called as the car drove off and she trotted into the house.

FUNNY HOW most children pass through certain general cycles of growth. Funny, too, how parents forget those phases from child to child: the destructive stage of the one-year-old; the negativism of the two-year-old when every suggestion, even agreeable ones, are met with a flat "No"; then the egocentric attitude of the three-year-old when the whole world revolves around one little person.

Now that Virginia is four she is beginning to realize that there are things in the world not directly connected with Virginia, and that these things are interesting too. She wants to know the why of them. It's the only way she can learn, of course, but the questions—incessant and sometimes so seemingly foolish—are maddening.

Astronomy, philosophy, sex, chemistry, psychology, cooking and history can be touched upon within a period of a few minutes, though luckily she is satisfied with the briefest of replies—making way for another question.

AFTER THE Kelleys left this afternoon Virginia played with the new puppies near our house and came home full of news—and why-ams.

"Where'd Butch get her puppies?"

"They came out of Butch."

"Do they go back in to sleep?"

"No. They sleep in their beds."

"When can they eat bones like Butch does?"

"In a couple of weeks."

"Why can't we eat bones?"

"Because our teeth aren't strong enough."

"Why doesn't God leave the sun on all night?" Etc., etc., etc.

... and as I returned to the typewriter and rolled in this sheet of paper, "Why do you roll it in like that?"

"So I can write on it."

"Why do you want to write on it?"

Guess the only answer to that is to warn mothers of three-year-olds of what's ahead of them, and to remind mothers of five-year-olds that the why-ama stage in its most aggravated form is nearly over!

Street Preaching At The Crossroads



Rev. Dr. John A. O'Brien, of the University of Notre Dame, a well known writer and editor, put aside the apostolate of the printed word for a time this summer to engage in street preaching. He is shown here addressing an impromptu gathering at an intersection in Bryson City, North Carolina. This spot is part of St. John's Mission in Waynesville, N.C., which embraces eight counties. There are only 85 Catholics in this area, which is the size of Ireland. Because the Catholics here are a smaller percentage of the total population than are the Catholics in China, this section has been referred to as the China of America. (NC Photo.)

Film Group Sets Fr. Damien Life

Honolulu (RNS) — Catholic leaders are cooperating in the production of a feature-length film based on the life of Father Damien, apostle to the lepers of Molokai, who died himself of leprosy in 1889. The movie will be ready for release early in November, according to the producers, Hawaiian Productions, Ltd., a new independent company.

Catholic authorities of the Honolulu diocese led the script writer, John Kneubuhl, the personal journal of Father Damien and furnished old photographs to help the set designers achieve authenticity.

The Rev. Steven Desha, a Congregationalist minister and member of an old Hawaiian family, agreed to play a featured role as a member of Father Damien's flock.

The title role in the film was assigned to Russell Collins, who has played in such recent Broadway successes as "The Iceman Cometh" and "Carousel." Tentative plans are to have the preview at Kalaupapa on Molokai Island, home of the famed leper settlement.

Nun Asks Alumnae Aid to 'Apostolate of Divorcees'

Chicago (NC) — An "apostolate of the divorcee" was recommended to the women of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae here by Sister Mary de Sales of Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia.

"We must recognize the fact that we are living in an age of martyrdom, a martyrdom of the laity and especially of the married laity," the nun declared, as she asked for organized efforts to bring companionship and encouragement to those Catholic women who have had their normal home life torn away by divorce.

"A pathetic group of girls that need Alumnae help are those who have been divorced through no fault of their own, those who have been cast out from the family. To this group belong the girls who married servicemen during the recent war and have had the husbands return to tell them that they are no longer interested. An alarming number belong to this group," she said.

"What are we doing for these girls, who, as they say, are neither fish nor flesh? Many of them are very young, many very attractive, most of them interested in home and children and yet forever denied this normal, human satisfaction." Sister de Sales continued.

THE SISTER quoted from two letters she had received from one of these girls. The first, written six years after the divorce, was optimistic: "My life goes on and it is not too much of a problem. Faith and hard work are great forces. When I find myself feeling a little sorry for myself, I fight the feeling off by finding something to do."

But the second letter, written three years later, took a different tone: "I still say that if it had not been for my Faith, I would

never have been able to face my problem. But this is a growing problem. We need help and we need it from the Church. We do not need sermons on how awful divorce is. We know that only too well. We need encouragement and understanding we want companionship, we want to lead normal lives."

The college official then stated: "These letters represent the thinking of a growing body within the Church. They are a challenge to us. We must recognize the fact that we are living in an age of martyrdom, a martyrdom of the laity and especially of the married laity. Here is an activity ready for our hands, the Apostolate of the divorcee. To my knowledge nothing has been done for these girls."

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Chinese Riddle To Doctors

Kweilin, China — (NC) — Some of the sick Chinese who report to the dispensary at the Maryknoll Mission here give little help to the medical men. One, when asked to describe his ailment, told the missioner: "You've been trained to find out what's wrong with me; why should I tell you? If my horse were sick, he wouldn't be able to talk and tell you what ailed him."

B. Forman Co. advertisement featuring a drawing of a young girl in a coat and hat. Text includes: 'Tot's Kenwood fleece coat, hat and legging set, perfect for the very first year at nursery school or kindergarten! Red or blue, sizes 3 to 6, 39.95. THIRD FLOOR.'

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New Nuncio to Ireland Named

Vatican City (NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII has named Archbishop Ettore Fejo to the post of Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland. It has been announced here. He succeeds the late Archbishop Paschal Robinson, O.F.M. who died a year ago.

Archbishop Fejo, who is Titular of the See of Corinth, has held high ranking positions in the diplomatic service of the Holy See for 33 years. Born in Segni, Italy, on March 12, 1881, and ordained in 1903, he was consecrated an Archbishop in 1927 and named Apostolic Nuncio to Chile.

In 1938, he was transferred to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, and named Apostolic Nuncio to that country. He stayed there until spring, 1941, when, together with the other members of the diplomatic corps he was forced to leave after the invasion of Yugoslavia by the Axis powers. Since then he has served with the Papal Secretariate of State.

Girl Scouts Sapporo, Japan — (NC) — The first troop of Catholic Girl Scouts on the island of Hokkaido was recently organized at Our Lady of the Angels Mission in Sapporo by Lieut. Marian Sindoni.

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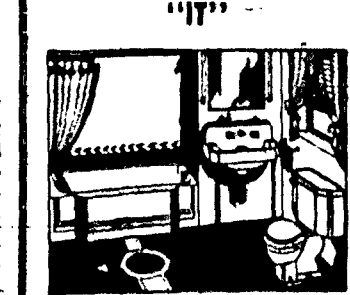
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