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Unfinished Windows For The Ladies Of Charity

By MARY E. FITZGERALD

Catholic Charities Social Workers—confidently—hand the tools to members of the Ladies of Charity when and if—a particular "want" among our neighbors can be met by a volunteer. To every man, woman and child, born into the world—is given the necessary materials to fashion a window which is exquisitely complete.

"The unfinished window in Aladdin's tower, unfinished must remain."—The above lines found in a book of Longfellow's poems were written "To Hawthorne". It was indeed, fitting that one of these contemporary poets, who were such great friends, should pay tribute to the passing of the other—with poetry. And yet, we feel as though we might have written those lines, inspired, however, by a far different motive.

Imagine, if you can a dreary, wind-swept moor, across whose stretches Earth's harshest tempests blow. There in the very midst of that desolation, stands a tower, strong, powerful and majestic—with millions of windows, endlessly circling each other. And such windows! Some brilliantly crystal, others like delicately colored lace and yet others, that are unfinished, broken and why?

SHALL WE think of that mysterious tower as Life—and of those individual and so—different windows as of our particular role in the Divine Plan. Thanks to our inner resources and special graces, we may be perfecting our unfinished window—but others, who are not so fortunate—need help—understanding—guidance—so that the ugly spots, the clouded glass and the ragged edges may be trimmed into the pattern for which each and every one of our neighbors were intended.

It is with such unfinished windows, that we in Catholic Charities have helped during the past twenty years. Human inequalities are permitted to give us an opportunity to help one another. As Social Workers, we come to the problem of those of our neighbors, who are out of adjustment with their social environment—in much the same relationship as a physician approaches his patients or a lawyer his clients. In addition, however, to placing our specialized knowledge and skills at the disposal of those who come to us—we, if we are fully conscious of our obligations—must recognize "our neighbors" as those, who because of circumstances beyond their control — are "unfinished windows."

Early in the seventeenth century there lived a great Saint, the model of all Catholic Social Workers. He recognized the need of those, who because of a lack of resources within themselves, could not effectively use the God-given tools to finish their windows. St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac and their faithful followers therefore paved the way for the world wide organization which is known as the Ladies of Charity.

As we look through the files of the agencies of to-day, many a Social Worker is guilty of long discourses on the complexity of the many problems brought to them for service. Surprisingly however, a Saint, who devoted himself to the problems of God's poor was confronted with many similar situations.

QUALIFIED THROUGH education, with the degrees of Licentiate in Canon Law and a Doctor of Sacred Theology, he preferred to devote "his talents" to those less fortunate than himself.

If St. Vincent de Paul had compiled a monthly report, he would have included as problems or difficulties—Christians held captive by the Turks, the sick, the insane, abandoned infants, wayward youths and girls, fallen women, the aged and every manner of human suffering.

And so he found in St. Louise de Marillac and her followers, his missionaries, who went in person to those whom he could not reach. Now, more than 300 years later, the Catholic Charities of Elmira is seeking and finding in the Ladies of Charity, the means to the end of reaching more and more of God's own.

Thanks to the cooperation of our Active Committees and with the financial support of our Honorary members, ours is the privilege to extend always further, our area of human service.

At the beginning of the rule, which St. Vincent de Paul gave to the first Confraternity of the Ladies of Charity—he put these words of the Gospel:-"Come; ye blessed of my Father;——for I was hungry, and ye gave me to drink; I was sick and ye visited me; ——as long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me."

These words embody the spirit, that should animate the Ladies of Charity—and should inspire every Catholic girl and woman—to seek membership in this Society of the Charity of Christ. We who know what it means to be a Lady of Charity can not refuse—but to you, who may be uninformed we issue this invitation. For some of God's Creatures, the tools are lost, broken or dulled, and it is to those, that the Ladies of Charity working hand in hand with the Catholic Charities, supply the workmanship, which is needed to refute Longfellow's "unfinished" with the words of Jesus Christ—"It is finished in Charity" is finished in Charity"

Death Claims 2 In Corning Area

Corning — Mrs. Catherine Barbaro, 78, died Tuesday, March 7, 1950 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Pina Yorio of 266 W. First St., following a long illness. She was born in Italy but had been a resident of Corning for about 60 years. She was the widow of Anthony Barbaro.

In addition to Mrs. Yario, Mrs. Barbaro is survived by two other daughters, Miss Mary Barbaro and Mrs. Theodore Black, both of Corning; four sons, Joseph of New York City, Nicholas and Dominick of Corning, and Francis of Endicott; nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held from the Yario home Friday at 8:30 a.m. and at 9 o'clock in St. Mary's Church. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ernest Franckhauser of Corning RD 1, died Tuesday, March 7, 1950, following a long illness. He was born in France, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Franckhauser, and had been a resident of the Corning area since 1910. He was a member of St. Patrick's Church.

Survivors include a sister, Mrs. Lucy Burgun of France and a niece, Mrs. Michael Migliore of New York City.

Funeral services were held from the home of Theodore Schaffer of River Road, Corning RD 1, Saturday at 8:30 a.m. and at 9 o'clock in St. Patrick's Church. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Chairman Named For DCCW Area Meet In Corning

Corning — At the regular monthly meeting of Corning Deanery, National Council of Catholic Women Mrs. Fred A. DeMuth and Mrs. Emilio Tejada were named cochairmen for the area meeting which is scheduled to take place at the Baron Steuben Hotel Sunday, April 23. The Elmira, Hornell and Corning Deaneries will participate.

Miss Mary Mikolaczak, president, presided at the meeting at which plans were also discussed concerning the Christopher film "You Can Change the World," which is expected to be shown in Corning in late March or early April. The Misses Ann Miller and Dorothy Dee are in charge of arrangements.

BOOK REVIEWS by Miss Madeline Stenger and Miss Irene Keenan were a feature of the evening. Miss Stenger chose "The Story of the Trapp Family Singers" by Maria Augusta Trapp for her discussion and Miss Keenan reviewed "The Merry Miracle" by Mary Mian. Miss Stenger, chairman of the Library and Literature Committee, assisted by her committee also arranged an interesting exhibit of books and other types of literature in connection with Catholic Press Month.

Plans were also discussed for the continuation of war relief services, especially for new and used clothing for children. Miss Mary Hart is chairman of the War Relief Committee.

Attending the meeting was the Rev. Daniel V. Hogan, assistant pastor of St. Vincent de Paul's Church, who was recently appointed moderator of the organization.

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IHS Women Conduct 2-Day Rummage Sale

Plans are completed for the Rummage Sale being conducted Friday and Saturday, March 17 and 18 by the Immaculate Heart Society in St. Peter and Paul's Hall, Elmira. Proceeds will be used for a new Craft Room for children.

The sale will be opened at 10 a.m. each day and close at 8 p.m. Mrs. Bertha Williams and Mrs. Dora Supple are in charge of the sale.

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Alaska Statehood Priest Opposes

Bristol, Conn. —(NC)— Proposals to grant statehood to Alaska are "politically inspired," the Rev. Bernard R. Hubbard, S.J., famed "Glacier Priest" declared in a talk here.

the Palos Council, Knights of Columbus, the Jesuit priest-explorer and author that Alaska with a population of 80,000 in an area two and one-half times as

In his lecture, sponsored by large as Texas, could not derive enough revenues from taxation to run the territory as a state. Father Hubbard has spent more than 20 years in Alaska.

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200 Czech Priests Reported In Jail

Prague — (ENS) — More than 200 Roman Catholic priests are now in jail or in labor camps throughout Communist-dominated Czechoslovakia, according to Catholic circles here.

It was said the number includes 16 priests arrested during January and 28 others who were condemned last year to terms ranging from six months to 12 years.

Meanwhile, the official government news agency announced that President Klement Gottwald had freed an undisclosed number of priests who were arrested last summer at the height of the Church-State struggle.

British Cardinal

His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, in his first public appearance since his recent illness, makes the opening address at the National Catholic Education Rally in London's Royal Albert Hall, expressing concern over the threat to Catholic schools. Three Archbishops, 18 Bishops and 6,000 persons attended the meeting.

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Aquinas Club Hears Of Blanshard's Book

Corning — The highlight of the meeting of the Aquinas Club, held recently in the Catholic Daughters of America club rooms, was a discussion of Paul Blanshard's book "American Democracy and Catholic Power," and replies to it by the Rev. George Dunne, S.J., of Phoenix, Ariz., and T. Robert Ingram, student of the Episcopal Theological Seminary at Cambridge, writers.

The review of the Blanshard book was given by Robert Roche, while Mrs. Edward Schneider discussed Father Dunne's reply and Mrs. Perry Bradley spoke on the Ingram article.

Presiding at the meeting was Charles Collber, president of the Policy committee.

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A total of 1,485,1441 pounds of foodstuffs, clothing, and medicines valued at $388,000 have been shipped to Korea by War Relief Services N.C.W.C. to date. Give generously to Bishops' Laetare Sunday fund.

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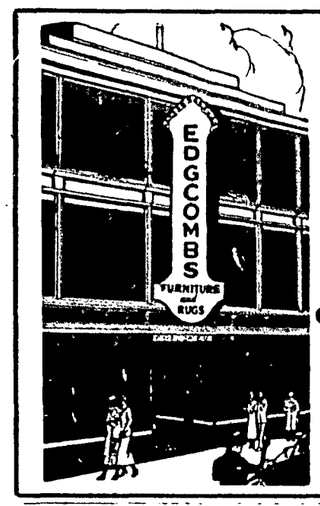

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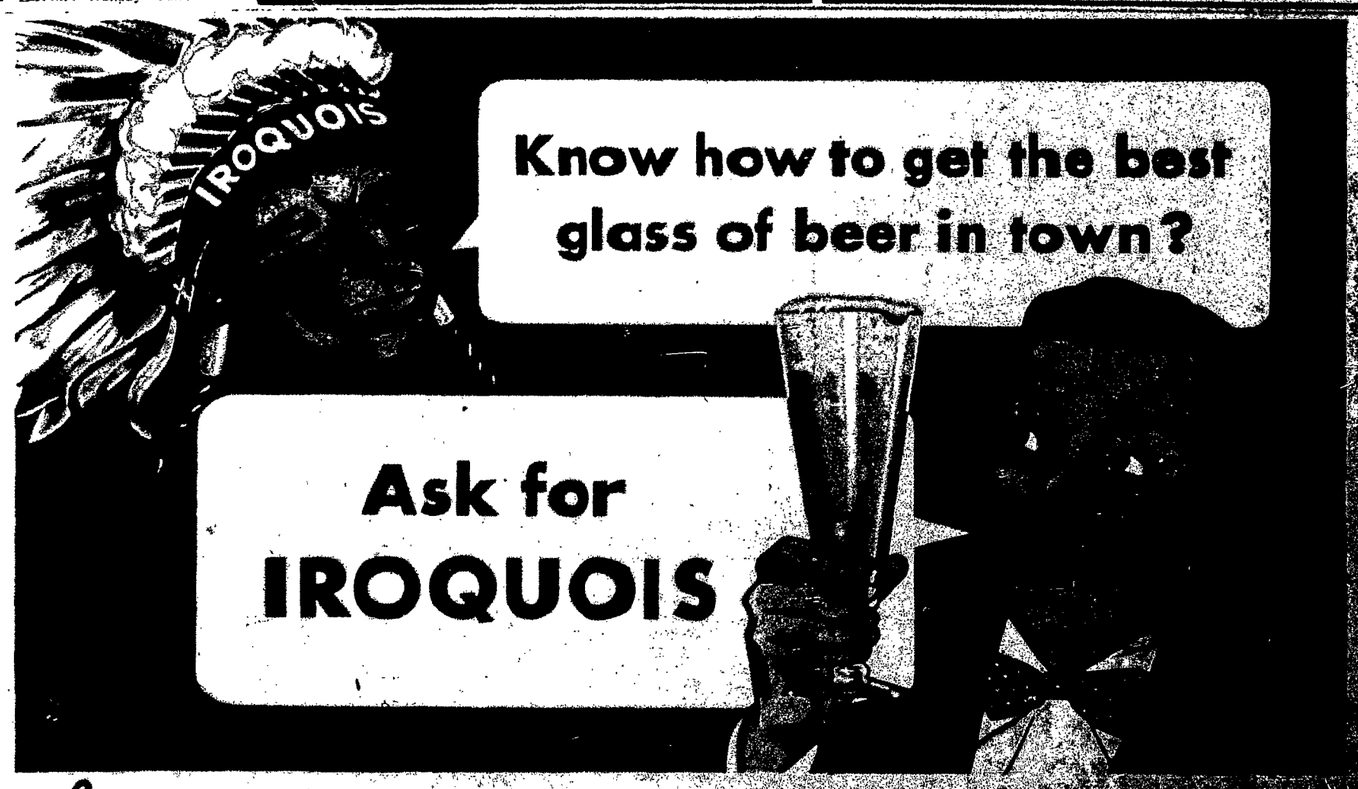

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