

Among Women

Women in the Fight for Peace

By MARY LENNON BENTLEY

An interesting subject for research some time would be "The Growth of National Conventions with special reference to the United States of America." I know that other countries in the world have conferences and meetings, but because of our very geographic expanse...

NO DOUBT different writers would give various answers, but to me a national convention is always a source of inspiration and consolation. I believe that the reference to inspiration is obvious—particularly as applied to our national Catholic conventions. The opportunities to assist at Pontifical Masses, the solemn Benedictions, the presence of distinguished members of the hierarchy and the clergy all work toward a spiritual reawakening and a mental resurgence.

In regard to the consolation—all of us in organization work feel at some time or another that our troubles are unique and particularly heavy and that our needs are unique; but as we meet other men and women from far separated parts of the country and learn that their problems and our are almost identical we see that the struggle we are making is part of a general picture of the forces of good against evil and not of a misunderstanding public against us.

With these thoughts in mind we anticipate the National Convention of the National Council of Catholic Women scheduled to be held this year from October 14th to 18th in Cleveland, Ohio.

THE NATIONAL Board of Directors of which Mrs. Frank T. Curtin of Rochester represents the southeastern Province of New York has just concluded a planning session at the National Headquarters in Washington, D. C. First on their agenda was the selection of the theme which is taken from the Holy Father's Prayer for the Holy Year of 1950: "Grant us, O Lord, peace in our days—peace to souls, peace to families, peace to our country, peace among nations."

The phrase, "Peace in our Days" will always bring up for some of us the memory of Chamberlain's pronouncement after Munich; but whereas Chamberlain tried to secure "peace in our time" by acquiescing to and compromising with the forces of evil, we Catholics know that peace in our days will be attained only by an uncompromising fight against Satan in all his diabolical machinations. We are hoping—actually praying—that we will have a large representation of priests and lay women from this diocese at the National Convention in Cleveland to study how the Catholic Women of the United States of America under the guidance of their Bishops are carrying forward the battle for "Peace in our Days."

OUR LADY OF CHINA



"In this pagan land, where the plight of women traditionally has been low, Catholics instinctively place the Mother of Christ in her rightful lofty niche," reports Father John F. Donovan, Maryknoll Missioner from Newport, R. I., who first went to China in 1938. "China's Catholic artists love to lavish their art on their Heavenly Queen. But Chinese Catholics, so accustomed to persecution, know her best as Our Lady, Help of Christians. Today, as in the past, they trustingly turn to her, never ceasing to give her the praise and love that are her due." (CNC Photos.)

Youth Parade

Some Work, Others Play, We Sit

By MARY SULLIVAN

There are people who earn their livelihood, picking dollar bills off trees and there are others who get it the hard 40 hours a week way. And then in the worst state of all there are the teenagers who belong to the noble baby-sitting profession and carry a bowl of nalmum as their shield and a safety pin as their sword. For their Saturday nights are usually one continuous whaaaaa wait with a gurgling bundle of mischief for a partner.



Mary Sullivan

Baby-sitting really isn't such a gruesome task. It was just dubbed the wrong name "Sitting." About the only chance you get to sit down is in the car going home and then you're too har assed to appreciate it. But we could go on forever telling of our martyrdom at the hands of the cap pistol armed infantry. What's far more important than their obligation toward us is our obligation toward them: their house, their food and their parents.

all sorts of rights and privileges on the grounds that we've done them a huge favor.

Right away we call up every friend we ever had and invite them all to come over and "help" take care of the children. It would never occur to us while we were on the phone that the whining baby upstairs might like us to "help" take care of him—right then. And aside from the baby himself, we are hired to baby sit, not to throw parties in other people's houses. One person extra is okay, but certainly not a whole flock of people who keep all the kids awake, eat a week's supply of food and render the living room rug—never the same gain.

And speaking of food some where on one of Moses' slabs it seems there's a commandment "Thou shalt not steal." None of us would ever think of stealing anybody's money or silver trawls but you don't see anything stopping us from searching every drawer cupboard, shelf, nook and cranny until we find that hidden pound of cashews.

THIS SAME respect for the property of others applies to our "borrowing" stationary, stamps, etc. when we baby sit. The point is that anyone would be glad to give us these things, so why should we make ourselves cheap by ramming around for them? Many a time we take one look at Daddy's screaming little girl and wish he'd come back and claim her no matter how obnoxious she is. We should try to treat these little dears as their parents would treat them, sternly but kindly. We're there to discipline, not to take the parent's part so the care of the children must come before our homework, telephone calls and snacks. Next time you find yourself with four little Indians and two Tom Mays under your wing remember that baby sitting is a lot more than it's cracked up to be. It takes a fair share of grown-up dependability coupled with an equal amount of respect for the property and possessions of others.

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WHAT'S DOING AT THE DALY'S

By MARY TINGLEY DALY

Another May procession for heaven's sake! Somehow, this year it had crept up, for here it was Saturday afternoon procession next day. All the bother, I thought irritably, getting out last year's whites. "But I'm wearing a long dress," Markie said. "Remember Sister said I could be in the Queen's Court?"

I looked appraisingly at 12-year-old Markie. Now which of Pat's long dresses could be revamped? Not the sleeveless taffeta... nor the white chiffon dragging through the street. "The blue dotted Swiss you made her last year," Markie asked hopefully.

Two minutes later she presented herself in the dotted Swiss: cap sleeves slumping from her shoulders; bodice hanging down forlornly, showing vast expanses of tee-shirt with GEORGETOWN across the chest; bouffant skirt dragging inches below grimy saddle shoes. "All we gotta do is pin it up," Markie said, pulling at the waist with one hand, at the skirt with the other.

Somehow it had to be made over and, of course, fitting was a little easier after she removed the bulky blue jeans. "Thanks, Mom," Markie said, twisting in front of the hall mirror. "Looks like the Queen's Court?"

Well, if she thought so... NEXT CUSTOMER: Mary who was to be a Hall Mary. Mary tried on last year's dress and slip, incidentally short. We ripped out the hem. Still too short. How could anybody grow that much in one short year? Luckily Eileen's dress fit Mary after a fashion and after a complete remake.

At 3:30 the Head of the House grew impatient. "Have you for gotten we're due at the Hall at six?" he asked.

Bitting off the last thread, I put the sewing down, pressing could wait until tomorrow. Sunday or no Sunday, and started to get ready. "Thank goodness they're all set," I sighed. "Ginny has a white that fits and Eileen's wearing cap and gown."

"But look at my shoes," Eileen said. "But look at my shoes," Eileen said.

Another May Day For Heaven's Sake

Another May Day For Heaven's Sake

The saddle shoes, bought only three weeks before, now completely beat up and one whole sole hanging off. "Come with us," the Head of the House said. "We'll drop you at the shoe store and you can come home on the bus."

May processions. I thought of all the other mothers going through this same procedure and the work the sisters put into training the children. Then, like as not it would rain.

THE EVENING at the Hall was fun as always and we met an interesting couple from overseas from a country behind the Iron Curtain. They were telling us of their delight in our country and of letters received from relatives back home.

My sister has to walk six miles to her Mass. The lady said, and it's sad only one Sunday a month. She wishes that it is so hard to rear her children in the Faith when everything must be undercover. No Catholic schools. Mass and the Sacraments at long intervals. It's a very religious teaching at home that keeps the Faith alive. You parents are so fortunate.

Her words came back to us the next afternoon as we took our places along the curb to watch the May procession. It was the same as it had been for all the years we have lived in the parish yet it was different somehow.

As usual the May Queen had a time ascending the ladder in her unaccustomed long dress; as usual the crown was put on at a slightly rakish angle while the Blessed Mother looked on benignly. Then the procession made its way into the church for Benediction, followed by as many parents as the church would hold, the rest spilling out onto the steps and lawn.

"And this is being repeated all over our country," the Head of the House said thoughtfully. "We were both thinking the same thing."

Another May procession — for heaven's sake.

Another May Day For Heaven's Sake

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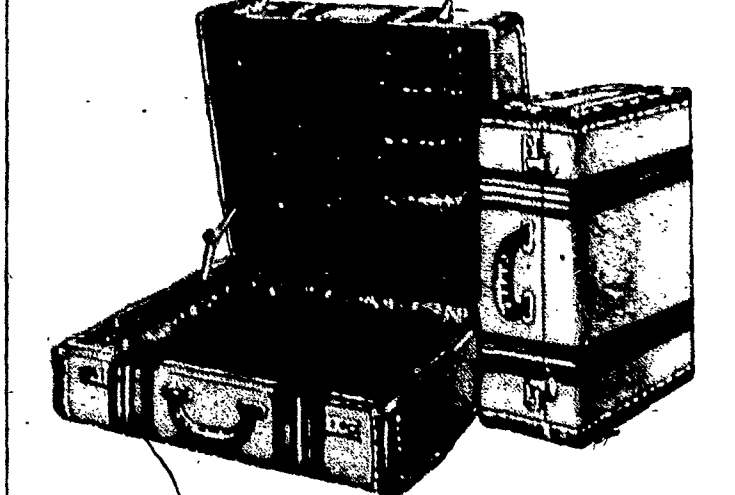
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