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Medical Sister Performs Operation

Dacca, East Pakistan — (NC) —Sister M. Benedict, of the Medical Mission Sisters here, has successfully performed a delicate operation with only a minimum of equipment and assistants. She is the head doctor in St. Michael's mission hospital conducted by the Sisters.

A young Bengal boy came to the hospital, suffering from a sustained headache and inability to use his left arm and leg. Sister Benedict's diagnosis revealed that the boy had an intra-cranial, space-taking lesion.

NEED HELP?

Come to the Novena service of St. Anthony and St. Jude Thaddeus every Tuesday at 12:15 and 5:15.

At Our Lady of Victory, Pleasant St.

Growth Of Carmelite Community Taxes Facilities Of Monastery

By FAWN SCHEFFEL

Another candidate for the religious life, was turned away from Rochester's Carmelite Monastery this week.

This was not the first girl to be refused. Many hopeful young women have called at the convent in the recent years, more have written letters of application,—but all have received the same answer, "There is no room."

Despite its external appearance, the impressive East Avenue, home that shelters 14 cloistered nuns and one out Sister has grown inadequate for this community of contemplative nuns who came to Rochester in 1930. Too small to accommodate a single new sister, its facilities are also too limited for the health and mental happiness of the whole present community.

These facts were revealed at the convent this week in an interview with the Sisters themselves.

Purchased in 1934 as a temporary home for the Carmelites the present convent was some improvement over their original residence on Saratoga Ave. Since then conditions beyond correction have made the property wholly unsatisfactory.

IDEAL AS IT may look to the passer-by, the monastery's location is not what the Sisters need. Friends and benefactors find the convent difficult to reach, they say, and therefore do not call as often as they normally would in a more centrally located spot.

Further, the home was never built for so large a group of women who because of the confined nature of their life need room for certain privacy as well as diversion within their home.

Nocturnal marauders and trespassers who wander over their unprotected grounds provide another cause of uneasiness that demands better housing.

BUT FINDING property for a new monastery is only a small part of the Carmelites' concern. They must have money to move. Only the charity of their friends can provide the funds for such a step.

The Sisters are solely supported by the revenue from the labor of their hands and the alms of the faithful. The Carmelites never ask financial aid.

Donations and gifts are brought voluntarily to the "turn", a barrel like device through which communications and articles are passed into the cloister, by friends who appreciate their wants.

Many people labor under the impression that "The Carmelites may buy nothing." This is not true.

If their food runs low they may order groceries, or send the Extern Sister shopping. If the Sisters need cloth for their vestment-making it is purchased through the normal channels.

ST. THERESA
Carmelite Saint

THE LINK which the unseen, silent Carmelites have with the outside world is their Extern Sister, Sister Elizabeth, who lives in the same house but apart from the cloistered nuns.

She meets the public, cares for the chapel, runs errands and carries on the necessary business with the world outside.

Usually a Carmelite monastery has two out-Sisters that they might be company for one another. The Rochester convent has room for only one.

THE DAILY Carmelite life is a combination of prayer, housework, and skilled needle-and-art-work on articles sold for the revenue of the community.

For nearly eight hours each day the Sisters offer their prayers and devotions primarily for the Church, for the Bishops and priests that God may bless their apostolic labors, and for the laity, especially those who do not pray for themselves. They pray in particular for their friends and benefactors and for all who personally request their prayers.

Vestments and altar linens, created with exquisite skill and reverent taste, are the principal items the Rochester Carmelites make for sale. This needlework is aided by donations of thread, trimmings and a few yards of materials.

Artists in the community create holy cards, spiritual bouquet cards and gift cards for ordinations.

AND OF COURSE the daily tasks of running a household—cooking, sewing, laundry work, gardening, cleaning and painting call for the natural talents of the whole community. Without a handy-man within call they even tackle plumbing repairs and carpentry.

One of the Sisters told me: "When we have to build something, St. Joseph inspires us in our amateur carpenter work."

But there is space at the present convent only for the barest necessitities. The items of decoration and culture which might give a lift to the spirit and warmth to the soul in their confined life are niceities which can find little room. Lives that have been dedicated to sacrifice are made more difficult by conditions which are not required by rule and which would not exist had the Sisters a suitable place to live.

ONE MIGHT ask why these women who have devoted their lives to prayer need the gates, the cloister and the complete seclusion.

The hiddenness was explained by one Sister who said, "It makes life easier, rather than harder." The gates and the grille that separates the Carmelite Sister from the outside world are helps to prayerful contemplation, not penances.

"We all know," Sister went on, "that sight more than any other faculty plays on the imagination. The endless distractions of the world defeat normal efforts to join the mind and heart to God alone." The Carmelites shut the world out so that their world within may belong to their Spouse, Christ.

RELAXATION AS it is generally known in the world is not permitted, but after dinner and evening collation, the rule of silence is suspended and the Sisters are allowed to come together with their sewing for an hour.

"The Rule is austere but it is not beyond ordinary health and strength," Sister said. Cheerfulness is indeed a distinguishing mark of a Carmelite.

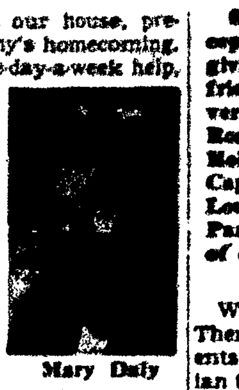
While the world whisks along beautiful East Avenue, the Carmelites within the walls pray that some day through the generous charity of their friends they may invite into their cloister all the girls who wish to enter.

Today because their home is too small they sadly inform the aspirant that she must find another convent.

WHAT'S DOING AT THE DALY'S ● The Favorite Child's Identity Revealed

By MARY TINLEY DALY

Big doings at our house, preparing for Johnny's homecoming. Beatrice, the one-day-a-week help, diverted from her usual ironing to wax Johnny's floor while we cleaned and refurbished the room from top to bottom.



Mary Daly

"A body'd think 'twas your only child," Beatrice said. "Must be your favorite."

Guess it did look that way—until Mary came home from school with a sore throat and all thoughts of Johnny's return went out of my head. After an intensive session with the home remedies—aspirin, gargle, throat painting, hot bath and bed—Mary said she felt some better.

Next morning we were going through the nursing routine again just as Aunt Agnes dropped in. "Aren't you doing anything to welcome the boy home?" she asked reproachfully. Aunt Agnes has her favorites too.

"Let me see that sore throat," she said and wrung from Mary the admission that the throat had not hurt last night but if Mom thought she ought to stay out of school . . .

"Since you're home anyway, you might as well help your mother with the work," Aunt Agnes suggested. Mary was glad enough to go to school for the afternoon session.

Aunt Agnes had to go on to a meeting, and I went into high gear cooking Johnny's favorite dinner, setting out fresh flowers and generally rolling out the red carpet.

• • •

THE HEAD of the House came home early, the girls all waited eagerly. Finally the taxi drew up and it took the bunch of us to help unload. The front seat was full of boxes, the back seat full of bags, and the trunk compartment held a big duffle bag as well as the val-pack he had originally taken with him.

At last there were all eight of us around the table again, for the first time in three months.

Surely Our Lord would accept silent prayers of thanksgiving through the clatter of fried-chicken-eating and conversation about the wonders of Rome, the awe of seeing the Holy Father, the beauties of Capri, the splendors of the Louvre, the sidewalk cafes of Paris and the Dutch custom of eating cheese for breakfast.

• • •

We lingered long over dinner. Then came the opening of presents: rosaries from Rome, Italian tooled leather, perfumes from Paris, wooden shoes for Ginny from Holland, genuine Milan straw hats for the girls, a huge set of pastels for Pat, and a cuckoo clock from Switzerland that delighted us all, especially Ginny.

"How does the little bird know when it's time to come out and cuckoo?" she wondered.

At last the cuckoo came out nine times—time for the small fry to go to bed. The traveler went off to see a V.I.P. and give her the gifts he had brought.

Pat went to her own room to try out the new pastels, and the Head of the House and I settled down.

The Head of the House opened the evening paper and was lost in world news. I picked up some socks to darn, that perpetual but somehow relaxing and philosophical pastime. And I thought of the question asked a mother of a large family: "Which is your favorite child?"

The mother answered the way most mothers would answer: "The one who is sick or the one who is away—until the sick one gets well or the traveler gets home."

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New Abbey At Lisieux Started

Lisieux, France — (NC) — The silver jubilee of the canonization of St. Therese was observed here by the laying of the cornerstone of the cloister of the new Benedictine Abbey of Notre Dame du Pre. The original abbey, where St. Therese was educated and made her First Holy Communion, was totally destroyed on the night of D-Day.

Last December, to comply with certain reconstruction requirements which had to be met before the end of 1949, the first stone of another building was put in place with the simplest of ceremonies. But this year, on the Feast of St. Therese, ecclesiastical and civil officials as well as personal friends and devotees of the Little Flower participated.

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