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WHAT'S DOING AT THE DALYS'

Better Dead Than Different

By MARY FINLEY DALY

Ginny saved her surprise until dinner time. After grace, she produced a small cotton-filled jewelry box, opened it and laid it proudly in the middle of the table.

"That's it!" she shouted triumphantly.

"Ugh!" Eileen made a face, picked up "The Thing" in its box and set it on the serving table. "A dead tooth at the dinner table!"

"It's what we've all been waiting for," Ginny defended herself. "I thought you'd be glad."

"We are glad," the Head of the House said. "We're glad it's out after watching it wave in the breeze for a week. But we'd rather see you smile now."

Ginny obliged. "Mommy took it out," she explained. "And do you know what she did? She took a hanky and she wet it..."

"And then she wrung it out," Fat took up the tale, "and she got a good grip and told you to say a 'Hail Mary' to yourself and

before you got to 'Blessed art thou' it was out!"

"HOW'D YOU KNOW?" Ginny's blue eyes were wide with surprise. "You weren't there."

"She's been pulling 'em out since before you were born," Mary explained. "And tonight you'll put it under your pillow and in the morning you'll find fifteen cents."

"Inflation," Johnny commented. "They were only a nickel in our day."

"And I got another'n loose. Wanna see it wiggle?" Ginny demonstrated.

"Please, Ginny," Eileen grimaced. "Not at the table."

But Ginny was not to be diverted. "This was her moment. After the big ones come in, do you ever lose 'em and collect again?"

"The trick is not to lose 'em," the Head of the House said. "If you do you'll have to get false ones—and you'll pay for them."

Ginny went on with her dinner and the conversation went on to other subjects.

"I'm not going to put it under my pillow," Ginny announced, picking up the box with the beloved tooth. "I'm going to keep 'em all—and then when I need false ones I'll get Dr. Hunt to make a set from these."

Talk about long-range planning...



Agnes Osei-Konudu, left, has just arrived from Kumasi, Gold Coast, West Africa, to study at St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana. Taking premedical courses at St. Mary's, she plans to become a doctor and return to Africa to work among her people. After she finished her studies under the Holy Child nuns in Cape Coast, about 200 miles from her home, a priest friend of her parents arranged for her to come to the U. S. Her arrival here was delayed several months by visa difficulties. She is shown above being interviewed by two St. Mary's students for the college newspaper. (NC Photos)

AMONG WOMEN

Peace On Earth

By MARY LENNON SNYDER

In this column last week I quoted at length from a leaflet of the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers of Pittsburgh on fostering the true Christian spirit in Christmas. Today I should like to quote in part their "Christ in Christmas."

"The slogan reads: 'Put Christ back into Christmas! Could the shepherds of old ever dreamed that such a slogan would have to be used?'

Read it! Believe it! Last year in a rural community that is almost entirely Catholic, the Sisters requested the children during the holidays to bring their Christmas cards to school that they might cut out the religious pictures and send them the missions. Startling to say, over half of the cards had no religious tone at all. Thoughtless people were so far away from the true spirit of Christmas as to send pagan greeting cards.

"In place of the Baby Jesus, the cards picture kittens and Scotty dogs, cocktails and cherries, old oaken buckets and icicles, Santa Claus and snowmen. No wonder the cry is: 'Put Christ back into Christmas!'

"Whose job is it to give Christ His rightful place on His own birthday? It is everybody's job. Hearts must be forming Christ in them even as was Mary's in the first Advent season. Then if 'out of the hearts the mouth speaks', our expressions will reflect the true spirit of Christmas that is

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To My Mother At Christmas

This Christmas at the Heavenly shrine A sweet old lady stands in line With patient smile upon her lips. God knows how many similar trips She made on earth, her offerings clutched In faded hand . . . her tired eyes touched With inner joy, as one by one She counted husband, daughters, son, Relatives, friends and many more. The list grew with the years four score. Then when at last it came her turn To set the votive lights to burn Her hand would tremble so she'd ask Someone nearby to do the task.

Across the shrine there then would grow Candle blossoms, row on row, Spirit flowers, radiant, fair, Sentinels of her favorite prayers. Later on at home she'd write, "A candle burns for you tonight." That message on a penny card Was all she wrote . . . the words would guard Each friend against a black despair; A candle burning in the air, A miracle of thought . . . a spark To banish loneliness and dark, A steady ray symbolic of Her own unwavering faith and love. This Christmas at the Heavenly shrine A sweet old lady stands in line Her mission happiest by far. This year she lights a shining star.

Eather Leary Goetz
Hamburg, N. Y.

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Kin Of Martyr's Slayer Ordained

Sidney (NC)—A descendant of the men who massacred Blessed Peter Chanel, first Martyr of Oceania, was recently ordained a priest at Lano, Wallis Island.

He is the Rev. Vitoli Follenua, a native of Fortuna Island, orphaned at an early age, Father Follenua was adopted by Robert Watson, of St. Heliers, in 1940.

Mr. Watson had long prayed that a priest-son of Fortuna would offer Holy Mass in reparation for the shocking death inflicted on Blessed Peter Chanel. Sent to be educated at Lano mission, the young lad felt a vocation to the priesthood and completed his ecclesiastical studies at the Grand Seminary of Lano.

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THAT NIGHT, at bath time, Ginny grew very confidential. "Boy," she sighed, "am I ever glad it came out! And maybe you can pull this wiggle one tomorrow. That'll mean two out—and the best one in the classroom's only got three..."

"That's Martha, isn't it?" we asked. For weeks now we have been kept advised on first grade dental statistics. Jimmie, it seems, lost two teeth even before he went into first grade—and Emily's new teeth are "way up high..."

"Well, I couldn't expect to catch up to Martha," Ginny said, climbing into pajamas. "You don't have to be the best—but it's sure awful to be the worst. And 'til today I didn't even have one out. Now I can smile like the rest of the kids."

There was the wide one-tooth-missing smile as Ginny said prayers, climbed into bed and settled down contentedly. On her dresser was the jewelry box with the lone tooth the symbol that made her as good as her fellows.

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HAIL MARY!

Those whose name all but adoring love may claim! For Our Lady's Day, December 8th, we make our last appeal for help in completing her Shrine Chapel of the Assumption in Amman, 45 miles east of Jerusalem.

Perhaps you will want to add your name. There are still sacred articles to give for this kindness. We do hope to obtain the six hundred dollars needed to complete the fund. If you cannot give it all, perhaps you and many others can pay this tribute to Mary.

EMMANUEL
This is what the prophets called Our Lord—"God with us". It is also the name of a young student for the priesthood at the Russian College in Rome. Emmanuel is just four years away from priesthood. He needs \$400 to pay for his training. Can you adopt him, paying the amount over four years, in any sums you wish?

MARY-NOEL
This is the name of a young novice of the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary at Bukfava, Lebanon. Would you not like to make her your adopted daughter in Christ and give \$150, needed for this year of her preparation to be a missionary Sister? How she will bless you when she sings to Mary on Christmas Day.

THOSE CHRISTMAS CLUBS
Why not join our dollar-a-month clubs—the CHRYSOSTOMS, for our seminarians; the BASILIANS, for our poor schools; the MONICA GUILD, for our mission sisters and sanctuaries; ORPHAN'S BREAD, which helps us to feed hungry little mouths? Then you might wish to add a mite to our DAMIEN LEPER FUND for these poor outcasts or make a deposit in MARY'S BANK for our missionary sisters. These are investments in eternity.

FONDLE FOUNDLINGS
At Christmas we want to be especially good to the Sisters of Charity in Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Beirut. We call their founding hospitals "CRIBS." Can you give \$1 to one of these Cribbs to support a little tot for a whole month? Their angels see the Father's Face.

OUR NEEDIEST
Too numerous to mention are our neediest cases at Christmas. We have appeals from every country of the Near East Missions, from Eastern Europe to India. Please do send a stringless gift for these poor. Ten dollars will purchase a food package for hungry mouths.

WHAT GIFT WILL YOU BRING TO HIM?
Have you thought of our beautiful three color GIFT CARD? We gladly send it to a friend or loved one. It will say that you are having Mass offered at Christmas by a needy missionary or that you have made a gift of a sacred article to a poor Near East Mission chapel, out of love and friendship. Let us do your Christmas shopping, or rather let the Lord of the poor do it.

SWADDLING CLOTHES
Mary put these "vestments" on the Little Lord in the Manger. We must replace the tattered Mass vestments of poor missionaries from time to time, so that they may worthily appear before the Lord. Can you give \$50 for a set?

INCENSE FOR GOD
The censers with which the priest offers sweet incense to God at Solemn Mass and Benediction may be purchased for a Near East Mission Chapel for \$20. By giving it, you take the place of one of the Three Kings at the Christmas Crib.

A CHAPEL A MONTH—IMPOSSIBLE?
Right now we have before us forty appeals for chapels, and even if we could get a complete chapel donation of \$2,000 each month, it would take us over three years to fill present appeals. That is a great deal of money, and many of these appeals will have to go begging. But any amount, large or small, will help us to build God's House.

Near East Missions
Francis Cardinal Spellman, President
Mgr. Thomas J. Maloney, Nat'l Sec'y
Mgr. Joseph F. Connolly

Very Rev. Andrew Rogosh
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Send all communications to:
Catholic Near East Welfare Association
480 Lexington Ave. at 44th St. New York 17, N. Y.