

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 wobble in the breeze for a week. But we'd rather see you smile now."

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

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

TO STUDY MEDICINE IN U.S.



Agnes Ouel-Kondu, left, has just arrived from Kruana, 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 SHYDER

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 dream 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 after the holidays to bring their Christmas cards to school that they might at least 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 their even as 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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HAIL MARY!

Then whose name all but starting 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 mite. There are still sacred articles to be given for the sanctuary. Ten dollars will pay for a stone which will form part of the floor of the Living Bread. Any gift, any amount will be deeply appreciated by the poor of Amman.

Why not make your gift a memorial to a loved one departed? Mary will smile on you for this kindness. We do hope to obtain the six hundred dollars needed to complete the shrine. If you cannot give it all, perhaps you and many others can pay this tribute to Mary.

THOSE CHRISTMAS CLUBS

Why not join our dollar-a-month clubs—the CHRISTMAS CLUBS, for our seminarians; the MONICA CLUB, 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 LEFER FUND for these poor outcasts or make a deposit in MARY'S BANK for our missionary sisters. These are investments in eternity.

FONDLE FOUNDINGS

At Christmas we want to be especially good to the Sisters of Charity. We call their founding hospitals "CHRIBS." Can you give \$7 to one of these CRIBS to support a little tot for a whole month? Their dollars will purchase a food package for the Father's Face.

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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.

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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.

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THAT NIGHT, at bath time, Ginny grew very confidential. "Boy," she sighed, "am I over glad it came out! And maybe you can pull this wiggy 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 'till today I didn't even have one out. Now I can smile like the rest of the kids."

There was the wide one-tooth-smiling 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.

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 she by one
She counted husband, daughters, son,
Relatives, friend and many more
The list grew with the years four score.
Then when at last it came her turn
To light the festive lights to burn
Her hand would tremble so she'd ask
Someone nearby to do the task.
Across a shrine there then would grow
Candle blossoms, row on row,
Spirits of hers, radiant, fair,
Sent to do her favorite prayers.
Laid on a 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 symbol 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.

Kim Of Martyr's Slayer Ordained

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

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

Mr. Watson had long prayed that a priestson 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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