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WHAT'S DOING AT THE DALYS

The Prettiest Dress

You're going to make my First Communion dress, aren't you, Mommy? Ginny's big blue eyes looked earnestly into mine.

First Communion dresses are better than bought ones. Of course, I promised.

Ginny didn't know that this would be the First Communion dress I'd ever



Mary Daly

By Mary Tinley Daly

For Grandma made them for all the other girls—such masterpieces of workmanship, such loving care in every stitch.

So, with Mom's ideas in mind, I went shopping for pattern and material. "Everything about a baptismal or First Communion dress must be perfect," I could hear Mom say.

That was only the first step... and the easiest. After years of whacking out must-be-done-by-tomorrow jobs with their hems basted in, this opus was a challenge.

"You don't hurry these things," Mom always said. "For this sacred occasion you sew with all the love that's in you. Every stitch is a prayer..."

Remembering her techniques, I put a protective sheet on the dining-room table, laid out my gandy and pattern, and with a prayer for guidance cut out bodice, sleeves and skirt.

"WE GOTTA walk this way," Ginny clasped hands in front, cast eyes down. "Make it look good this way."

With a sleeveless organdy bodice over a too-short slip, the sight was a little less than perfect.

"Ouch!" she squealed as cold scissors snipped at armholes. "What you cutting out more for? I ought-a have sleeves!"

It would have, I assured her, also a skirt. Getting the skirt onto the right place, with a tuck underneath for growth, was something of a trick—Ginny having no defined waistline, just a baby-slope front.

"Let's see," I muttered through pins. "Does this feel like your waist?"

"Feels like a pin!" she jumped. "But that's all right. I don't mind suffering for Our Lord."

SO THE DRESS progressed, all the little tricks Mom had taught coming back after all these years: bodice seamed from armholes down; skirt, from hem up; shoulder, from neck out; how to mitre corners; how to make an invisible lace joining; how to wiggle the material rather than move the needle for the finest of gathers—and always a double row.

Sometimes the task was so absorbing, it was hard to stop when time came to start dinner. Those serene afternoons, alone with the froth of organdy and lace, white flowers and satin ribbon, brought contemplation of Ginny's Happiest Day, blended with memories of Mom. Seemed like a homemaker's counterpart of Sisters making vestments.

No sun ever would have had this experience, though: into the midst of the white fluff Ginny tossed a pair of old garden trousers. "Daddy says since you're sewing, would you please fix this zipper?"

"Oh, no!" I howled. "Don't put 'em here!"

GINNY STARED at me, unbelieving. "But we love 'em too, don't we?"

No use going into a long explanation—better to fold up the dress, change thread on the machine, fix the zipper on those clay-encrusted trousers... and prove that we love 'em too!

"My Happiest Day," Ginny hummed to herself as she tried up the dress for final inspection. "And this is the prettiest dress in the world, isn't it, Mommy?"

Calling honesty and truth—objective truth—in the wind, I agreed.

Now Belgium. Many are looking for a religion that will meet the conditions without changing one's style.

BISHOP HONORS MOTHER



St. Cloud, Minn.—Coadjutor Bishop Peter W. Bartholome of St. Cloud is shown with his mother, Mrs. Katherine Bartholome, for whom he gave an anniversary dinner at his home here in honor of her 100th birthday.

African Violet Show The 5th annual African Violet Show will be held at the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences on Sunday, May 17, under the auspices of the African Violet Society of Rochester.

Women's Unit Pays Honor To Two Physicians

Philadelphia — (RNS) — Four thousand women honored two women physicians and three small boys at the annual luncheon of the Alliance of Catholic Women of the Philadelphia archdiocese.

The Alliance presented its second annual \$1,000 cash award to 60-year-old Mother Anna Dengel, M.D., physician-in-chief of the Catholic Medical Mission Sisters, for distinguished service to the Roman Catholic Church and to worldwide womanhood.

The group then paid tribute to a second "woman of courage," Dr. Alberta Schumacher, a war-widowed physician from Frankfurt, Germany, who is doing research in the Hoffman-LaRoche medical laboratory at Nutley, N. J.

THESE WAS "Touch and Go," the lively review by Jean and Walter Kerr, which was born at Catholic University under the title, "Thank You, Just Looking"; and "Lute Song" which singing-star Mary Martin interpreted for Broadway audiences; and "Sing Our Sweet Land," which starred Alfred Drake and more.

Young performers, too, are sometimes Broadway-bound as a result of the producers' invasion—and drama specialists like the aforementioned Mr. Kerr, a former professor at Catholic University, now drama critic for the New York Herald Tribune.

But the annual invasion never fazes Father Gilbert V. Harke, O.P., founder and head of the University's Speech and Drama Department. He goes on producing original musicals which stump the Broadway expert with their charm, vigor and modesty, content that he's having a Catholic influence on U. S. theater.

THAT INFLUENCE has spread abroad with graduates of Catholic University. In a touring group known as Players, Inc.,

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — The Bronze Star for gallantry has been awarded to a Catholic Army chaplain who traveled icy mountain roads at great personal risk to bring spiritual comfort to men in the front lines of Korea last winter.

College President Dr. Alan Willard Brown, president of Hobart and William Smith Colleges, The Colleges of the Sepeca, Geneva, N. Y., will deliver the principal address at the 15th Annual Convocation at Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences on Friday evening, May 15, at 8:15 P.M.

AMONG WOMEN

'Guide For Catholic Action'

By Mary Leanne Snyder

Over the years I have kept a tabulation of the letters and inquiries received because of this column; and while they cover an almost unbelievably wide range of topics, the largest number come from men and women who are seeking information and help in the leadership of various organizations, parochial, fraternal and civic.

In answering these latter I have almost always mentioned my regrets that an acquaintance of mine had never published a book which I felt she was pre-eminently suited to write. Well, at last she has! This week I received an autographed copy of a delightful little paper bound book by Estelle Spurck entitled "Madame President."

ANYONE WHO has ever read the "Monthly Message" of the National Council of Catholic Women needs no persuasive arguments about this publication. Her sprightly style, authoritative approach and solid learning make anything Mrs. Spurck writes a real delight to read.

Even the little note she sent me with the copy of her book reflected the charming woman I remember meeting at the N.C.W. convention in New Orleans.

AT THAT TIME Mrs. Spurck was Organization and Development Chairman of N.C.C.W. Since then she has become War Relief Chairman of N.C.C.W. and in that capacity has written articles which have had a wide publication.

In a way I regret the title "Madame President" because attractive as it is on the cover of the book it might tend to discourage some of our brethren who are as perplexed as we are with problems of leadership.

THE SUB-TITLE "A Guide for Catholic Action" is actually more descriptive. Incidentally the book is published by the Borromeo Guild, 674 West 23rd Street, Los Angeles 7, Calif. The price is \$1.00 and judging from the attractive format I would say that the price must be just about cover the costs of publication.

Next week I am going to discuss the author a bit with you so that any who do not know her will be inspired with a feeling of confidence in her words.

HOWEVER, I am not going to spoil the impact of the book by quoting from it extensively; in other words, you will get more out of it reading it in toto rather than by getting it in excerpts from this column.

Washington, D. C. — (NC) — Theatrical producers are probably thundering in from New York to Washington now—just as they do each year when May rolls round. They step off planes and trains in downtown Washington and rush to the Northeast section of the city.

There, like as not, they are greeted by a husky, distinguished Dominican priest and ushered into a huge box of a building that once was an Army-base service club.

In the converted theater they see what they came to see—a troop of fresh-faced collegians romping through an original musical comedy. From this theater on the campus of the Catholic University of America, producers having been plucking Broadway musicals for some time now.

AND THIS TIME the tables are turned. On stage in the present production, "Gentlemen Be Seated" is Broadway veteran Dick Sykes, who migrated to New York with "Touch and Go," received the unanimous acclaim of the critics, and returned to tread the boards in the converted campus theater he likes best.

Wage War On Discrimination

St. Louis, Mo. — (RNS) — More than 1,100 Catholic women pledged themselves to work against discrimination based on race, color or creed, in a resolution adopted by the St. Louis Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women.

The resolution said that discrimination should be eliminated in employment, housing, health care, education, public accommodations, and parish activities.

Another resolution urged revision of the McCarran-Walter Immigration Law to remove discrimination against certain groups by removing the quota basis of national origins.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE To Shrine of St. Anne de Beauce for Feast of St. Anne - July 26

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Women's Unit Pays Honor To Two Physicians

Army Chaplain Given Bronze Star Award

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