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WHAT'S DOING AT THE DALYS'

The Thirty Days Prayer

By Mary Tinley Daly

"When will that Thirty Days Prayer be up?" Ginny asked as I sat down and opened the familiar old prayer book. "Seems like you been saying it forever!"

Mary Daly

Ginny had pulled the coffee table between her chair and mine, set up the checker board, and magnanimously given me first choice of red or black.

Oh, well, I thought, laying aside the prayer book, might as well tend to the "duties of my state of life" which at that moment meant playing checkers.

After Ginny went to bed, though, her question came to mind again. Come to think of it, there seems to be a Thirty Days Prayer going on for somebody or something all the time. How "gimme" can you get?

And yet, there is Our Lord's own promise: "If you ask the Father anything in My Name, He will give it to you."

WHAT HAD those petitions been? Consultation with the little slips in the back of the book, whose pages are worn away at the corners, showed an awful lot of "gimme"- the original petition and additional requests added as the days progressed. Looking on those past petitions, each with its starting date, showed all too often a slip-up on the 18th or 19th day . . .

Also came a shamefaced realization that the Thanks Yous were mighty short compared with the Pleases!

In the light of subsequent developments, it was revealing to see those past intentions. For some there had been such a definite expectation of exactly how the Almighty should solve a problem: "Make So-and-so well" . . . "Give Mr. Such-and-such the position he wants" . . . "Let a Certain Party pass her examinations." There must have been the "If it be God's will" provision—but in our fervor it wasn't written down!

So-and-so did not get well, but she returned to the Faith before she died Mr. Such-and-such did not get that plush position, but he did get a job that supports his family . . . and he learned to reevaluate life in proper proportion. The Certain Party flunked the exams, which she had no right to pass anyway, and she thereby learned the humbling fact of no-study, no-pass. Minor miracles are not for the lazy.

NOT THAT WE had the presumption to think that our prayers were that super-special, but all prayer is important. Might be a good idea to refresh the lagging memory on the subject before starting tonight's prayer.

We got out one of the children's catechisms. It had no cover, pages were torn, the index . . . if it ever had one—had gone the way of the covers. Finally, though, we located Prayer: "The lifting up of our minds and hearts to God."

Came the "How should we pray?"

1. With attention;
2. With a conviction of our own helplessness and our dependence on God;
3. With a great desire for the graces we beg of Him;
4. With loving trust in His goodness;
5. With perseverance.

Next, just whom we should pray for: "Ourselves, our parents, relatives, friends and enemies, for the souls in purgatory, for the Pope, bishops and priests of the Church and for the officials of our country."

Hm-m . . . plenty of forgotten folks in that line-up!

Came the $64 question: "Why do we not always obtain what we pray for?" and its answer: "Because we have not prayed properly or because God sees that what we are asking would not be for our good."

Back to the Thirty Days Prayer . . . but with renewed understanding.

Perhaps it never will be "up" in the way Ginny meant.

Many Events Planned For Alumnae

THESE LEADERS of Rochester Circle, International Federation of Catholic Alumnae (from left) Mrs. John J. Mahoney, regent; Mrs. James E. Fahy, first vice regent and Mrs. Donald Greenfield, second vice regent will hear reports on varied activities planned by their group for the coming year at the Circles opening meeting in the Chatterbox Club on date noted in the calendar above.

IFCA Year's Program To Be Outlined By Committees

Committees of Rochester Circle, International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, are scheduling meetings and outlining the work of their groups in preparation for the year's program, which begins this month.

At the opening meeting at the Chatterbox Club on Sept. 16, events for the coming year will be announced. Arrangements for the meeting at which dessert being made by Mrs. Paul Otto and Mrs. Daniel Macken. A feature of the meeting will be a talk on Scouting by Miss Cecilia Fagan, Director of Training at Girl Scout Headquarters.

Mrs. James Fahy has been elected to the Board of Directors to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. George Williams. Mrs. Fahy will serve as First Vice-Regent and Program Chairman for the year.

Mrs. John Mahoney, Circle Regent, has announced the appointment of chairmen of several major committees.

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES will be headed by Miss Jeanne Schneider, who plans an October College Seminar at Our Lady of Mercy High School. The Seminar is designed to acquaint girls of junior and senior classes of Rochester and area high school with the educational opportunities offered by colleges affiliated with IFCA. Invitations to the Seminar are being handled by Miss Angela DeRoma.

The Literature group will be under the chairmanship of Mrs. Donald Coffey with Mrs. John Garrity in charge of Press Exhibits. Assisting on this committee are Miss Helen O'Connell, Miss Emily Sconfietti, Miss Corrinne Leis, Mrs. Arthur Wood, Miss Mary Petrossi, Miss Rita Trost and Miss Marian Bauer.

An early fall social event will be the card party for the benefit of the scholarship fund to be held at the Sheraton Hotel on Oct. 30. Mrs. Paul Rombaut will serve as general chairman. Mrs. Daniel Macken will be chairman of models for a hat fashion show in connection with the card party. Others who will assist in plans for this event are: Mrs. John Mahoney, Tickets; Miss Marlene Boyle, Door; Mrs. Anthony Christian, Table Prizes; Mrs. Roy Burns, Hostesses; Mrs. Ivan Locklin, Cards and Tallies.

THE COMMUNITY Relations program is being organized by Mrs. Peter Culross. Under this program the Circle will have Mrs. John Donovan as representative in the Department of Volunteers and Mrs. James Rains as delegate to the Diocesan Council. In charge of other activities of the group are Miss Esther Cleary, Work for the Blind; Mrs. John Englert, Missions; Miss Cecelia Fagan, Girl Scout Work.

Other Committee Chairmen appointed by Mrs. Mahoney include Mrs. Donald Greenfield, Membership; Mrs. Joseph Murphy, Motion Pictures; Miss Mary Cashman, Publications; Miss Margaret Geyer, Parliamentarian; Mrs. Joseph Crowley, Historian; Mrs. Frank O'Halloran, Public Relations; Miss Anna Braun, Mailing; Miss Helen Durnin, Spiritual Activities; Miss Marlene Meagher and Miss Marlene Boyle, Cards Project.

LEGION OF DECENCY

The following are titles of films reviewed this week by the National Legion of Decency. Add these to the complete listing which will be published once a month.

Class A, Section 1
Combat Squad

Class A, Section 2
China Venture
Lion Is In The Streets, A.
Mr. Denning Drives North

Class B
East of Sumatra
Thy Neighbor's Wife

AMONG WOMEN

Home, Parish Libraries

By Mary Lennon Snyder

As we continue the examination of the "Platform of Action" for the Committee on Libraries and Literature of the National Council of Catholic Women, we find the following program is suggested to us: 1. Subscribing to the diocesan paper; 2. Using a family library; 3. Establishing a parish library; 4. Actively opposing the sale of indecent literature; 5. Giving Catholic books and subscriptions to public libraries; 6. Sharing Catholic reading material; and 7. praying.

Mrs. Snyder

In a previous column we considered the necessity of reading the diocesan paper. In this connection it is well to remember that while the staff and editors may report accurately and authoritatively and edit competently, it is we the readers who make the paper influential. A paper without thoughtful readers can accomplish very little.

When we consider the next point—establishing and using a family library, we run full face into an economic problem. In many homes of average income there is a very small margin for the purchase of books; but we persons should remember that good books should have priority over some forms of recreation.

THE NATIONAL Catholic Conference has compiled a list entitled "Aids to Catholic Reading" which may be purchased for twenty-five cents from the national office, 1312 Massachusetts Avenue N. W., Washington 5, D. C. For those interested in particular phases of Catholic Action there is another list entitled "Suggested Bibliographies from N.C.W.C. Departments and Bureaus."

In assembling a home library one might follow the custom of newlyweds before they inform their friends of their choice of silver, china and crystal patterns. Likewise, a young couple might draw up a list of Catholic books which they plan to have in their home.

The gift of a book, as an anniversary or birthday present, remains with the recipient generally for the years to come. Some of the gifts which we have all received and then ordered what we would do with, or worse yet, what purpose they were intended for.

MANY PARISHES are fortunate in having a parish library. Regarding this the national committee chairman says, "Catholic books are a mighty weapon to be used against the enemies of our way of life. The battle today is for the minds of men. The mind returns with greater facility to those thoughts with which it is filled.

"Often books that are important to Catholic thought cannot be found in public libraries, consequently, due to the expense involved in buying them, they are not read at all.

"Militant Catholics, if they are to develop and maintain well being of soul, must read inspirational and informative books. It is in the parish, the center of religious lay life, that we look for these. The parish library will be a religious supplement to the public library."

The only objection, if such it be, that I have to these thoughts are that parishes can, and do, have fine Catholic libraries where the finest of Catholic reading retains its pristine freshness of cover and page because the parishioners just do not bother to come in and take advantage of the spiritual and intellectual richness which might be theirs.

IF THERE IS a parish library available, let's plan our time so that we can continue our education, so that we shall know better and come to appreciate the great truths and beauties of our Faith.

Rosary Leaders Set On Auburn's WMBO

Saturday, Sept. 12—Ronald McQueeney, St. Aloysius;
Sunday, Sept. 13 — Joseph Rooney, Grand Knight, Auburn Council K. of C.;
Monday, Sept. 14—Conrad Walczyk, St. Hyacinth;
Tuesday, Sept. 15 — Bowdoin Zamorick, SS. Peter and Paul;
Wednesday, Sept. 16—George Pinckney, St. Mary;
Thursday, Sept. 17—Anthony Catalfamo, St. Francis;
Friday, Sept. 18—Thomas Carol, Holy Family.

Wisconsin Bishop Aids Irish Church

Dublin — (RNS) — The foundation stone of a new church in the village of Fuerty, County Roscommon, was laid by Bishop John P. Treacy of La Crosse, Wis., who journeyed from the United States especially for the event.

Bishop Treacy donated $5,600 for the erection of the church's high altar in memory of his parents who lived in the parish before emigrating to America.

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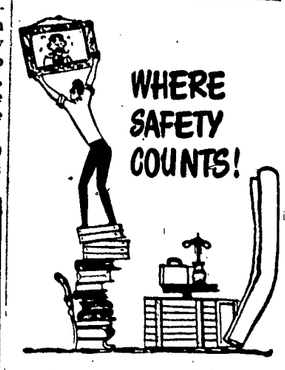

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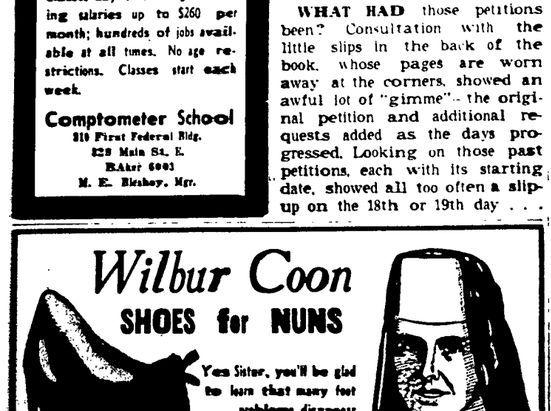

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