

AMONG WOMEN

Church and State

By Mary Lennon Snyder

A thought provoking illumination of the question of Church and State is being given in our little city here in the center of the Empire State.

Unused since the completion of our new school, there has been standing on our parish property a well kept house. This was formerly used as a club-house, parish library and overflow school, housing two elementary grades.

A few weeks ago it was the scene of the formal opening of a non-sectarian school for retarded children, whose intelligence quotient (IQ) is not sufficiently high to enable them to keep up with the course of study blocked out for the average grade school student.

Our pastor in his generosity is furnishing the building, heat, light and water to this project, an example of the Church benefiting the State. The individual child who heretofore had to depend upon well intentioned instruction at home or woefully discouraging competition at school, now finds himself in surroundings congenial to him and with teachers specially trained to deal with his problems.

THE PRINCIPAL of the school is experienced in this sort of teaching and her staff is composed of several volunteers. As I understand the matter, this school must operate independently, for a certain period before

being eligible for State Aid from the New York State Public Education funds.

The irony is that as soon as the school is eligible for State Aid it must move off St. Alphonsus property because Church and State must always be separated.

But right now it is heartwarming to think that the State, through its individual members, the little retarded children of our city, is propping by its association with the Church.

LIKE A HIGH wind in the trees, the storms of controversy may crackle over their heads, but humbly and in the path laid out for them by God Himself, these little children are now walking the stretch of the road where Church and State, through the charity of the Church, are united to their advantage.

WHAT'S DOING AT THE DALYS'

Thanksgiving — 1953

By Mary Tinsley Daly

Hallowe'en decorations are hardly stripped from the stores before holly is tacked up and we hear, "Only thirty more shopping days till Christmas — then 25 — 30 —"

We're supposed to absorb a sense of hurry-hurry — buy this, buy that. In the commercial tension of it all, what is becoming of that good old American tradition of Thanksgiving?

Seems to me that this is a very satisfying holiday to celebrate, a time to leisurely count one's blessings, to thank the Giver and to do a little giving ourselves. Stock-taking, we find that we have a whole lot more than we deserve. We have the gift of faith, we live in a country free from oppression, we have enough to eat and wear.

This inventory period of Thanksgiving is probably what the Bishops of the United States had in mind when they set aside this week for the annual drive for used clothing to be sent to the needy overseas.

IN ANTICIPATION of the drive, one rainy afternoon recently, Mary and I went through the closets and found an embarrassing number of usable but unused things.

"I sure loved this red coat when I first got it," Mary said, trying on the old red number, its sleeves hitting her above the wrists, hem-line up to the knees. "You said that I'd grow out of it in a hurry—but you bought it for me just the same!"

(The red coat had been one of those possibly foolish purchases when Mary was 12 and growing fast. But she'd loved it, and we loved her...)

"Remember Gerta?" Mary and I both spoke at once, thinking alike as we so often do, recall-

Bishop Sheen Once Failure As Speaker

Notre Dame, Ind. — (NC) — "Sheen," said the debating coach, "you're the worst public speaker I've ever heard—absolutely the worst." Young Fulton J. Sheen swallowed hard at the biting comment, answered nothing, but reacted to be not the worst but one of the best. It happened many years ago. "When Bishop Sheen Was a Boy," and is told by Ken CroTTY in the November issue of THE CATHOLIC BOY, published by the Holy Cross Fathers at Notre Dame.

Tracking the future Bishop's life through his little known years, the Boston Post writer draws a firm portrait of the youngster who was to become one of the most eloquent spokesmen of the Catholic Church in the United States.



CUPID ON CAMPUS, title of Mercy High School's Mission Day Show, set for tonight in the school auditorium, is discussed by students who will play leading roles in the song-and-dance comedy. From left, Ellen Stampfl, Lucy Blackwood, Patricia Gargan, Joan Swartzel and Kathy Shea. The production, accompanied by Svl Novelli and his orchestra, highlights a full day of money-raising for home and foreign missions.

Richard Cappon To Star In Melodrama At College

"Only An Orphan Girl," the soul-stirring drama of human trials and tribulations, is to be presented at St. John Fisher College on Dec. 4 and 5, 11 and 12. Richard Cappon, a sophomore at the college, stars as the villain.

Cappon is exceptionally qualified for this role. He has appeared in numerous area high-school and college productions; his latest effort being in last spring's College production of the Roff Guild's "Detective Story."

John Pettigrass, freshman at St. John Fisher College, portrays the hero of this epic.

MARY JEAN Hodson of Nazareth College fills out the traditional trio as the heroine.

Others in the cast are Kay Griffin, Michael Casella, Mary Ann Handlan, Kathryn Fanning and Robert Tuttle, students of St. John Fisher and Nazareth Colleges.

Dances are directed by Lois Sweet of Nazareth. Incidental piano will be played by Don Pickens and the orchestra is under the direction of John Schmitt.

Completing the musical part of the program will be a quartet of singing waiters under the direction of the Rev. Thomas Stokes, C.S.B., of the College faculty.

THE PRODUCTION is staged by Richard Kriox, special effects by James Aha.

Leo Lambert is in charge of refreshments.

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NEW And NOW

By ROBERT SMETT

"It seems to us that instead of sitting back and deploring our cultural environment we should be using our critical faculties to shape and reform it," said Fr. James Christie, S.J., of Edinburgh, Scotland.

The event that prompted the statement was the closing performance of George Scott-Moncrieff's "Fotheringhay," a new work on the famed Queen of Scots, Mary Stewart.

The play was a great success and has since opened in London, produced by the Catholic Stage Guild, an organization for Catholics professionally engaged in entertainment.

Father Christie's remarks were addressed to his parishioners, whose parish hall performances of "Fotheringhay" were held during the Edinburgh Festival. His statements are likewise pertinent to us in the U. S., who spent so much time, effort and money on our entertainment.

The Jesuit pastor continued: "It is not a bit of us protesting against contemporary evils in the abuse of literature and the arts generally unless we put forward at the same time some positive remedies."

"Negative criticism merely irritates. People can't live in a vacuum."

"Don't read this' and 'Don't see that' simply represses them if they do not also hear 'But do read this' and 'Do read that.'"

"If Catholics do not use the increasingly formative influences of stage, cinema, radio and television, they are neglecting the modern means of apostleship."

"If a play can make an impact on Festival Edinburgh it can make an impact on the country at large."

"Why, then, shouldn't the play be one inspired by Catholic philosophy? Why should the opportunity be abandoned to others?"

"Consider this: within the three weeks of the Festival every drama critic of note in the United Kingdom has come to our parish hall. We have discussed the play with influential visitors from as far afield as Australia and Brazil, as well as from all over Europe and America."

"A play with a Catholic theme, written by a Catholic, produced by a Catholic, with Catholics in the leading roles, has drawn them."

"The conclusion is obvious; we must go on drawing them."

"We must go on forcing the

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