

Striving For Mary The Immaculate Conception Matter of Edification Care of Body and Soul By MONSIGNOR HART

The Marian Year Pope Pius XII has set aside the year beginning December 8th, 1953 as a Marian Year. The faithful are called upon to give themselves to the work of honoring Mary and her Immaculate Conception all through the twelve months that make up this year.

Catholics should strive to make Marian Sanctuaries better known, especially her Shrines which are nearest at hand. Sermons and lectures in every parish should promote devotion to Mary. The spreading of books concerning the Blessed Mother is further recommended and to make special commemoration of those who in many parts of the world are suffering persecution for their faith.

Solemn Triduum To Mary Bishop Kearney leads the people of his Diocese in arranging for a Solemn Triduum on the 6th, 7th and 8th of December. A Mass each day after 5 p.m. with the recitation of the Rosary and a special sermon will make up the program for each of the three days.

The hour for the Mass and the accompanying devotions should make it convenient for every parish church to have a full congregation present to honor Mary and to mark the hundredth year of the Definition of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. The invitation has gone out and the response to it will be an indication of the love of our people for their Blessed Mother in the mystery of her Immaculate Conception.

The President and Catholic University Patriotism and religion were exemplified last week when the President of the United States was cited for the degree of Doctor of Laws by the Catholic University of America. When so many governments are in the control of men who know not God and who hope to lead the men of their country with no help from the Almighty, it is a matter of edification for free men in America to know that their President, with deep faith in God and confidence in the American tradition of freedom of religion in belief and practice, is ready to stand forth before the officials of the Catholic University and a great multitude of clergy and professors, to make public profession of his patriotism and of his faith.

Voice Of The Hierarchy From Washington, on the occasion of the meeting of the American Catholic Bishops, comes a message to all our people warning against the attempts of modern society to degrade man and to rob him of his dignity as a child of God. We hope our people will study carefully the words of the declaration, and perhaps tie it away for further study.

All our people are warned against the process of degradation that is viciously at work in our country. The flesh is defiled and the things of the spirit are either ignored or brought to a low level. The Church has always accorded the human body an immense measure of honor. She honors the soul of man and honors also the body that God has built up for him as the temple of his soul.

Sunday Sermon By Monsignor Hart... I can endure hearing a man say that a straight line is curved. It sounds like double-talk, but very likely he has been reading up on his Einsteinian physics. I can stand being told that up and down are relative terms. I know what the fellow means. He is speaking from the point of view of gravitational pull.

JOSEPH BREIG Arise, Ye Old Folks! I can endure hearing a man say that a straight line is curved. It sounds like double-talk, but very likely he has been reading up on his Einsteinian physics.

BOOK REVIEWS Nitrates For The Soul By SISTER MARGARET TERESA (Professor of Literature, Nazareth College, Rochester, N. Y.) If we want devotion, warmth in our lives, ALL MY LIFE LOVE, A Commentary on St. Thomas's Poem, by Michael Day, Cong. Ord. Translation by Ronald Knox, Foreword by Vernon Johnson, Paschal Press, 56 pp. 1953.

WHAT I AM SAYING IS, I am a fairly easy-going geezer, and I can put up with about as much roundhouse conversation as the next chap who comes along. I must say that the top of my head has a tendency to blow off and bang against the ceiling when I am confronted with the proposition that old folks ought to be deprived of their rocking chairs.

SO NITRATES for the soul, for a real harvest of winter wheat, a blessed Christmas, a book or two, not for somebody else but for us. And a night or two for reading. Must rub Martha to pay Mary—there's very good precedent for that. Must actually take time out. Goodbye for once, world. Goodbye, pseudoduties.

ALL MY LIFE LOVE is a little book by the Little Flower. It is a long poem of hers to Christ, put into English poetry (not just verse) by Ronald Knox—poetry of the quality of Hopkins' "God-head here in hiding" (the Adore Te). It is a poem of resolution, a poem possible to live by.

NOT UNTIL AMERICANS left the frontiers and the farms and moved into cities, did the rocking chair begin to go out, and the stationary chair begin to come in. I do not know whether the rocking chair is an American invention. Certainly I am surprised that the Soviets have not laid claim to it, because it ticks with fire and the wheels among the greatest achievements of human ingenuity.

WOMEN OF OLD AGE and Inactivity—let! Dr. Shindell said that his prognosis against rocking chairs is due to the fact that "it is difficult to pry some young people out of bed, but I have heard nobody protesting that beds be eliminated. If you are not fat, in some countries, by George, it is about time a rocking revolution."

THE CHURCH and the Catholic is a reprint of a destined classic, and a book that makes the mind. Try to convey its quality in a paragraph is to court unbelief. It irradiates, it causes new and ineffable convictions. Its effect on the soul is comparable to (distantly at times) the effect of a sacrament on the soul.

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To Mary Immaculate PATRONESS of Our dear land, Maiden-Mother pure, Dangers aid us to withstand Victory insure. By your silver crown of stars, In the night-blue sky, Bless Old Glory's gleaming bars, Keep them ever high. Red is for your Mother heart, White is for your grace, Blue is for your mantle's art Turn us to your face, Lady, Queen Immaculate, Guard our nation's shores, Mother, Friend, be with us yet Always we are yours.

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You Can Win Converts An Engineer Wins Thirteen By Rev. John A. O'Brien, Ph.D. Mr. Lorin T. Blodgett of Holy Ghost parish in Knoxville, Tennessee, has given a magnificent demonstration of the manner in which a convert can show his gratitude to God for the gift of faith.

Mr. Lorin T. Blodgett of Holy Ghost parish in Knoxville, Tennessee, has given a magnificent demonstration of the manner in which a convert can show his gratitude to God for the gift of faith. Along with his zealous wife, Georgiana, he has been instrumental in leading thirteen into the fold.

ITS SECONDARY objective, "is to spread the Faith by exemplary Christian lives, by prayer, by oral explanation of the Faith and by disturbing Catholic literature. Membership is open to all apostolic 'cradle' Catholics." After completing my term as the first president of the Guild, I undertook with Georgiana's help to build up Catholic Lending Library. We built it up in the course of three years to about 475 volumes. To find the best way to run the Library we made a trip to Philadelphia to study the Catholic Lending Library there and adopted its methods.

THE CHANT IS not an art form: it is the living breath of worship. Therefore, it cannot be fully appreciated except in its own setting of worship. Those who hear it there, and better those who sing it there, with souls attuned to all the impulses of the liturgy, they are the ones who learn to love the Chant, unerringly and devoutly. Like all lovers, they need no argument, nor fear one. They have learned to know the features of the beloved, and it is enough for them. Still there are some things about Gregorian Chant which can be conveyed by description. Its chief excellence is its unique rhythm. Remember that it is exclusively vocal music, written for the singing of the sacred texts. The language which gave it birth was Latin.

NO WHERE IN THE whole range of music, not even in the operas of Richard Wagner who wrote his own librettos because he was so careful about the making of music and words, are music and words so closely related. And when you have a language like Latin, which has no rival for stately and elegant movement, it was inevitable that its accompanying Chant, faithful to its grace and rhythm, should also be without a rival. Furthermore, the rhythm of the Chant is not that of poetry, but of prose. Poetry, at least as we moderns expect it, demands an orderly succession of stresses and rests. It gives the listener a different cadence, that is not to say that it has no rhythm. With many of us, of course, it is surely true that our prose has no graceful rhythm. But with the masters of language, that is not the case. And it is certainly not the case with the Latin of the great Collects and Prayers and of the Psalm translations.

There you have a Latin which flows smoothly and fitting, and the Chant which puts it into music has the same smoothness and fit. The rhythm is free, though it must be even. There are to be no long and short, no prolongations and accelerations. All is to be even and modulated, controlled by the exigencies of the textual pronunciation. And even when, as often happens in the Chant, a syllable is given a succession of a few or many notes, these notes are to be sung as smoothly and rapidly (the more not less) than the syllables leading up to them.

THE TOTAL EFFECT and impression is one of peace and serenity, such as can be sensed in the current of a great river, or in the flight of a bird. This I observed, "showing how placing the right books in a man's hand can turn hatred of the Church into love. Only those who misunderstand the Church can fear or hate her: once the caricatures are replaced with the truth, they love her."

"We called on the Thomas G. Zarger family," continued Lorin, "and when we discovered that Mrs. Zarger couldn't attend the afternoon instruction class because of her little child, Georgiana arranged to babysit for her during the entire course. Father Folman received Mrs. Zarger in the fold."

In addition to the reproductions which will be placed in San Diego buses, a copy of the winning painting, which depicts the scene in the manger, will also be hung in the Museum of Art, Babcock Park. The contest, open to all 10th, 11th and 12th grade students in San Diego's public and private schools, will be held yearly in part of the association's city-wide campaign to "Put Christ Back Into Christmas."

CHURCH MUSIC IV: Gregorian Chant By REV. BENEDICT BHAMANN

(This series of articles commemorates the golden jubilee of the "Motu Proprio" letter on Church music issued by Blessed Pope Pius X on Nov. 22, 1903. Author of these articles is the Rev. Benedict Bhamann, nationally known authority of Church Music and pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Church, Watkins Glen, N. Y.) "The ancient traditional Gregorian Chant must in a large measure be restored to the functions of public worship, and the fact must be accepted by all that an ecclesiastical function loses none of its solemnity when accompanied by this music alone."

Special efforts are made to restore the use of the Gregorian Chant by the people, so that the faithful may again take a more active part in the ecclesiastical offices, as was the case in ancient times. This is the mandate of Blessed Pope Pius X in his famous instruction concerning sacred music. It places the Gregorian Chant in top position as the preferred music of the Church for her services. Other kinds of music are not to be excluded, as long as they measure up to the right norms of worship music, but the Gregorian Chant is to be given the place of honor, because it has "in the highest degree" the qualities of artistry, holiness and universality which always possess.

It is impossible to show you in print why this is. One wishes that a sound track could accompany this column. Mere words of description cannot make you hear, and it is hearing which gives the real experience for conviction. Records are obtainable, not all of them equally good, and some of them positively atrocious. But listening to records is only second best. In fact, listening to the Chant outside of church must always be second best. THE CHANT IS not an art form: it is the living breath of worship. Therefore, it cannot be fully appreciated except in its own setting of worship. Those who hear it there, and better those who sing it there, with souls attuned to all the impulses of the liturgy, they are the ones who learn to love the Chant, unerringly and devoutly. Like all lovers, they need no argument, nor fear one. They have learned to know the features of the beloved, and it is enough for them. Still there are some things about Gregorian Chant which can be conveyed by description. Its chief excellence is its unique rhythm. Remember that it is exclusively vocal music, written for the singing of the sacred texts. The language which gave it birth was Latin.

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Polish Priests Rebuked Secret Police On Manners LONDON—(NC)—A Polish correspondent writes of the arrest of Cardinal Wysynski: "When the secret police entered the Cardinal's residence to search for some of them, they rebuked: 'Do you not want to take something with you—a razor, or some personal necessities? After all, you live in a cultured country.' The Cardinal replied: 'It cannot be a very cultured country when police call material at 11 p.m. and stay all night.'"