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Eastern Rite Devotion Once Included Marian Shrine in Kremlin

(This one of a series of three articles dealing with the coming observance of the Chair of Unity Octave, an eight-day period of prayer for the intention that "all may be one" celebrated from January 18, Feast of St. Peter's Chair at Rome, to January 25, Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. The author is a priest of the Society of the Atonement, which originated the observance. He is rector of Atonement Seminary, Washington, D. C. The Society is in charge of St. John's Atonement Seminary, Montour Falls.)

By FATHER TITUS CRANNY, S. A. (N.C.W.C. News Service)

Ask a Catholic, "Do you say the rosary?" and he will reply, "Yes — of course, I say the rosary." But there are a few Catholics of the Eastern rite who would answer you differently. They use paintings (icons), or mosaics showing Our Lady in a majestic attitude which is characteristic of their art. But their devotion to Mary is just as genuine and deep as that of their brethren in the Latin rite.

The liturgies of these Oriental rites abound with beautiful passages in honor of Our Lady. With typical Oriental manner of expression they call her all-holy, bearer-of-God, She-Who-Gave-Birth-to-God, and there is an ancient Byzantine chant which honors her with titles much like those we use in the Litany of Loreto: "Help of the needy, Hope of the hopeless, Consolation of the sad, Food of the hungry, Cure of the sick, Safeguard of sinners, Aid and Refuge of all Christians."

Mary is also honored with titles that are similar to those used in the Latin church. Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Good Counsel, Our Sorrowful Mother. Some other names, less common in the west, are Virgin of Compassion, or Virgin of Caresses, in which Our Lady is depicted playing with the Christ Child.

At the beginning of the Byzantine liturgy the priest places a square piece of bread, representing Our Lord, with a triangular one, representing Our Lady.

The prayer accompanying the second particle of bread is: "In honor and in memory of our most blessed and glorious Lady, Mother of God, and ever-virgin Mary, through whose intercession do thou, O Lord, receive this sacrifice on thy heavenly altar. The queen stood at thy right hand, clothed in a robe of gold and many colors."

Some of the Oriental rites have more feast days in honor of Mary than the Latin rite and most have different feast days. In fact, the Assumption is probably the only feast celebrated by all the Oriental Rites. But each rite is prominent in its veneration of the Mother of God, honoring her who gave birth to the Son of God, the stainless one, the all-pure, the all-holy.

It was in the East that the tradition of the Immaculate Conception first became explicit and widely accepted; it is the glory of the doctors of the East to have defended this privilege from the early centuries.

Some years ago a Russian convert said that "Mary is the link that will unite the two churches." This statement might be taken in two ways: to mean the union of the East and the West under the Vicar of Christ; or the bet-

ter understanding of the rites of the East by the faithful of the Latin rite and likewise a deeper appreciation of the Latin rite by their Oriental brethren.

The image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Byzantine in style, is very popular with the Catholics in the Near East. And before the Communists tried to destroy love of Mary it was the venerated one in "Holy Russia."

When the Catholics of Zhotimir, Russia, asked Pope Leo XIII for a copy of the most popular picture of Our Lady in Rome, His Holiness sent a copy of Perpetual Help. He also made it the official seal of the Pontifical Mission for Russia. This same image adorns the cover of the magazine, Balcan, devoted to the study of Christian Unity; it hangs on the walls of the Institute of Oriental Studies in Rome, an inspiration for the Europeans and the Asiatics who gather here to discuss matters of reunion.

In the very center of the Kremlin is a church dedicated to the Assumption of Our Lady. It is no longer used for divine services, but some day it shall, and the prophecy of a holy priest and apostle of Mary, Father Maximilian Kolbe, OFM Conv. will see the statue of the Immaculate in the center of Moscow atop the Kremlin.

As we near the time of the Chair of Unity Octave (January 18-25) when Catholics pray for the return of all the "Other Sheep" to the One Fold of Christ, we should take special interest in our brethren of the Eastern rites and those others of the same rite but separated from the Church by the schisms of refusing to acknowledge the Pope as the supreme Bishop of the whole world.

These separatists brought forth a fervent plea from the Holy Father in his encyclical on the Marian Year. "We call on all those who are separated from us by ancient schism and whom none the less we love with paternal affection," he said, "to unite in pouring forth these joint prayers and supplications, knowing full well how greatly they venerate the Mother of Jesus Christ and celebrate her Immaculate Conception."

May Our Lady be the link of uniting the East and the West. For in the words of Bl. Pius X: "There is no easier or surer way of uniting men to Christ than Mary."

Movie Guide
LEO'S
The Actress A-2
Escape From Fort Bravo A-1
PARAMOUNT
How To Marry A Millionaire A-2
PALACE
His Majesty O'Keefe A-2
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Sea Of Lost Ships A-1

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WHAT'S DOING AT THE DALY'S
Miss Ma's Chauffeur

By Mary Tinley Daly

"Ready, Miss Ma's?" are the first words that come booming up from downstairs each morning.

Then a giggle, "Ready, James," as Mary picks up books, bag of combined breakfast and lunch and the first exodus of the day has started.

Sometimes, others of us join the caravan but the old guard consists of "Miss Ma's" and her chauffeur. Along the line, between our house and church, they often pick up others going their way.

The routine began "way back in Mary's grade school days, when she was compiling one of her first spiritual bouquets — those overwhelming lists of Masses, Communions, rosaries, visits, ejaculations that gladden our hearts on every birthday, anniversary and the like. We dare say that over the years Mary has made enough spiritual bouquets to line the road from here to heaven with a herbarium of border and to ease the trials of purgatory for many of us sinners.

WHEN MARY started high school, at Georgetown Visitation Convent last September, we thought that daily Mass and Communion would be a practical impossibility for her with the long bus trip to school and no time to come home for breakfast. But Mary has a way of



Mary Daly

AMONG WOMEN
'Citizen-Saints'

By Mary Lennon Snyder

Catholic reading, of which the Catholic Press is an essential part, helps form the Catholic Mind. In last week's column we discussed projects by which an organization with its February program could promote Catholic Press Month. Today let's consider ways of showing the informative value of our press.

Father Harold Gardiner once stated in an article in "America" that we need "citizen saints," men and women deeply grounded in civic virtue. Since the Catholic press is a "vigorous aid" in forming such people, we need information if we are to be good citizens.

Suggestions for demonstrating the Catholic Press as a medium of information have been formulated by the Libraries and Literature Committee of the National Council — of Catholic Women. Among other things they suggest a joint program with the men of the parish.

ALL OF OUR actions, our private and expressed opinions, day in and day out must be based on our religious convictions as Catholics.

Prepare a demonstration discussion on how the Catholic Press aids us in doing just this in these trying days: Catholic newspapers, diocesan or national editions, Catholic opinion weeklies like America, typical Catholic monthlies such as The Sign, Catholic Mind, Catholic Digest, Family Digest and the like. Contrast treatment of a few current news topics in secular and Catholic Press. Display a sample of each type of magazine used.

TO SPREAD OUR fund of information we should make recent back issues of Catholic magazines available to local institutions, such as hospitals, old people's homes, jails. This is a work of mercy that will bear much fruit in a parish.

Waiting rooms of professional offices, of railroad and bus terminals, should also be supplied. The Catholic Press is a powerful teacher of God's law not only for Catholics in a parish but also for the entire community. To get



Mrs. Snyder

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to join the Inner Circle, though as the Head of the House does, and sit with that group of high school freshmen — Anne Curran, Renie Emmet, Mary Grove, Anne Cotter and the rest — who take up a block of pews in their own particular part of the church.

AND PROMPTLY at 8:05 the whole bunch arises in a body, picks up books and lunches and takes off to catch the bus that will get to school on time. It's quite a sight to see them; identical dark blue uniforms, white

sox and brown shoes, coats of varied colors, and all with the inevitable plaid scarves that are being worn this year, their faces cold of early morning.

There are groups like this in ever parish church all over the country, we think comfortingly, young people who are making daily Mass a part of their very lives.

As for the Head of the House, he says that his favorite chore is being "Miss Ma's" chauffeur.

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This is a common sight for our heroic Sisters. Daily lads even worse off than this one are led to the doorsteps of the Sisters. They must find the food, clothes and other items necessary for their survival. Full of trust in God's Providence, they carry on. The Sister at the orphanage in Bethlehem wrote recently to thank through Msgr. McMahon the benefactors of the Catholic Near East for a modest Christmas gift: "I come to pour out all our thanks. The life of our tots is secure for almost two more months. Then, their future is again put in God's Providence, who never deserts His little ones. The tots pray every day for their dear benefactors." With your monthly miles to ORPHANS BREAD you have done this noble deed. Yes, YOU ARE PROVIDENCE for them. Perhaps you can get a friend to join this mission club for our orphans. Why not, TODAY? A lad is kept for a month on \$10.

HEROINES FOR CHRIST
Our two "teams" of Lay Auxiliaries in Jordan are heroines every inch. One group conducts a girls' orphanage for the bishop and train these youngsters in cooking, sewing, hygiene, etc., as centers for future Christian families. They are a blessing to the work in Jordan. Won't you send a mile to help them? \$10 will keep one of the thirty girls there for a month.

AFRICAN ECHOES
GABRAI is a hopeful youth who just began his six years in the seminary at Adigrat. We must find a benefactor who will give him the yearly cost (\$100) of his training. Won't you send it in any installments? You'll live in his heart forever.

SISTER ABEBA will one day be a native missionary after her two years training with the Pious Mothers at Asmara. Her yearly training costs \$150 which she hasn't got. Will you lighten her heart this much and help send another worker into His Vineyard?

ST. ANTHONY IN INDIA?
Yes, that's the name of the parish church in Thyankary, India. The great number of converts has increased the flock far beyond the capacity of the present shed-chapel. Built without a foundation, it now has huge cracks in the walls and the roof is a menace to the poor people. Your mile with others will soon reach the \$2,000 we hope to raise. A brick costs \$1; altar, \$100.

IF YOU WOULD BE IN GOD'S WILL, PUT HIM IN YOURS.

STURDY SENTINELS
Like the faithful soldier who stands guard through the night, the faithful sanctuary lamps burn day and night, before our Blessed Lord in the tabernacle. The flame tells the warmth of His Love and the light proclaims Him the "Light of the World." The Eastern Churches love to have several in each church. \$15 will put one in a mission chapel.

YOUR "STRINGLESS GIFTS" HELP THE HOLY FATHER MEET EMERGENCIES AT ONCE. YOUR PRAYERS DURING THE "CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE" (JAN. 18 TO 25) ARE STRINGLESS SPIRITUAL GIFTS RENDERING THE MISSIONARIES' WORK MORE FRUITFUL.

Near East Missions
Francis Cardinal Spellman, President Msgr. Thomas J. McMahon, Nat'l Sec'y

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