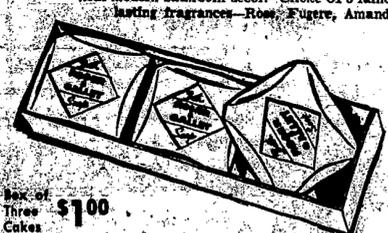


10
Irish Bishop
Boston (RNS)—Bishop Cor
nellius Lucy of Cork, Ireland,
will preach the sermon at a
special evening Mass in Holy
Cross Cathedral on St. Patrick's
Day (March 17). It was announced
here.

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WHAT'S DOING AT THE DALY?

Sister Told Us

Several months ago this column took up the subject of religious vocations for women, asking Sisters to tell the "Why" behind their God-given calling. Perhaps the readers would like to share some of the mail that came to our house as a result of that December column.
A priest from Virginia, more or less indignant at first that anyone should question, then wrote giving a positive answer: "The Sister possesses the Supreme Object of Happiness—God... It is the Crucified Christ who is serving."
From a girl who had been in the convent for a year: "Nuns are the most truly happy people in the world... Lucky people."
A sister in Joliet, Illinois, who has been in the convent for 25 years and who has contributed a chapter to the recently published "Why I Entered the Convent" said in part: "Sisters believe that entering a convent is not a flight from reality but a flight to reality—in fact to the greatest reality of all—GOD! Only if you believe in God will convent life make sense—to others it will always be an enigma."
OTHER SISTERS wrote in similar vein, generally sharing their convictions. "One of the most heartwarming letters, though, was from a mother of a nun. I say "heartwarming" for all of those who misunderstand vocations, possibly we mothers are the least comprehending. All too often, the splendid work of guidance in the religious vocation field can be undone by cynical remarks and attitudes of mothers who—well meaning but misguided—simply do not know what it is all about. ("Vocational

For parents might well precede vocation day for the girl).
Back to the letter... It's from Mrs. Gertrude R. Heaton of Miami, Florida, mother of young Sister Jane Frances, now with the Medical Mission Sisters in Patna, India. With Mrs. Heaton's permission, I quote: "My daughter, Sister Jane Frances, was nine years old when I was received into the Catholic Church and a Protestant friend warned me that some day one of my girls would want to become a nun and then I would be sorry for the step I had just taken. The first part of her prophecy came true only eight years later—but the second part... I rejoice and marvel that a daughter of mine, with generations of Protestant background, is a Catholic mission Sister in Patna, where one of my own, indeed, spent most of his life as a Presbyterian mission doctor.
"WHEN I READ your column about the yellow homemade formal, I looked at a photograph I prize, of a teenager with curly golden hair in a light blue or orange trimmed with pink roses. I remember how she bounced in after the Prom, threw her arms around my neck and said, 'Oh, Mumsie, I had such a grand time and danced every dance. Thanks for making the pretty dress. Now, when those kids find out what I'm going to do, they won't say I went to the convent because the boys snubbed me.' Then seriously she added, 'It was fun, but I wouldn't want to spend my life that way.'
"Yet only a year previously," Mrs. Heaton recalled, "when one of her teachers suggested religious life to her, she laughed, saying she couldn't be serious enough."
"That's all right," Sister said, "We need some just like you."
"Sister was right," Mrs. Heaton continued her letter, "for a sense of humor is a great asset in mission surroundings. Many times, experiences that must have been harrowing—she has made laughable in her letters."
"ACTUALLY, THESE Sisters live life to its fullest, and I never saw a happier group of young women than those at the Motherhouse when I used to visit my daughter. They are dedicated to Mary, Immaculate, Cause of our Joy" (Causa Laetitia), so why shouldn't they be?
"These are some of the girls whom your son, Catholic friend said, were running away from life."
The accompanying booklet showed scene from Holy Family Hospital in Patna, where Sister Jane Frances is pharmacist. You see what is being done—and in such cramped quarters—and with such inadequate funds... Then Sister Jane Frances' letter to her mother with its "Please pray that people will open their hearts and their purses so that the new hospital—not a luxury but a grave necessity—will become a reality."
There are pictures of Sister Jane Frances, curly blond hair now covered with a white veil, but the same lovely smile. Here is a girl, you realize, who is truly happy.
And in Miami, thousands of miles away, is a mother happy in the realization of what a real vocation means.

Portuguese Troops Honor Patron Saint
Lisbon (NC)—Portuguese soldiers thronged the Church of St. Sebastian here to honor the patron of soldiers on his feast day.
Special devotions for the troops consisted of an hour's adoration before the Blessed Sacrament and then the kissing of a relic of St. Sebastian, the early Roman martyr who once served as an officer in the army of Emperor Diocletian.
When he refused to give up his Christian Faith, St. Sebastian was tied to a tree and used as a target by Roman archers. With blood still pouring from his wounds he was finally beaten to death with clubs.
"It is important to know," said Father Monella, "that only two of those men were believers. The others there were just Madonnas wearing leg, but only a little statue of the Blessed Mother and nothing else."
Father Monella named these men: Doctors Casola, Colza, and Marletta; Roberto Bertine, a drug addict; coroners Romano and Grasso; an engineer named D'Urso; and chief of police Somperal.
"At exactly 10:47 on that day, Sept. 1," Father Monella continued, "tears began to flow first from the left eye and then the right of the statue. Dr. Bertine was able to take the tears in a small tube for chemical analysis. "Later the analysis was per-

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**Seton Hall Professor
Tells More About
'Weeping Madonna'**

By ANNE MAR BUCKLEY
Newark Advance Staff Writer

South Orange, N. J.—The Bishops of Sicily announced in December that the "Weeping Madonna" of Syracuse is miraculous. The weeping occurred Aug. 29 to Sept. 1. When you consider that it took four years of rigid examination to convince the Church of the miracle at Lourdes, and 12 years before the Fatima apparitions were declared believable, you see how remarkable this early pronouncement is.

Of course, having mentioned the weeping, the President of the U.S.A. might say he asked for his job because many men aspire to the Presidency; but like as not the President of the parochial society takes it because she has a keener sense of responsibility than many of the other women who say, "Oh, I just couldn't possibly do it!"
At any rate whatever the motives, the president finds that the presidency is an unenviable position. And of the many problems confronting an executive I shall write today of only one—the choice of committee chairman.
On the national level the President has his own difficulties: he must navigate stormy political waters avoiding the Scylla of po-

These things alone would indicate the miraculous. But since the weeping occurred, the Comitato Cittadino Madonna delle Lagrime (Civic Committee for the Weeping Madonna) has reported 500 alleged miracles through intercession of the Madonna. The statue has been moved from the little house and placed in the Piazza Europeo, where it is visited by as many as 10,000 pilgrims in a day. Hundreds of letters pour into the Comitato's office in the Via Cadorna daily.
The alleged miracles include restoration of sight, healing of the crippled, and curing of deformities in infants. Father Monella himself witnessed one phenomenon while visiting his party in Calanissetta. A dry withered flower bloomed out of season when touched with tears from the Weeping Madonna. A botany professor who examined it was unable to explain how the flower could bloom in winter.

AND LOOMING even above these physical occurrences, one effect of the Weeping Madonna has been a spiritual revival in Sicily. Many who had strayed have returned, like Angelo Jannuso, to their religion. There has been a marked increase in confessions and Holy Communion. And, Father Monella observed, the Blessed Mother has become just about the most popular saint on the island. Father said her pictures are everywhere—in the public squares, on the newsstands. And when Antonia Jannuso's baby was born—on Christmas Eve—the news made headlines.
Writing an account of the Weeping Madonna in an Italian newspaper, one reporter said, and it summed up Father Monella's attitude: "I don't know whether it will become another Lourdes or Fatima, but I do know that here in Syracuse, in a very poor section of town, a miracle occurred."

**Catholic News Programs
On Radio, TV Increase**
Washington (NC)—Catholic news broadcasting on radio and television reached an all-time high with the New Year, a survey here has revealed.
In more than 45 American and Canadian cities, radio and television listeners now hear Catholic news programs, the survey showed. Catholic news is also heard in foreign countries including the Belgian Congo, Germany, Australia, Canal Zone, Guam and Vatican City.
ON TELEVISION, Catholic pictures and maps are being used in Catholic news programs, in some areas; but most programs feature a personality who maintains visual contact with television viewers, while reading the news, according to the survey.
The NC Newscrip, issued each Tuesday by the N.C.W.C. News Service, it was disclosed, has been a great help in the development of Catholic news broadcasting.
In little more than a year, NC Newscrip has served to more

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Assignment Problems

By Mary Leanon Snyder

litical expediency and the Char-
byds of the next elections. For
every position he has to fill there
are many aspirants.
IN AN ORDINARY parochial
or interparochial organization the
problems are different but no
less real. In making up commit-
tee assignments the president is
always tempted to re-appoint a
veteran worker year after year.
This is believe, a mistake, not
only from the viewpoint of the
organization but also from that
of the chairman.
I believe that we should strive
for variety in assignments be-
cause static committee personnel
tend to another initiative of
younger and more recent mem-
bers; it tends to discourage wo-
men from accepting chairman-
ships because, in some instances,
it looks as if their only release
will come with disability or death;
and it keeps the organization
from growing under the impetus
of new ideas and new workers.

AS A YOUNGSTER I used to
be amused at an anecdote which
recounted the trials of a young
foreign born lad who was kept
necessarily busy as a helper in
a large shop. According to leg-
end he was supposed to have ex-
claimed in a moment of exasper-
ation, "Davey, here! Davey, here!
there! What would they do if
Davey died vumce?"
That sums up the danger of
always having the same commit-
tee chairman. Who is there to
take her place? In the case of
veteran workers who do not like
to step out of chairmanships, per-
haps a long range system of
putting established workers in
(notice how I avoid the word
'old') in new assignments while
putting new people in for leader-
ship training might be evolved.

IT HAS BEEN my experience
with Catholic women that they
are generally very glad to pass
on the reins of responsibility to
younger women and to support
their efforts with encourage-
ment and advice. Most chairmen,
re-appointed year after year, get
a little bored with the same work.
Every time, for instance that
I observe a committee chairman
re-appointed I think of something
I call my Sponge Cake Analogy.
Just because a cook might be
able to bake a good sponge cake
we could hardly expect that she
spend the rest of her life baking
and eating nothing but sponge
cake; and yet year after year
many presidents are asking their
members to do just that.

**Congressman Asks
Mother Day Stamp
In Tribute To Mary**
Washington (NC)—A
Mother's Day postage stamp
honoring Mary, "the mother of
Christ and the world's greatest
mother," has been requested by
Congressman Frazier Frazier of
Ohio in observance of the Mar-
ian Year.
Speaking in the House of
Representatives, Rep. Frazier
asked his fellow legislators to
join him in making such a re-
quest to the Post Office Depart-
ment.
"In this Marian Year I can
think of nothing that would be
more appropriate than a Mother's
Day postage stamp honoring
Mary, the mother of Christ and
the world's greatest mother," he
said.

**Publisher Lists
New Marian Books**
Milwaukee (NC)—Three new
books on Our Lady will be
published here during February and
March by the Bruce Publishing
Company.
The new books will treat several
aspects of the role of the
Blessed Virgin in Christian life
and worship. They include a
short story of her life, a collec-
tion of writings of Popes on
Mary from 1645 and a devotional
book on the Litany of Loreto.
The new books are: "A Life of
Mary, Co-Redemptrix" by Peter
A. Resch, S.M.; "Our Lady's Lit-
any" by Father Aloysius Biskup-
pek, S.V.D.; the March selection
of the Spiritual Book Associates;
and "Papal Documents on Mary"
by Magr. William J. Doherty,
C.S.S., Associate Justice of the
Roman Rota, and Father Joseph
P. Kelly.

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**Seton Hall Plans
College in Paterson**

Newark, N. J. (NC)—A new
college will be opened in Pater-
son, N. J., in September by Seton
Hall University. It was an-
nounced here by Newark's Arch-
bishop Thomas A. Boland, who
is president of the university
board of trustees.
The Archbishop said that the
university acquired the Elks
Building in Paterson and will
convert it into a co-educational
college with courses in liberal
arts, science, business adminis-
tration, education and secretarial
studies. Seton Hall University,
which will observe its centenary
in 1956, has its principal campus
at South Orange, N. J.

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