

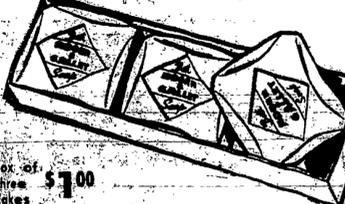
Irish Bishop
Boston (RNS)—Bishop Cornelius Lucey of Cork, Ireland, will preach the sermon at a special evening Mass in Holy Cross Cathedral on St. Patrick's Day (March 17), it was announced here.

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WHAT'S DOING AT THE DALY'S

Sister Told Us
By Mary Tracy Daly

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 she 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, generously sharing their convictions. One of the most heartwarming letters, though, was from a mother of a nun. I say "heartwarming" for all 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.

"WHEN I READ your column about the yellow homemade formal, I looked at a photograph I prize, of a teen-ager with curly golden hair, in a light blue or sandy trimmed with pink roses, I remember how she bounced in after the Prom, threw her arms around my neck and said, 'Oh, Mamma, 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 have enough serious ones. 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 to her, 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, Chuse of our Joy' (Causa Laetitiae), so why shouldn't they be?"

"These are some of the girls whom your non-Catholic friend said were running away from life!"

The accompanying booklet showed scenes from Holy Family Hospital in Patna, where Sister Jane Frances L. 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.

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.

Is the Church then becoming less conservative? We talked with Rev. Vincent Monella, professor of philosophy, languages and religion at Seton Hall University, who spent the Christmas holidays at his home in Sicily. Father Monella knows personally Archbishop Ettore Savarano of Syracuse, whom he described as an outstanding historian and a great scholar, especially in psychology.

"SINCE THE beginning," said Father Monella, "the Archbishop's attitude toward the 'Weeping Madonna' was conservative. Even now he cautions the people not to confuse religion with emotion. 'But the facts remained, and were strong enough to stand up under strict examination, as the Bishops' meeting in Bagheri, near Palermo, Dec. 16, and to merit the proclamation by Cardinal Bellini, Primate of Sicily, that, 'after serious examination of all the documents, it is impossible to deny the reality of the facts.'"

Father Monella gave us an outline of these strange and conclusive happenings. It was on Aug. 29, 1953, that Antonina Giusto Jannuso, who had been confined to her bed almost from the beginning of her pregnancy, observed that tears were flowing from the small terra cotta plaque of the Madonna on the wall above, in such quantities as to wet the pillow. With Mrs. Jannuso were her mother-in-law, a sister, and sister-in-law, all of whom noticed the phenomenon.

When Angelo Jannuso returned from work the house was crowded with people. Mr. Jannuso had been estranged from his religion—some reports even called him a Communist—but said Father Monella, "when he saw with his own eyes the miracle, he knelt and prayed with the rest." When Angelo's brother arrived on the scene, he too was prepared to recede.

"I lost my job today," he scoffed, "and I have no cause to weep than the Blessed Mother." But his skeptical attitude melted away when he touched the face of the statue and felt the tears.

BY THIS TIME over 200 people had gathered, and the police moved in and carried off the statue, wrapped in newspaper. They returned in a short time with it, though, and joined the crowd in prayer. The newspaper had been saturated with the tears when they reached police headquarters.

Signed statements were submitted by these more than 200 people, and brought forth in the ecclesiastical tribunal. They gave the first set of facts.

On Sept. 1 the Archbishop, after visiting the small house which is in a poor section of the city, ordered the investigation of the phenomenon by eight professional men, three of them doctors.

"It is important to know," said Father Monella, "that only two of these men were believers. To the others there was no such Madonna weeping, but only a little statue of the Blessed Mother and nothing else."

Father Monella named these men: Doctors Cassola, Coliza, and Marletta; Roberto Bertine, a druggist; coroners Romano and Grasso; an engineer named D'Urso; and chief of police Somperli.

Assignment Problems
By Mary Lennon Snyder

Poor presidents have a hard time! And I do not believe I shall qualify that statement because it seems to be as true of the President of the United States as it is of the president of the smallest parochial society.

Of course, having mentioned the name of the President of the U.S.A., I might as well ask 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 political expediency and the Charibdis of the next elections. For every position he has to fill there are many aspirants.

IN AN ORDINARY parochial organization the problems are different but no less real. In making up committee assignments the president is always tempted to re-appoint a veteran worker year after year. This I believe, is 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 because static committee personnel tend to smother the initiative of younger and more recent members; it tends to discourage women from accepting chairmanships 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 incessantly busy as a helper in a large shop. According to legend he was supposed to have exclaimed in a moment of exasperation: "Daddy, here! Daddy, there! What would they do if Daddy died, huh?"

That sums up the danger of always having the same committee chairman. Who is there to take her place? In the case of veteran workers who do not like to step out of chairmanships, perhaps a long-range system of putting established workers (not how I avoid the word "old") in new assignments while putting new people in for leadership 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 encouragement 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 I am reminded of something I call my "Spoken Cake Analogy." Just because a cook might be able to bake a good sponge cake we could hardly expect that she would be able to bake and eat 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 Reams of Ohio in observance of the Marian Year.

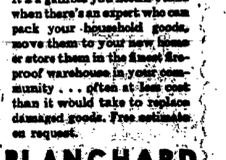
Seton Hall Plans College In Paterson

Newark, N. J. (NC)—A new college will be opened in Paterson, N. J., in September by Seton Hall University. It was announced here by Newark's Archbishop 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 administration, education and secretarial studies. Seton Hall University, which will observe its centenary in 1856, has its principal campus at South Orange, N. J.

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