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AMONG WOMEN

Blessed Martin

By Mary Lennon Snyder

As all my friends know, I have great devotion to Blessed Martin de Porres, the saintly colored Dominican lay brother who lived and died over three centuries ago in Lima, Peru. The details of his birth, life and life in eternity are too well known for me to present them here.

Mrs. Snyder

However, I mention him today because I know that many people of good will are disturbed by the question of integration of races into public schools of the South, and they wonder what can be done to help bring about a more Christlike attitude toward the race problem.

My suggestion may not be a solution, but I am sure it will help. Blessed Martin really loves to help us. Every time we see a television or newspaper report of race bias, let us take a minute to whisper a silent prayer to Blessed Martin, a Hail Mary, if possible; if not, any simple little aspiration. At the same time let's make a promise to ourselves never to be guilty of an act or word of racial prejudice; and I know Blessed Martin will hear our prayers.

INCIDENTALLY, while you are asking Blessed Martin for favors of national importance, don't forget to ask him to help you in your daily problems. I could fill a series of columns with the favors I know that he has granted. In my own life he has performed near-miracles, and he has also helped me less spectacularly, such as lending me a hand in moments of petty annoyance.

If you have not read a life of Blessed Martin, by all means do so because it will bring you closer to God and to His Blessed Mother Whom Blessed Martin loved so devotedly.

An interesting comment on this race problem is made by the Rev. Leo Trese writing on "The White Problem" in The Maryknoll:

"**REMEMBER OUR** Lord's description of the Last Judgment? There He doesn't speak of barring souls from Heaven for what they did do, but for what they did not do! Then they (the rejected ones) also will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see Thee hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister to Thee?' Then He (Christ) will answer them saying, 'Amen I say to you, as long as you did not do it for one of these least ones, you did not do it for Me.'

"So long as we, any of us, through lethargy, indifference, or sloth—even without prejudice; so long as we continue to let our colored brethren hunger and thirst for recognition of their dignity as human persons; so long as we let them walk as strangers among us, strangers in their own land; so long as we leave them nakedly exposed to the coldness, the harsh rejection they meet with on every side; so long as we keep them effectively imprisoned in their ghettoes, through our housing restrictions and 'neighborhood improvement associations'—just so long are we coming under the curse of Christ Himself.

"**FOR MY OWN** part, if I had to swap places on Judgment Day with some hardened sinner, I feel that I would stand a much better chance of mercy in the place of the thief, or the harlot, or the drunkard, or the murderer — any of those whose sins were the sins of weakness — rather than in the place of one who had been unable to see Christ in his brother, because of the God-given darkness of the brother's skin." (p. 592, Oct. 1953).

Knights To Receive 11 New Candidates

Seneca Falls — Seneca Falls Council, No. 222, Knights of Columbus, will exemplify the Second Degree on 11 candidates Tuesday evening, Oct. 26, in the K. of C. home.

The candidates are as follows: Ronald Sandroni, John Capocci, Anthony Piscitelli, John Saloiti, John Koska, Coleman Connell, Edward Carr, William Mulvaney, William Ryan, Edward Landenberger and Ernest Lama.

A short business meeting will follow at which time plans will be discussed concerning the redecoration of the council rooms.

A lunch will be served by Lecturer Leon Bolich and his committee.

Geneva Catholic Nurses Schedule Year's Activities

Geneva — Geneva unit, Catholic Nurses, has a busy schedule lined up for the 1954-55 season.

Members received their new programs for the year at a meeting recently in St. Francis de Sales School hall. Miss Clara Marciano, program chairman for the group, reviewed the calendar.

The Rev. John V. Loughlin, moderator, gave a short talk on the subject, "Saints Invoked for Specific Ailments."

Mrs. Zita Linehan reviewed the life of St. Peregrine who is frequently invoked by persons ill of cancer.

The annual year book revealed a variety of events for the coming season. On Sunday, Oct. 24, the members are invited to attend a Mass and Communion breakfast in Rochester.

THE MASS will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. in Our Lady of Victory Church, Pleasant St., Rochester. It will be followed by a Communion breakfast at 10:30 a.m. in Hotel Sheraton. Guest speaker is the Very Rev. Gerald Whelan, C.SS.R. Miss Mary Snowney is chairman.

A rummage sale will be held Friday and Saturday, Nov. 5 and 6, in the store next to the bowling alley on Exchange St. Loretta Linehan is chairman.

A **RETREAT** evening is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 8 at St. Agnes Chapel in Rochester. The program will be from 7:45 p.m. to 9 p.m. Louise Snimn is chairman of this program.

Miss Julia Bulenda is chairman of a Christmas party to be held Monday, Dec. 13. A business meeting will be held at 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 10, in St. Francis de Sales School hall.

Annual Mother-Daughter banquet with Miss Clara Marciana as chairman is on the calendar for Monday, Feb. 14. A prayer hour will be held during March at a date to be announced. Mrs. Loretta Lineham is chairman of this program.

On Monday, April 18, Miss Rosemary Felicetti will be chairman of a business meeting and benefit. Highlight of the May program will be an evening memorial Mass followed by a dinner. Mary Marshall is chairman. A nominating committee will be appointed at this time.

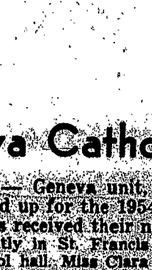
A picnic and election of officers is scheduled for June with Gertrude Taylor as chairman.

WHAT'S DOING AT THE DALY'S

'The Church Routine'

By Mary Tracy Daly

It's Hurricane Housecleaning as the Head of the House calls the semi-annual flurry. Grass rugs that looked so bright and cool are now faded and straw-ey. Formerly crisp summer curtains hang listless and weary.


Mary Daly

We're grateful for the brisk winds of October that quick-dry things after their tubbing, for the exhilarating air that gives one the zip to make a clean-sweep of the house, preparing it for more formal winter living.

There's one chore, though, that comes in October—the one the children term "Mom's church routine." Frankly, it's never been a favorite task.

It starts off with doing away with the palms. Memories come back of all of us last spring holding those slithery pale-green spears. The more devout made braids of their palm, and elaborately woven crosses; the latter simply let them wave in the breeze and stuck them behind the nearest bedroom mirror.

Now, six months later, we gather up the dust-laden, dried-out braids, the woven crosses, and the waving fronds that have remained behind mirrors and pictures, in vases back of statues. We decide that there are two courses open: 1) dust them off—and gather a spray of tendrils that must be done away with respectfully; 2) respectfully do away with the whole business.

It's that "respectfully" part that throws us. . . . Easiest thing, of course, would be to dump them into the fireplace—but that wouldn't do.

WE KNOW, of course, that the church palms are burned to provide ashes for Ash Wednesday. We know, too, that when burning "home" palms, those ashes must be buried in a "clean" spot in the yard—not near the back door where you pour greasy water that would clog up the sink.

The chief trouble: how to burn palm so that the powdery ashes won't blow all over the neighborhood. (We've always burned them outdoors and chased ashes until it's a wonder the authorities didn't chase us.)

So, at the risk of being considered even more of a dim-wit in matters ecclesiastical, we asked a monk, our good friend Father Sebastian Miklas, O.F.M. Cap.

"Palms?" Father Sebastian smiled. "That's easy. They must be burned. And the easiest way," his brown eyes twinkled, "the very easiest way is to take them to church and turn them over."

Somehow, we couldn't picture ourselves depositing a bag of assorted braids and crosses and waving fronds at the rectory door.

"Well," Father Sebastian went on, "then burn them at home. I know . . ." He raised his hand at the upcoming protest. "Of course they'll fly all over the yard. Burn them inside, in a tin container, then dump the cold ashes into a bag and bury the bag."

Here we'd been keeping house, doing "the church routine" for years without number, and we'd never thought of that simple procedure!

AFTER THE palm problem came the broken-rosary-statue-and-medal department. . . . Perhaps the readers of this column keep their rosaries all of a string, their statues intact, their medals with the little loop in perfect hanging condition. Not at our house! By October the top shelf in the linen closet looks like Barclay Street after an earthquake.

"The blessing leaves when they're damaged," Father Sebastian explained. "Why not bundle up all the broken rosaries into a box and ship them to a mission where they will be remade?"

That would be easy—far easier than the routine we'd been following, digging more holes in the back yard—and certainly a more positive way of acting.

"As to broken statues and medals," Father counseled, "they can simply be thrown away. But to avoid any implication of disrespect, they should be wrapped before they are discarded."

Why, we wondered, hadn't we sensibly asked long ago how to do these simple routine jobs that occur in every family? We've read Catholic literature for years, but somehow we've missed these easy "how-to's."

Possibly nine-tenths of the readers of this column will regard this as superfluous information. But if even one reader gets as much help from Father Sebastian as we did, it is worth printing.

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YVETTE, NO COQUETTE. This little novice with the Sisters of the Rosary in Jerusalem needs $150 for her last year of training, before she becomes a missionary among our poor. Can you make Yvette your adopted daughter?

WHAT? RAPHAEL

St. Francis said that if he met an angel and a priest, he would bow down first to the priest, for he can offer God to God. An angel cannot.

NO ARCHANGEL? So, we are hoping that a Near East friend can give $500, in any installments, to adopt Raphael, a student at St. Joseph's, Alwaye, India. Won't you?

SAINT OF THE IMPOSSIBLE: We shall be asking St. Jude, feasted on October 28, to speed those pre-Christmas stringless gifts for our refugees, orphans and poor of Holy Land. Just $10 will purchase a food package. We send you a special Holy Land Rosary. And your dollar-a-month club is God's Christmas Club for neediest cases.

GOD'S OWN
Hasbaniah is a little town in Lebanon. Its poor beg us for the most modest of chapels, costing $800! Can you make this your House of God?

WANT AD
Even a dollar to the CHAPEL-OF-THE-MONTH Club does wonders. And a tiered article for Hasbaniah does too. Write for "HOW CAN I HELP?"

HOLY LAND FILM: The nearer we come to Christmas, the more our thoughts turn to Jesus and His Land. Make it more real by renting our special film, narrated by Bob Considine. You may have it for six dollars and you will like it.

WHAT FOLLY.
In far off India, back in 1918, Father Francis Thekkekara founded the Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Now they number 48 Sisters, overworked.

FATHER FRANCIS! And they live in the same "convent" shed of the first 10 Sisters sixteen years ago. Father begs $500 for them. Here is poverty.

SPARK OF LIFE: How quickly it is snuffed out in this age of sudden deaths! Prepare for your own by arranging for the Gregorian Masses held in suspense for you. Write us about them. Then, remember the Poor Souls with Masses during November.

SPEAKING OF MEMORIALS: Your beloved dead can be enshrined forever in a humble Near East Chapel. Here are some suggestions: Altar, $75; Monstrance for Benediction, $40; Tabernacle, $125; Sanctuary Lamp, $15. The Lord will love your loved ones.

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