

AMONG WOMEN

The Hail Mary

By Mary Lennon Snyder

Recently I have been teaching a little girl to say the Hail Mary, and as I have daily repeated the familiar words slowly and distinctly for little ears to catch the syllables, I have been remembering how the saints loved this prayer.



Saint Louis de Montfort in his "True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary" advised all who followed his plan of devotion to Mary to "have a great devotion to saying the Hail Mary" and he continued: "Few Christians, however, enlightened, know the real value, merit, excellence, and necessity of the Hail Mary. It was necessary for the Blessed Virgin to appear several times to great and enlightened saints to show them the merit of it. She did so to St. Dominic, St. John Capistran, and Blessed Alan de la Roche."

"THEY HAVE composed entire works on the wonders and efficacy of that prayer for converting souls. They have loudly proclaimed and loudly preached that, salvation having begun with the Hail Mary, the salvation of each one of us in particular is attached to that prayer. They tell us that it is that prayer which made the dry and barren earth bring forth the fruit of life; and that is that prayer which makes the word of God germinate in our souls, and bring forth Jesus Christ, the Fruit of Life.

"They tell us that the Hail

Mary is a heavenly dew for watering the earth, which is the soul, to make it bring forth its fruit in season; and that a soul which is not watered by that prayer bears no fruit, and brings forth only thorns and brambles. . . . FARTHER ON IN the same chapter, St. Louis de Montfort almost pleads: "Learn that the Hail Mary is the most beautiful of all prayers after the Our Father. It is the most perfect compliment which you can make to Mary, because it is the compliment which the Most High sent her by an archangel, in order to win her heart; and it was so powerful over her heart by the secret charms of which it is so full, that in spite of her profound humility she gave her consent to the Incarnation of the Word. It is by this compliment also that you will infallibly win her heart, if you say it as you ought."

"The Hail Mary well said, that is, with attention, devotion, and modesty—is, according to the saints, the enemy of the devil, which puts him to flight, and the hammer which crushes him. It is the sanctification of the soul, the joy of the angels, the melody of the predestinate, the canticle of the New Testament, the pleasure of Mary, and the glory of the Most Holy Trinity.

"THE HAIL MARY is a heavenly dew which fertilizes the soul. It is the chaste and loving kiss which we give to Mary. It is a vermilion rose which we present to her; a precious pearl we offer her; a chalice of divine nectar which we proffer to her. All these are comparisons of the saints."

Concluding the chapter the saint urges his readers to say "five decades or even, if you have time, fifteen decades of the Rosary every day. At the moment of your death you will bless the day and the hour in which you followed my advice. Having thus won in the blessings of Jesus and Mary, you will reap eternal blessings in Heaven; He who is with in blessings, shall also reap in blessings."

Kiernan-Ryan Wedding Held In Auburn

Auburn — Miss Jean Ryan, daughter of Mrs. Thomas J. Ryan, 53 Lewis St., and Robert D. Kiernan, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kiernan, of Cortland, were married on September 5 in the Holy Family Church, Auburn.

The Reverend Thomas Kiernan, brother of the bridegroom, officiated at the nuptial ceremony. The bride is a graduate of Holy Family High School and Auburn Business School. The bridegroom is a graduate of St. Mary's High School, Cortland.



OPEN VIEW CLASS ROOMS—All class rooms in Auburn's new Mount Carmel High School have large plate glass windows on the exterior side, affording excellent lighting and a clear view of the spacious campus. Shown here is Sister M. Florentine, vice-principal for the girl students and Latin and Mathematics teacher.



FIRST STUDENTS GREETED—Opening day students at Auburn's new Mount Carmel High School were greeted (l. to r.) by the Rev. Brendan Hourihan, O.Carm., principal; Sister M. Florentine, S.S.J., vice-principal for girls; the Very Rev. Frederick G. Straub, pastor of St. Alphonsus Church and Dean of the Cayuga Deanery; and the Rev. Vincent McDonald, O. Carm., vice-principal for boys.

Carmelite Founders Of Auburn School Trace Order's Ideals To Prophet Elias

A colorful symbolic shield etched in new Mt. Carmel's entrance lobby tells the story of the Carmelite Order. Carmelite priests staff the faculty of this just completed high school for boys and girls in Auburn. THE COLORS of the shield are brown and white. The brown section represents a mountain, famous Mount Carmel, in the middle of which a white star has been set. The white portion of the shield is likewise punctuated by two stars. Above the shield is a crown with twelve points emerging from the filigree. Above the crown is a hand holding a flaming sword. The shield, crown and sword are bordered by a Latin inscription which reads, "Zelo zelatus sum pro Domino Deo exercituum."

Traditionally, the meaning attached to the three stars centers around the three periods of the history of the Carmelite order. The star set in the mountain, Mt. Carmel, refers to that period in the order's history that elapsed from the lifetime of the Prophet Elias to the birth of Christ. IT IS A MATTER of historical fact that there would be no Carmelite Order if there had been no such person as the prophet Elias. Does that mean that the order as it exists today can trace itself back to an unbroken historical line to the prophet? Is the descent of the Carmelite of the twentieth century from Elias as chronologically perfect as the descent of the Bishop-of-Rochester from St. Peter? The answer is definitely "no."

Chicken Barbecue Slated By St. Alphonsus Group

Auburn — The Catholic Action League of St. Alphonsus Church will open its fall season with a traditional Chicken Barbecue scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the school hall. As has been customary, the committee is composed of retiring and outgoing officers. Installation of officers is planned with Mrs. Theodore A. Busch installing the following: President, Miss Caroline Casper; vice-

president, Miss Barbara Wilson; secretary, Mrs. Jean Brown; treasurer, Mrs. John Cowen. Other members of the supper committee will include the retiring officers: President, Miss Marjorie Berry; vice-president, Mrs. Harold J. Weaver; secretary, Mrs. Louis McCarthy; treasurer, Mrs. George M. Wright. Also Miss Catherine R. Ryan, Miss Mildred Gaynor, Miss Cleo Geynor, Miss Eta Darrow, Mrs. C. Herbert Davis, Miss Grace Bille, Mrs. Irene Humber, and Mrs. Irene Burns.

In the middle of the twentieth century, St. Berthold organized these men into a formal community. Previously their only tie was geographical. They all lived on the same mountain, St. Berthold's work was further improved by St. Ignace who asked St. Albert, Patriarch of Jerusalem, to draw up a rule of life for the men living on Mt. Carmel. The rule drawn up by St. Albert was approved in the year 1226 by Pope Honorius III. Under the leadership of St. Brocard this community of men, drawn largely from Crusaders and pilgrims, settled down to what promised to be a peaceful monastic existence. But God and history have a strange way of upsetting the best laid plans of even the most harmless men.

Within ten years after their official recognition as an order in the Catholic Church, Mt. Carmel ceased to be the home of Eastern monasticism. The fortunes of war turned against the Crusaders. The angry Saracens, who waged a bloody and relentless war against all Christians, found his way to the monastery on Mt. Carmel. THE COMMUNITY was put to the sword. Those who survived chose exile rather than betray the faith that was in them. At that time, Europe was the home of religious freedom. These men of ardent faith fled to the direction of Europe. When you are in Rome you live as the Romans do or you do not live at all.

In the year 1290, these men from Mt. Carmel found that rule. They came to Europe with an alien culture, with customs that were regarded with fear and suspicion by Europeans. But tradition, both good and bad, is hard. The first Carmelites to set foot on European soil clung tenaciously to their Eastern ways. The result of such an attitude was predictable. Vocations were few, the sympathy of the people was alienated.

Under the inspiration of a new Elias, the Carmelite order arose from the ashes of the Suppression. The eighteenth century saw the Carmelite order enter a new field of the Christian Apostolate. In France the order opened its first school for boys on the secondary school level in those days a Petit College. God blessed their efforts and the number of such schools multiplied.

Unfortunately, the Carmelite order, like every other religious order, was caught in the political rip-tide known as the era of Suppressions. The order saw the work of centuries destroyed as one edict after another came forth from an anti-clerical French Assembly.

The smog of anticlericalism which blinded the eyes of even well intentioned Catholics spread from France to the whole of Central and Southern Europe. The Petit College crumbled under the first wave of the Suppressions. Europe hunted down the Carmelites, closed their doors. The third star on the shield of the Carmelite Order had burned out in the heavens.

Air Force Gunner Chaplain Of College

Iowa City, Ia. (NC) — A turret gunner with the U.S. Air Force during World War II, Father Augustine Bordenkircher, O.F.M., has been assigned by Bishop Ralph L. Hayes of Davenport to serve as chaplain at the Catholic Student Center of the University of Iowa. He also becomes chaplain of the university's Newman Club.

Father Bordenkircher, 32, was born in Mount Sterling, Ill. During World War II, he flew on many bombing missions out of England, as flight-engineer and as turret gunner. After the war, he enrolled at Loras College, Dubuque, then joined the Dominicans. He was ordained in 1954.

The crowning act of this re-awakened spirit took place in 1951 when the monastery of St. Simon at Aylesford, England, was recovered by the Carmelites. It was in this monastery that St. Simon received the Scapular vision. THE CROWN above the shield represents Mary. She is represented in this crown as the Queen of the Apostles who are represented by the twelve stars above the crown. This crown is placed

above the shield to remind all Carmelites that their greatest glory is to be found in the devotion to Mary that they kindle in the hearts of the faithful. THE HAND holding the sword represents the fiery sword of Elias. It is a reminder to all Carmelites that the order will only grow and prosper when it is fired by the zeal of the Prophet Elias. The Latin inscription is taken from the words of Elias himself. Translated into English it reads, "With zeal have I been zealous for the Lord God of hosts." Zeal for souls is the Carmelites' secret of success.

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