

AMONG WOMEN

Tertiaries In Action

By Mary Lennon Snyder

Christmas Sleigh



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In the Church of today where do the Third Orders fit in? Do they have a role in the great work of Catholic Action, and if so, what is it? Father Francis Wendell in his book "Spiritual Powerhouse" says in answer to this query: "We have spent a great deal of time on this problem because it is essential that a Third Order member understand these things and understand them well. And this for many reasons, among them the fact that Popes, Master Generals, and Provincials have spoken plainly and consistently on this matter. Therefore we can conclude:

1. The Third Order must co-

operate with the new organized laity and not ignore it. This is the explicit command of the Holy See that has been many times reiterated." and Father Wendell cites a letter from the Master General to the Third Order of St. Dominic: "The Holy See was never so anxious as in the present hour to develop in all her children, that is, in those who are baptized and confirmed in the Faith, a more enlightened conscience regarding their duties to Holy Church, so as to spur them to Catholic Action and to remind them of their duty to practice fraternal charity, in obedience to the hierarchy and in submission to both its decisions and its discipline. This is the hour when Tertiaries especially should perfectly fulfill this duty under the direction of the Order and in accordance with its spirit; in all places where they are grouped, they should make use of such connections as nature and circumstances offer to show themselves 'true lights of the world,' exemplars, helpers of the Lord, in a word—Apostles."...

2. The Third Order should train spiritually the leaders of Catholic Action. Pope Plus XI insisted time and time again on the necessity of spiritual formation for lay apostles. Catholic Action therefore does not consist only in the pursuit of one's own Christian perfection, though this is first and foremost.

The Third Orders are geared to do this very training. Here is the demand; the Third Orders have the supply. This does not mean that every Third Order member is going to become an official member of Catholic Action, but leaders of Catholic Action might well look to the Third Orders for their spiritual formation. Mutual coordination and cooperation between both groups is what the Holy See has consistently demanded.

3. In administering this spiritual formation the Third Order should take into account the social aspect of the lay apostolate. This was a cardinal point with Plus XI. He said that "the personal apostolate cannot any longer suffice, if, indeed, it ever did suffice."

THE INDIVIDUAL apostolate is still valid and even necessary. But it is no longer sufficient due to the "social transformation" and the influence that social institutions today exert on individuals. The Catholic laity today must be equipped not only with the weapons of the individual apostolate such as prayer, sacrifice and good example, but also with weapons of the social apostolate such as intelligent planning, solidarity, and organization. Their problem (and in training them the Third Order should never forget this) is "to alter a social reality, our paginated order of civilization which is a complex of institutions that will not yield to individual pressures. This is a fact that the Third Order must take into account in preparing Catholic Actionists. "All people, and most particularly Tertiaries, must come to recognize that we are living in a world where "the religious



CHRISTMAS BALL of St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association scheduled at Manger-Rochester Hotel, Dec. 28 is here being planned by committee heads (from left) Miss Marie Pace, tickets; Dr. Joseph Maggio, co-chairman and Miss Virginia Courneen, chairman.

Nurses Alumnae To Hold Annual Christmas Dance

Annual Christmas ball of St. Mary Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association will be held at the Manger-Rochester Hotel on Dec. 28, from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Music will be furnished by the orchestra of Jack LeRoux.

MISS VIRGINIA COURNEEN is chairman and Doctor Joseph Maggio is co-chairman. The program committee is headed by Miss Pauline Philippon; Miss Dorothy Reed is in charge of publicity.

Miss Marie Pace, as chairman

B. S. Choirs Record Yuletide Microgroove

The Boys' and Girls' Choirs of Blessed Sacrament Church, under the direction of Sister M. Claudia, S.S.J., music instructor, have recorded a 33-1/3 rpm microgroove of Christmas carols. An attractive dust jacket for the record has been designed by Sister M. Cyril, S.S.J., of the school staff. Records are obtainable at \$2.00 from the choir members or in the rear vestibule of the church after Sunday Masses.

sense is being almost extinguished, and moral integrity, are being day by day more miserably undermined? At the same time there should be great reason for rejoicing on the part of Tertiaries who have been equipped to lay such an important part in meeting the crisis of our day. For that is precisely what we are facing. "The Crisis," said Pope Plus XI, "we are experiencing is unique in history. It is a world which must burst out of a crucible in which so many different energies are boiling. Let us thank God that He makes us live among the present problems. It is no longer permitted to anyone to be mediocre."

THIS QUOTATION taken from words of Pope Plus XI to the Cardinal Archbishop of Paris shortly before the Pontiff's death are a ringing challenge. Father Wendell's words point to a way in which that challenge may be met—membership in a Third Order.

Blessed Sacrament Youth Club Stages Christmas Music

Blessed Sacrament Youth Club will present Christmas music on Sunday, Dec. 18 in the school auditorium at 8 p.m.

Sixty boys and girls, making up the chorus, will be under the direction of Miss Alice Mueller and Robert Maher. The pageant will be presented in the form of a choral narrative entitled "A Birth."

Narration will be given by Judy Scaff and Robert Bestor is the musical accompanist. Songs will include "Gesu Bambino" sung by Patricia Emmons; "O Holy Night," Mary Savella; "Ave Maria," Judy Barry; "O Come All Ye Faithful," Petrina Critelli; and "Sweet Little Jesus Boy," Robert Caffrey.

HIGHLIGHT IN THE second part of the program will be a solo rendition of "Winter Wonderland" by Judy Ostrye. Staging will be managed by Robert Emmerson, with the assistance of Raymond Millie and John Francis. Ushers are headed by Carolyn Galvin, Joan Marshall and Kathleen Keating. Publicity is being handled by Robert Caffrey.

Tickets for "The Birth" are being sold by the members of the Youth Club.

Film At Museum

The story of Christmas as it is celebrated in Europe, Asia and North America is portrayed in the color film CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS NEAR AND FAR to be presented at Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. to which the public is cordially invited. There is no charge for admission.

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