

## The Controversial Reader

By Mary Lennox Snyder

Controversial reader has been a byword for me for lack of a better phrase. By a controversial reader I do not mean a reader who is not open to new ideas, but one who is not open to the possibility of being wrong. I mean a reader who is not open to the possibility of being wrong.

A recent example of a controversial reader's concern has to do with one of my good friends who has been subtly urging me to stir up some thing in regard to the TV distortion of historical truth, as in the TV spectacular, *Mayerling*.

I try to avoid becoming embroiled in such controversies because I know that from Aristotle on, writers have considered and argued about the relation of artistic presentation and historical accuracy. Just how controversial such a theme is has been well illustrated in recent issues of *American*.

I could not sit through the entire production of *Mayerling* but I did stay before the TV long enough to see the final scene. I think my feelings can be summed up by saying that I must have a higher opinion of the intelligence of the viewing public than do the TV producers. I do not believe that there are many viewers so naive as to believe, as the producers of *Mayerling* apparently expected us to do, that illicit love can be sanctified by murder and suicide.

SO IT IS not that we do not enter into controversy through fear of a good right; but we like to save our ammunition for a worthy adversary. One who underestimates himself, is hardly worthy of our time and efforts.

When truth and morals are at issue, one must speak out. But in the area of opinion, as prudent writers, particularly one writing for the press, does well to remind himself that an antagonistic reader is often a lost reader.

A PARALLEL might be drawn with the radio commentators, who seem to be a more outspoken and aggressive group than the TV news commentators. There are certain radio news commentators that friends of mine quote with the respect, usually accorded Roy Wilkins or



## New School Addition Dedicated

FOURTH GRADE pupils and their teacher, Sister Jean Clara, smile approval in their newly blessed school at St. Margaret Mary parish, Rochester. Auxiliary Bishop Casey blessed the new six classroom addition April 2. The new unit also includes a cafeteria, kitchen, and boiler room. Renovation of the original 15 classrooms and auditorium now provide over 800 pupils with the most modern school facilities. Monsignor Maynard A. Connell is pastor; Mother M. Francine, principal.

## Protestants Map Fight On Obscenity

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Protestant leaders from several denominations will meet here April 23-24 to organize a nationwide committee that will seek support for stronger laws to deal with obscenity in the mails and in the movies.

The meeting was announced by O. K. Armstrong, prominent Southern Baptist layman and a contributing editor of *Readers Digest*.

"The flood of indecent literature is increasing rapidly," Mr. Armstrong said. "Under the guise of 'photography' obscenity is brazenly displayed. Several new magazines that have recently appeared, including one called *Dude* are going the limit in text, pictures and cartoons to present the suggestive and lewd."

"Moving pictures are pushing further toward the obscene, particularly in their advertising. Close behind them are certain cheap TV shows. Clandestinely circulated filthy postcards and prints are on the increase. Young people, particularly teenagers, are considered a fertile market for this filth."

## \$6 Million Asked For School Fund

Cincinnati — (RNS) — Archbishop Karl J. Alter of Cincinnati appealed to the faithful of his archdiocese for at least six million dollars for the construction and expansion of Catholic high schools here.

In a pastoral letter read at all Masses in 121 churches and missions, the prelate said an increase of at least 65 per cent in high school enrollment by 1964 necessitated the move.

To be known as the Archbishop's High School Fund the campaign will involve the building of three new high schools and additions to three existing ones. More than 12,000 men will contact Catholic wage-earners of the archdiocese this spring.



## Class Rings Presented

JUNIORS at Nazareth College received their school rings at a ceremony last week. Sister Rose Angela, dean places ring on finger of Jane Donnelly while Sister M. Beatrix, faculty member, watches. (Tom Casey Photo).

## Teenage Steady Dating Aimless, Prelate Warns

St. Louis — (NC) — Steady dating by teenagers with no thought of marriage is inconsistent with the teaching of the Church, a bishop said here.

Auxiliary Bishop Leo C. Byrne of St. Louis told students of Notre Dame high school that "courtship is for marriage, not for entertainment."

He advised the young people to resist the "modern fad which insists on steady dating."

He added that "lawyers, engineers and others spend long hours in study and preparation for their careers, but many of those embarking upon the most important vocation of all marriage make little or no preparation."



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## DOINGS AT THE DALY'S

By Mary Tinley Daly

"Trr-trr-trr!" First telephone call of the day. Leaving the breakfast dishes in the sink, and with a quick drying of hands, we glanced at the clock — 9:05.

"Hello, darling!" It was Agnes — "Stacato Ag," as the Head of the Household calls her.

"How are you? I just had to call and find out if your cold is better. You really should take care of it, you know."

Much better," we interjected before the next flood. "Well, I'm glad, so glad," Agnes went on, "but as I said to Ed, 'You know, that cold of Mary's is terrible, just terrible!'"

"Honey, you always worry about your friends. That's your sympathetic nature. Well, I guess I am just naturally sympathetic and maybe I don't worry enough about myself. Perhaps I am always worrying about my friends, as Ed says, but I think good friends ought to be concerned about one another."

"And good news knows," I told Ed the other day yesterday, I think it was. No it was Tuesday, 'cause that's the day I'd been to the doctor. Anyway, I told him, I said to Ed, 'Goodness knows, Mary would be concerned about me, if she knew.'"

Heavens, came the panicky thought, something's wrong with Ag, really wrong? The staccato and the concern were contagious.

"WHAT IS IT, Agnes?" I asked anxiously. "Are you ill? I had no idea . . ."

"Oh, course you couldn't know," Agnes sighed. "I'm not one-to-para-de-my-troubles. As I always say, 'God loves a cheer, full . . . I mean, laugh and the world laughs with you' and I do try to keep up. Well, as I was saying, I went to the doctor Tuesday, the day I told Ed how worried I was about you."

when the apartment needs cleaning every day? It isn't a thorough cleaning, but you know what I mean, Mary . . ."

After a blow-by-blow description of the debate with the doctor, came a resurre of a party last week: guests, food and decorations. Then a pseudo-final, "I'm so glad your cold is better. Watch out, though, Mary. Those things flare up. Take my cousin Ellen . . ."

At that stage, I could take Ellen or leave her alone, but along came a 15-minute description of Ellen's cold-like-mine which had turned into pneumonia. "And then, poof," said Agnes, "just like that for poor Ellen."

ELLEN NEVER had another cold but she had a wonderful funeral . . . "And the Bishop sent a letter to the family," Agnes enthused. "Imagine, the Bishop!" Agnes was getting into her second wind. "And bishops must have an awful lot to do, confirming people and figuring out parish lines and getting money and all that. Don't you suppose?"

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## Telephones They're Wonderful

Before delving into the duties of the episcopacy, this seemed a proper time to call a halt. Fortunately a sneeze came. "Do take care of that cold," from Agnes' end. "Do relax," from ours.

Conversation terminated at 10:23 dishwasher cold . . . After dishes, next phone conversation was at our own invitation . . . to the Junior Dalys — just a hankering to talk to the little family on Valley Road.

Phone rang at their house, followed by a loud clanking—somebody had dropped it. Then the faint, sweet lisp-voice of 2 1/2-year-old Deirdre: "Hi!"

"Hello, Deirdre," we said, "how are you?" "Hi," she repeated. "Bye!" This is Deirdre's usual phone conversation and she loves it. Before she replaced the receiver, her mother picked it up.

"Hi," came Lu's creamily tranquil voice. "How're you doing?"

WE ASSURED her that we were doing all right. "How's everything at your house?" (staccato influence still in evidence). "A couple of viruses," Lu told us, "worse yesterday, better today. Everything fine. Sean took a tumble and has only a small blue knot on his head. 'Honestly,' she laughed, "a can of frozen juice is a miracle-worker applied to bumps." (We could recall the dripping ice of our own bump therapy.)

A two-minute chat with our completely mature and posed young daughter in law . . . interrupted by a few instructions to the small fry . . . left the warm glow of assurance that all was well in that other house so close to our hearts.

Telephones, they're wonderful. Mr. Alexander Graham Bell, we thank you for linking the world on a person-to-person basis.

There are the too-long, of course, and the too-short, like Deirdre with her "Hi-Bye," but the in-betweens are wonderful. "Trr-trr-trr!" It can mean anything!

## Daily Mass Calendar

Sunday, April 14 Second Sunday of our Lord's Passion (Palm Sunday), blessing of palms at High Mass, Mass as in new Holy Week missal.

Monday through Wednesday, April 15, 16, 17 Masses as in new Holy Week missal.

Holy Thursday, April 18 Cathedral Mass of the Chrism in morning; parish Mass of the Lord's Supper in the evening.

Good Friday, April 19 Solemn Service of our Lord's Suffering and Death in afternoon.

Holy Saturday, April 20 No Mass; day of mourning at the tomb of the buried Savior.

Easter rites begin late Saturday night with first Mass of Easter at midnight.

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## How to Judge a Nursing Home

1. How does the neighborhood look? Is there a place to sit outdoors?
2. Is the home covered by Hospital Trained Staff around the clock?
3. How many men and women are on the staff? What training have they had? Is there one employee for every five patients?
4. Does each bedroom contain a bedside table, lamp, easy chair, drawer space, closet, buzzer beside the bed? Are residents permitted personal possessions?
5. Are the bath facilities adequate? Are there non-slip materials on bathroom floors and stairways, handrails beside tubs and showers?
6. Is there an automatic fire alarm, extinguishers?
7. Are patients neatly dressed? What kind of expression do you see on their faces? Do they participate in any activities? How do they spend an average day? Are the ambulatory patients separated from the bed-ridden?
8. How do the menus compare with what your parent has been eating? What's the kitchen like? Is tray service available for bed patients?
9. Can patients have personal physicians?
10. What are the rules of admission, visiting, delivery and dispatch of mail? What is the basic cost?

To obtain the answers to these questions, call or visit

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