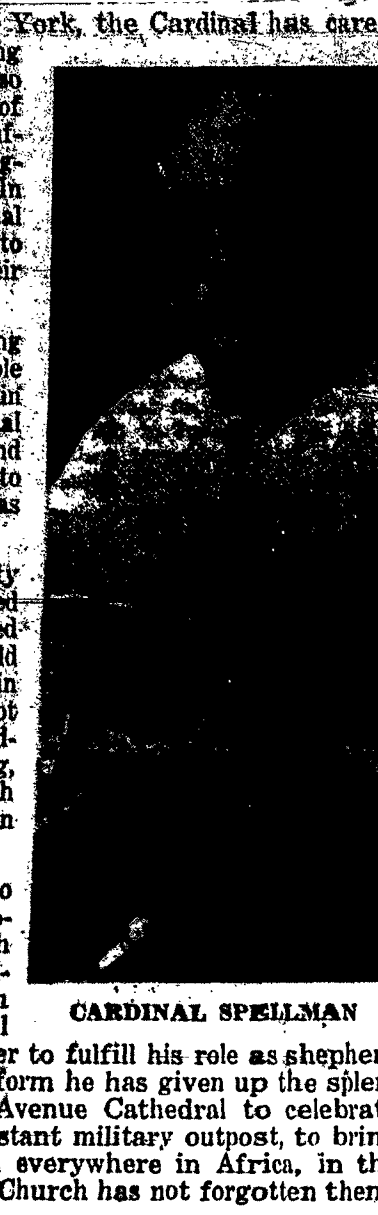
Silver Tribute To Illustrious Prelate

An illustrious Prince of the Church marked his silver anniversary as a bishop in a thoroughly American setting this past Saturday. New York's Cardinal Spellman celebrated his jubilee Mass in Yankee Stadium.

The setting was typical for the prelate who is recognized throughout the world as an outstanding Catholic clergyman and as one of America's leading citizens.

As Archbishop of New York, the Cardinal has care of 1,500,000 souls in the teeming metropolis. His province also includes the five dioceses of upper New York State—Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Ogdensburg and Albany. In these dioceses, an additional 1,869,199 Catholics look to Cardinal Spellman as their ecclesiastical superior.



CARDINAL SPELLMAN

His Eminence has strong ties linking him to the people of the Rochester Diocese in particular. He is a personal friend of Bishop Kearney and came to Rochester in 1953 to consecrate Bishop Casey as Auxiliary Bishop.

The Cardinal's generosity was graphically demonstrated when he personally launched the fund campaign to build St. John Fisher College in Rochester. The Cardinal not only gave the principal address at the drive's opening, he presented the college with its first contribution, his own check for $25,000.

Cardinal Spellman is also entrusted with another diocese whose limits reach around the globe. He is Military Vicar, a title which makes him bishop of all American servicemen. In order to fulfill his role as shepherd to the scattered sheep in uniform he has given up the splendor of St. Patrick's Fifth Avenue Cathedral to celebrate Christmas Masses in some distant military outpost, to bring proof to Catholic servicemen everywhere in Africa, in the Arctic, in Oceania, that their Church has not forgotten them.

His consistent fight against totalitarianism, oppression, and poverty has won for him the acclaim of Americans of all ranks and creeds.

New Yorkers rightly turned out in thousands to honor their Archbishop as he celebrated his jubilee Mass. But the New York Cardinal belongs not only to the million people there, he belongs to the Catholics of the state and, indeed, of the world.

It is now our privilege as Catholics of the Rochester Diocese to add our tribute of congratulation to the illustrious jubilarian by a sincere prayer that God will continue to bless Cardinal Spellman in his service for souls.

Family Prayer

By Rev. Louis Miller, C.SS.R.

To pray is a necessary condition for reaching heaven.

To pray alone is good.

To pray with others is better, as Christ Himself declared:

"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

To make prayer a family project is best of all. (We are leaving out of consideration here Mass and the Divine Office, which, as the official prayers of the Church, are in a special category of their own.)

Into the family group the individual human being normally is born and receives the physical care necessary for his bodily growth, and the love necessary for the growth of his soul. In the family group normally he receives the training and discipline necessary for him to develop into a useful member of society.

It is right therefore that the family as a unit should offer its prayer and homage to God.

It is necessary that the family pray in order that every member may carry his proportionate part of the burden of family life.

It is good that the family pray together because from such family prayer comes the peace and harmony so necessary for happiness.

THERE IS REASON to fear that in many families the ideal of family prayer has been lost. This article has for its purpose to help in some small way to restore that ideal, and to suggest some ways and means of fulfilling it in practice.

There are certain occasions during the day when prayer is of some obligation. The obligation devolves primarily upon the individual, but it will be more easily and effectively fulfilled by family participation.

In regard to morning and night prayers, for example, it is surely a very salutary custom for husband and wife to say these prayers aloud and together. For fifty years and more the parents of this writer had that beautiful custom, and it kept closely knitted the bond of love between them.

A simple routine of prayer can be worked out with the help of any standard Catholic prayerbook.

CHILDREN ALSO in saying of morning and night prayers can profitably be led to regard this as a family duty. Who has not been charmed by the picture of a good mother with perhaps three or four little ones in pajamas kneeling close to her as she sits listening to their solemn prayers.

Even at a very early age children can be taught the sign of the cross and some simple little prayers, which will quickly become familiar as they say them aloud with their brothers and sisters.

THE SAYING of a little prayer of gratitude before and after meals, or "grace" as it is usually called, lends itself in the very nature of things to family recitation. The husband and father, as head of the home, normally is the one who should recite the grace in the name of all, all answering "Amen" at its conclusion.

In some families the custom exists of having the smaller children lead the grace; other families prefer the practice of all those at table saying the prayer together.

Here are two simple forms of grace which are easily learned:

Before meals:

"Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts which we are about to receive from Thy bounty. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen."

After meals:

"We return Thee thanks, O Almighty God, for the favors we have received. And may the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen."

All these prayers of which we speak should, of course, be begun and concluded with the sign of the cross.

In the prayer called the "angelus" we have a devotion which, although not formally prescribed, nevertheless serves very appropriately to unite the family in prayer at set intervals throughout the day.

The saying of the angelus had its origin centuries ago, in the villages and towns, surrounding fields, when the clear notes of the church bell would be wafted on the evening air, all work would stop while the people bent their heads and folded their hands, each in his own little group, while saying the angelus.

It was a beautiful way of calling to mind regularly the great happening of Christ's birth and the role of Mary in our redemption.

In some parishes today the ringing of the angelus at twelve noon and at six in the evening is a continuing custom.

Where this is so, and when the family lives within earshot of the bell, let the members of the family at the bell's sound assemble from whatever part of the house they happen to be in.

Anyone in the family group can take the lead in saying the prayers, and the others answer as indicated in your prayerbook.

A PRAYER which lends itself admirably to family recitation is the rosary, and the "family rosary" has come to be an accepted part of our Catholic glossary of devotions.

No one has done more for the popularization of this devotion than the indefatigable Father Patrick Peyton. By radio and television programs produced by his Family Theatre; by diocesan campaigns which have taken him to every corner of our own country as well as England, Australia and Canada, this zealous apostle of Our Lady has gathered millions of pledges for the daily recitation of the family rosary.

Our purpose here is merely to suggest one or the other practical ways in which the family rosary can be integrated into the daily family routine.

'The family that prays together, stays together'

It is best surely to have a set time for it, which can come to be accepted by the children as part of the pattern of the day.

Thus perhaps the best time will be just before the children's bedtime, when the family can gather around a picture of Our Lady or a little home shrine and make this offering of prayer at the close of day.

Or perhaps the rosary might be said immediately after the evening meal, while the members of the family are still gathered around the table.

A further suggestion is for the family to recite the rosary together in the course of an automobile trip of some length. At such a time the family in the very nature of things is closely united and relaxed; the saying of the rosary adds a note of spiritual harmony and unity as well.

As for the question of who should lead the rosary in such a family recitation, perhaps the best method is that which makes use of variety.

Let the father lead one day, the mother the next, and then each of the children in turn. Or, as is the custom in some families, let there be a different leader for each decade.

If prayer should be a matter of family participation in the home, all the more so should this be true in attendance at Mass and the reception of Holy Communion.

There is something inspiring about a family lined up at the Communion railing together, father and mother and their children, down to the smallest who is qualified to receive.

Children brought up in this atmosphere of family solidarity in prayer usually develop a sodality in their faith which nothing can shake.

FAMILY PRAYER rightly begins in the home, but it should continue to be family prayer in its love and devotion to Our Lord in the sacrament of the altar.

LAST OF ALL, we have this suggestion. It was the custom in former years much more than in our modern day for families, when a priest visited their home, to ask and receive his blessing as a family. There is an expression of faith in such a custom, and since the priest's hands are anointed and authorized to bless, from his blessing may come precisely that help needed by the family in its daily problems and trials.

The family that prays together sincerely along the lines suggested above may with reason look forward to a family reunion in heaven which will find none of its members missing.

Daily Mass

Sunday, September 15 — Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin (white), Gloria, 2nd prayer of 14th Sunday after Pentecost, 3rd* of St. Nicomedes, Creed, Preface of our Lady.

Monday, September 16 — St. Cornelius and St. Cyprian (martyrs), Gloria, 2nd prayer* of holy martyrs; VR

Tuesday, September 17 — Stigmata of St. Francis (white), Gloria.

Ember Wednesday, September 18 — St. Joseph of Cupertino, confessor (white), Gloria, 2nd prayer of Ember Wednesday, or Ember Day Mass (purple).

Thursday, September 19 — St. Januarius, martyr (red), Gloria.

Ember Friday, September 20 — St. Eustace, martyr (red), Gloria, 2nd prayer of Ember Friday; or Ember Day Mass (purple).

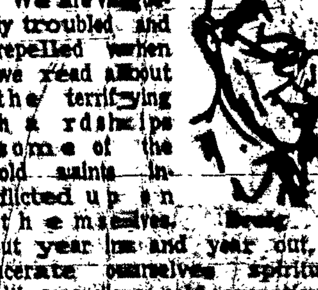
Ember Saturday, September 21 — St. Matthew, apostle (red), Gloria, 2nd prayer of Ember Saturday, Creed, Preface of Apostles.

* omitted at High Mass

VR — Votive or Requiem permitted.

JOSEPH BREIG

Something to be said for us



Sometimes it seems to me that we modern Catholics are more peculiarly penitential than any others the world has seen.

We are vaguely troubled and repelled when we read about the terrifying hardships some of the old saints inflicted upon themselves. But year in and year out, we lacerate ourselves spiritually with merciless self-accusations.

To read our publications and hear our convention speeches, one would think that there was nothing good in any of us, or at any rate nothing worth the mentioning.

Perhaps, it is just as well that those outside the Church tend to ignore us. If they didn't, they might conclude that we are a bad lot, to be shunned in accordance with the obligation to avoid the occasions of sin.

WE DENOUNCE one another for the clothing we wear, the books we read or don't read, the plays and movies we see, the way we carry on our courtships, our failure to produce great scholars and leaders, our religious art, our superficial spirituality, our alleged "momism," our insufficiency of religious vocations, our lack of zeal for converts . . . but the list is endless.

I am as aware of our faults as anybody. Nevertheless, there is such a thing as proper proportion in judgment. It is true that we fall somewhat short of being angels, and that there is not a little of the old Adam in us; but I grow weary of the constant clamor to the effect that we are fourth-rate and rather shabby devils.

THE SOCIOLOGISTS tell us, under big headlines, that up to one-third of us sometimes — or often — miss Mass on Sundays. But I see no reason why somebody should not reply that two-thirds of us can hardly be kept away from our places in the pews by anything short of a compound fracture of the leg.

We are told that our young people are rapscallions. I suppose it is true; but there is a queer conscientious scruple which prevents me from forgetting that I was a rapscallion also. A still small voice whispers to me that there is a new sinner born every minute; that we all suffer from darkness of intellect, weakness of will, and inclination to sin; and that saints ordinarily are not made in a week or a year.

LOOK BACK into the years that are gone, and then looking around me, I am not tempted to sigh for the good old days. Rather, I am forced to rejoice in the almost incredible improvement in my lifetime.

When I was 20, I had never heard a priest say that his arm was semi-paralyzed from distributing Communion; I hear the happy complaint often nowadays.

If that is a detail, it is a crucial one. The Holy Eucharist is the chief source of vigorous spiritual life; and I think that the modern devotion to it is the root explanation of what seems to me to be a worldwide turning toward the Church.

I realize that I am predicting an avalanche because I hear stones rolling. But the stones sound to me like boulders. There are more than half as many Catholics today in darkest Africa as in the U.S.; is that fact a mere pebble when we recall that a generation ago, Africa was almost entirely pagan or Mohammedan?

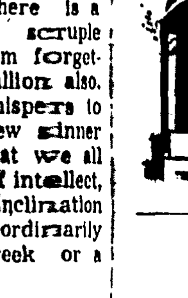
THE CHURCH has suffered such persecutions as this earth has never seen equalled. If oppression in the Roman Empire ended with the Christians coming out of the catacombs to dominate civilization, what cannot we expect when communism shall have been overcome?

I could cite any number of other indications that we are on the threshold of a golden age—the ecumenical movement, for instance; the liturgical movement; the international congresses attracted to Rome as to a magnet; the promise of Our Lady that Russia will be converted, and so on. But there is no space for reviewing the history of our times.

I can only say that to me our flagellations of ourselves is one more evidence of the fire that has been cast on the earth in our time. I cannot join the gloomy ones; I awake every morning expecting to read in the papers that the greatest era of Christianity has suddenly and indisputably dawned.

Strange But True . . .

The Bell Tower



Sergeant Pop

● In a certain parish lives an ex-army sergeant who runs his family the way he used to run his platoon.

The day the window was broken he called in his three sons.

"Have you anything to report?" he asked the 12-year-old in a loud voice. The boy snapped to attention, saluted, and said, "No, sir."

"Have you anything to report?" he asked the nine-year-old in a louder voice. He went through the same business, and gave the same answer.

"Have you anything to report?" he asked the five-year-old in the loudest voice of all.

The little fellow hung his head and reported, "Yes, sir, I broke it. How do I go about getting a transfer out of this outfit?"

* * *

In My Way

● A bright new convertible ran a red light and crashed into another car.

Before the cop on the corner could reach the scene, a sportily clad character climbed out of the convertible and accosted the other driver.

"Why don't you fellows watch where you're going?" he demanded furiously. "You're the fourth car I've hit this morning."

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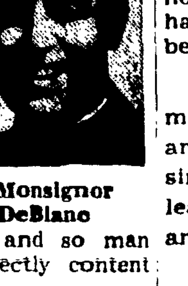
Making Marriage Click

Human Heart, A Lonely Jigsaw

By MONSIGNOR IRVING A. DeBLANC
(Director, Family Life Bureau, N.C.W.C.)

The human heart is said to be an imperfectly shaped heart. It is certainly not the valentine shaped one we generally see on boxes of candy. It has one section which seems to be missing.



Monsignor DeBlanc

A gentleman with a bit of poetry and some theology explains that God kept a part of every man's heart for Himself and so man will never be perfectly content except in God.

God has the secret part of the jigsaw which is man's heart.

Not only are the old and middle aged folks lonely, the rambunctious youngsters also feel a mysterious ennui. Even the pre-teenager does well to learn how to make visits to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. The lonely will find great consolation if they can go for that visit one or more times a day.

The missionary sister pointed to a great truth when she said, "I was never in my life so lonely as when I was temporarily stationed twenty-six miles away from our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament." It is true, if we can talk to God, He certainly can talk to us.

ANOTHER SUGGESTION for the lonely, regardless of age, is to do something thoughtful and kind for another. If you can bake a cake, make some fudge, trim a hedge or the like, do so for some friend or relative and see how much it helps to relieve your own loneliness. Maybe this is also just the answer for a moody, restless youngster. Making and giving gifts helps all of us become less self-centered. It helps us go out of ourselves.

A lonely person must also learn to converse with another; man is made for conversation. There is no substitute for it. People who have no one to talk to generally become malcontents.

Unless strongly trained and motivated, shutting oneself up and forcibly suppressing the desire to communicate with others leads to unbalanced way of life and painful self-destruction.

Also, a good spouse or parent must learn "to just listen." It is a deep need that many fail to recognize in those they love. To know when to be a good listener is a rare art, one of the rarest.

HERE ARE some other suggestions:

1. Have a right evaluation of oneself. Life means to fulfill an assignment given to us by God. It is not one's own cause that a Christian promotes, it is God's.

2. We must plan and live ahead. We do not live in a cemetery.

Napoleon is supposed to have said, "I always live two years ahead." We too, must have something ahead which we must still do. We may die with our dreams still buried in our hearts, but at least we shall have lived in a manner which makes life worth living.

3. Realize that God cares for you individually. He is personally interested in your well being, even in the "hair of your head."

God guarantees us graces to meet the lonliness of life's ways. This is absolutely true. We must not keep graces stored in a hope chest.

3 Million Girl Scouts

St. Louis—(NC)—Going over the code of laws by which she promised to be a good Girl Scout is 12-year-old Janice Brewer of Troop 782, St. Louis, Mo. Janice, a seventh-grader at Our Lady of Guadalupe School, St. Louis, won the distinction of becoming the 3,000,000th member whose registration form was recorded at national Girl Scout headquarters in New York. Current membership includes 2,300,000 girls and 700,000 adults, with membership tripling since 1944.