

# Wheelchair Congregation

Minneapolis. — (RNS)—Handicapped people who hadn't been in church for as long as 10 to 30 years make up one of the Twin Cities' most unusual congregations.

They assemble one hundred or so on the first Saturday of each month, in a different Catholic church each time for a special shut-ins' Mass.



Crippled, paralyzed or otherwise immobilized by a variety of ailments, they are carried or wheeled into church by volunteers. Both the handicapped — and the volunteers — claim the effort is rewarded with a real spiritual life.

Miss Call Tomas of Minneapolis, started the project last March after witnessing a similar effort in Chicago. Drivers to provide transportation for the shut-ins are recruited through Our Lady of Lourdes chapter of the Confraternity of Pilgrims.

Miss Tomas now has some 50 drivers lined up to transport the handicapped, but could use 50 more. Volunteers from local fire and police departments assist each month in lifting the shut-ins in and out of the automobiles.

One woman — a cancer victim — hadn't been in church for 21 years until she was brought to the Masses last May and June. Many other shut-ins at the Masses are in church for the first time in a dozen or more years.

"It is surprising to see how much good has come from the project," Miss Tomas says. "We have seen joy brought into the lives of people. You can hear it in their voices and see it in their faces."

"We don't realize what going to church means until we are deprived of the opportunity. Many shut-ins have found that

Richfield, Minn. — (RNS)— St. Richard's Catholic church here is the scene of one of the special monthly Masses held throughout the Minneapolis-St. Paul area for shut-ins. Many of the immobilized parishioners had not been in church for as long as 10 to 30 years before the project was started by volunteer church workers. They transport the handicapped to and from their homes for the services. Shown celebrating the Mass facing the people is Father Alfred C. Longley of Richfield.

have been given something to live for." They receive Communion in wheelchairs along the center aisle of the church. After each Mass, coffee and rolls are served. The handicapped are encouraged to bring along samples of their handiwork for display during the coffee hour.

For the Mass, Miss Tomas

# Donations Aid Victims Of Chicago Fire

Chicago. — (NC)— Nearly \$130,000 has been donated to Chicago archdiocesan Catholic Charities for emergency relief for victims of the December 1 fire at Our Lady of the Angels school.

This figure was made public here by Msgr. Vincent W. Cooke, archdiocesan charities supervisor. Msgr. Cooke said that almost \$35,000 has already been paid out.

THE FUNDS are being distributed through a special office set up in the rectory of the parish where a school fire took the lives of 90 children and three nuns.

Among the expenses being covered are uninsured burial, hospital and medical cost, the value of personal articles lost in the fire, and income lost by families of dead and injured children as a result of the disaster.

A survey will determine the amount of money needed to pay for skin grafting, plastic surgery, transfusions of blood and plasma, and other items of long-term hospital care. Catholic Charities has indicated it will pay all such costs not covered by hospital insurance.

Msgr. Cooke said that all costs of administering the disaster funds will be met by Catholic Charities from its regular income.



# Brazilian Studies Biology

Riverside, N.J. — (RNS) — Studying biology in Sister Margaret Virginia's laboratory at Holy Cross High School here is 16-year-old Tony Batista of Alenquer, Brazil (right), who is in the United States under the sponsorship of the Foreign Visitors Office of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. The program gives boys and girls from other nations the opportunity of living with American Catholic families and of studying in American high schools for a full year.

# Charities Share In Bequests

Denver. — (NC)— Bequests sales manager for the American totaling about \$115,000 were left Steel Foundry until his retirement to Catholic religious, charitable and educational institutions by Frederick S. McNamara, who died here (December 20) at the age of 89.

Mr. McNamara, a Denver resident since 1910, was a district manager for the American Catholic Welfare Conference. He gave many gifts to Catholic institutions, including a \$30,000 donation to Sacred Heart Retreat House, being built by the Jesuit Fathers near Castle Rock, Colo.

# Trashy Reading 'Brainwashes' School Children

Cleveland. — (RNS) — Trashy and obscene literature among some school children is becoming such a problem that it is making education almost impossible, a school nurse said here.

Mrs. Margaret Rowland, whose work brings her into daily contact with youngsters 15 and under, charged that "our children are being brain washed by this trashy literature and in the face of it, true education is out of the question."

The nurse said she was convinced this trash is furnishing our children with "culture" and school work gets what time and interest are left.

Among the more objectionable literature, Mrs. Rowland singled out sordid romance and detective magazines and pocket novels which are aimed directly at the juvenile mind.

This type of literature, she said, "gives our children warped information, undermining their security and hurrying them into an amoral, mixed-up adulthood."

A nurse for more than 20 years, Mrs. Rowland has talked to school and health authorities, police and clergymen on the subject of obscene publications.

She also called on parents to supervise their children's reading and do "everything to give them positive values that will protect them."

The nurse warned that it is "folly" to spend millions for schools and juvenile institutions while permitting traffic in trashy and obscene publications.

# Son Ordained Daughter Wed

Home. — (NC) — A Milwaukee couple had an unusual experience here by first attending the ordination of their son and two days later the marriage of their daughter at which the priest-son officiated.

Mr. and Mrs. Laurence A. Mullins came to Home from Milwaukee, where Mr. Mullins is athletic director at Marquette University, along with about a dozen friends and relatives.

Their son, Laurence, Jr., studying at the North American College here, was ordained for the Davenport, Iowa, diocese by Bishop Martin J. O'Connor, rector of the college, in the college chapel.

Father Mullins celebrated the Nuptial Mass for his sister, Mary Ellen, who married Rocco Blatera of Rock Falls, Ill. The ceremony was held in a chapel in St. Peter's Basilica.

# My Wife Nags Me For Not Helping Her With The Housework

How can I get my wife to see that marriage is a fifty-fifty proposition? Our marriage is in danger of breaking up because she nags me constantly about not helping her out around the house. The situation is getting intolerable for both of us. I realize she has been burdened with the three youngsters, but I work hard too. I maintain housekeeping is her job; I'll earn the living, isn't that fair enough?



You know, Ed, this problem of division of labor between the sexes has been troubling mankind for a good many centuries.

About the time people get things figured out fairly well, conditions change, and the problem has to be settled all over again. Furthermore, what works well for some couples, may prove disastrous for others.

LET'S ANALYZE the family situation before attempting a solution of your problem. First, when men and women enter marriage, they agree to work for their mutual sanctification by dedicating themselves to the service of new life.

Hence marriage involves two related purposes; husband and wife vow to assist each other to advance in God's service; and they promise to accomplish this by cooperating in establishing a little society in which children can be generated and reared in a manner befitting Christians.

This latter purpose implies a general division of family functions based on sexual differences. The woman bears the children and plays the major role in the immediate nurture and care. This confines her primary contribution to the household.

The husband provides the economic support required by the family. If it is to achieve its purposes successfully.

This broad division of functions, based on the nature of sex, gives us only limited information on the division of labor in the family. Obviously, only the wife can bear and nurse children, and she needs the husband's economic support during this period. Beyond this, the division of labor between the sexes depends on social conditions, and, above all, upon the way people more or less arbitrarily define it.

It follows that for the most part there is no absolute, unchanging norm by which we can define division of labor in the family. We can't say, this is woman's work, and she's wrong if she expects me to do it; or, this is man's work, and I've fulfilled my obligations if I've done it.

When couples quarrel over the division of labor in the family, experience shows they are generally basing their views on the way things were done in their parental homes. They enter marriage with this definition of what husband and wife should do, and blindly insist that this is the only right way.

Now, Ed, if you have followed my analysis, I think you will recognize that division of labor in your family cannot be based on parental patterns or abstract principles. It must be defined in terms of your unique family's needs and geared to you and your wife's capacities.

LET'S LOOK at your family situation. If your wife has to care for three small children, she may well have her hands full, as you admit. A great deal depends upon her strength, household facilities, and so on, but she clearly has a fulltime job.

# Catholic Heads Dutch Cabinet

The Hague. — (RNS)— Dr. L. J. M. Beel of the Catholic People's Party was asked by Queen Juliana to form an emergency Cabinet following the resignation of Premier Dr. Willem Drees and his Socialist colleagues in the former Cabinet.

The emergency Cabinet will function until the new parliamentary elections, the date of which has been advanced from 1960 to next March.

Of course, you also have your job, but under conditions of a forty-hour week, I think you must confess, if you are normal, you have sufficient leisure and energy to lend a helping hand around the home, provided you want to.

There's more to the problem. How are you and your wife going to realize your unity as a couple if you don't cooperate around the home? As marriage you enter a common enterprise, keep it that way by working together.

Further, the children are yours as much as hers. How are you going to train and guide them, become acquainted with their distinctive personalities; in short, fulfill your very serious obligations of fatherhood, if you never help your wife with their care or spend time with them at home?

Finally, this view of marriage as a fifty-fifty proposition can be interpreted in many ways. Who is to define the fifty-fifty, you or your wife?

In Christian view of marriage, husband and wife are to give their all—the best that they have. Each supplies what the other lacks, and thus they become true helpmates as God planned it.

Ed, on your wedding day, you both accepted one serious obligation: to strive to make your marriage a success. Don't let laziness, indifference, or preconceived notions keep you from living up to this now. What is your alternative? A broken home, ruined lives, and only a small, outside chance of saving your own soul.

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