

Runaway Nun

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA
Nazareth College

Mary Ward, by Mary Oliver, I.B.V.M. Sheed '59. Introduction & Epilogue by Maisie Ward. 220 pp.

The founder and leader of the "English ladies" (as Catholics called them) or "Jesuitesses" (as others called them) left England in the stormy days of 1609, when she was just twenty-one.

She left a country seething with a few hatred and fear of her co-religionists because of the Gunpowder Plot, and her going was solely that she might find ways to instruct and console the children of the Faith and to reconcile those who had lapsed from it.

In 1609 she was back again in London, after experiences trying enough to mature a saint.

She had become a Poor Clare in obedience to her directors, and had begged on the streets for the community; she had founded a house of English Poor Clares; she had been directed by Our Lord to leave the order, earning for herself the name of "runaway nun" and many others, and accepting her director's word that God had a plan for her "very much to His honour and the good of . . . England."

THEN BEGAN the ten dashing, triumphant, persecuted years of a strange apostolate in England, where dressed in the height of fashion and moving with the aplomb of duchesses from great house to poor house, from gay parties to the most wretched of prisons, Mary and her friends (her future nuns) lovingly dispensed money and food and catechetical instruction to all they could reach, Catholics and sometimes others.

Caught at last and sentenced to death, Mary escaped execution because her captors feared the effect of such a deed on the people, and was urged into exile—which furthered the plan of

her Institute, for now she could seek aid of family friends and could turn Romanward.

Mother Oliver's story is studied with the pedigrees and performances of Mary's devoted friends and enemies of these years. Devoted enemies, Catholic enemies—for as she founded and staffed her schools and convents in Rome, Naples, Perugia, in Munich, Vienna, Liege, it was her lot to be followed and shouted down in the very ear of the Pope by hostility and scandal-mongering from Catholic sources. Yet she had tried and true friends such as saints attract, to render her sorrows less bitter.

Sorrows: the suppression by Papal Bull of her admirable, successful schools in 1631; her own immediate imprisonment as a heretic, in a small tuberculosis-infested room at Antwerp (where she had seen in vision years before that she would suffer). But Pope Urban, who was after all her personal friend, ordered her release the instant he heard of that high-handed detail. Mary, says the author, had been "the victim of a genuine seventeenth-century witch-hunt."

"Mysterious vicissitudes" had been hers; yet in 1839, as she was about to return to England, there came a consoling voice: "Be unwearied; thou art shortly to die, and thy reward shall be great." Maisie Ward in a fascinating Epilogue to the deliberate wrecking of the Institute reminds us of its re-conformation in 1703, and of Pius X's lifting of the ban on Mary's being called Foundress (!), and of Pope Pius XI's high praise of her.

One little "keyhole of Heaven and Hell" comes frequently to mind: In a church in Feldkirch in 1625, as Mary knelt at Mass, while pleading with our Infant Redeemer for the conversion of Charles I, she was given a revelation of the tenderness and long-suffering of the Divine Love toward him. The Divine Child showed with what infinite and compassionate love He had encompassed Charles, and longed to have him for all eternity as a co-heir of His glory, but that "his own co-operation alone was wanting."

May it be that a person so dear to God, at one time intellectually convinced of Catholicism, and coming at last bravely to die under unjust sentence, gave that desired co-operation in her last moments.

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Dedication Of Baltimore Cathedral

Baltimore — (RNS) — Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi, Apostolic Delegate to the U.S., raises a silver chalice of wine as he dedicates the new \$8 million Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore, Md. — the nation's first See. Pope John XXIII and President Eisenhower joined in sending congratulatory messages on the event, which coincided with the archdiocese's 150th anniversary.

Apostolic Advice

Start Service Next Door

Portland — (NC) — Lower MAIONE VISITED Portland But, he also stated that there exists a lack of this same interest in developed countries such as England, West Germany and the United States.

Romeo Malone, president of the Young Christian Workers, Brussels, Belgium. Malone said he found a lively interest among youth in underdeveloped countries in solving the problems of their times.

Congress To Investigate Lurid Movies, Ads

Washington — (NC) — An investigation into over-emphasis on sex and violence in movies, movie advertisements and the publishing industry will be started next year by a House postal subcommittee.

This was announced by Rep. Kathryn E. Granahan of Pennsylvania, chairman of the subcommittee, which earlier this year conducted an investigation into mail order obscenity.

IN A LETTER to Erie, Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, Mrs. Granahan commented: "Within recent years movie producers have been induced to seek business by filming and advertising material which appears to be in complete violation of the spirit and letter of the industry's own codes."

White House Meet

Stress To Be Put On Moral Values

Kansas City — (NC) — The 1960 White House Conference on Children and Youth will put special emphasis on "social, moral and spiritual values" as they affect young people, the conference's executive director has promised.

Prelate Resigns U.S. Diocese

Washington — (NC) — Pope John XXIII has given his consent to the request of Archbishop Gerald P. O'Hara, Apostolic Delegate to Great Britain, that he be permitted to resign his U.S. post of Bishop of Savannah, Ga.

GOMBERG MADE

the statement yesterday (Nov. 12) in an address to the first national convention of the National Conference of Catholics in Youth Serving Agencies. Catholic specialists in youth work from all parts of the nation attended the meeting.

Earlier (Nov. 11), they heard the executive director of the National Recreation Association state that the moral standards of young people and their society are determining factors in their attitudes toward the use of leisure time.

Joseph Prendergast, head of the recreation organization, declared that "the problem of our expanding leisure is one of the major problems of our day and our nation." He emphasized that many more adults are needed as professional and volunteer youth workers.

"The danger of a more familiar kind of boredom becomes more apparent when we look at the children of lower income families," he continued. "We all know that the boredom of these children frequently explodes into violence. Lacking colorful meaningful lives, living in a world in which they feel themselves unimportant, they create a distorted kind of color—for example, the false chivalry of the curiously formalized gangster and brutality of medieval warfare."

Treasures Stolen At Spain Shrine

Madrid — (RNS)—Treasures valued at \$48,000 were reported here to have been stolen from the Basilica of St. Ignatius Loyola at Loyola in the Basque province of Guipuzcoa.

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The Weekly Note from Mr. Pepsi

One of the world's great philosophers once said, "Work is love made visible". What can we see of men's work? Only our world as it exists today.

Yet, how often do we just "goof off"? How often do we fall short of our goal? We are sometimes under the misconception that we work only to live, yet don't we also live to work? How empty our lives would be without our work. One of living's greatest gifts is a chosen profession in which we are not only capable but which can offer us a challenge to make more of ourselves than what we once were.

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