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Our Lady's Shrine

By MARY TINLEY DALY

Fitting tribute was paid to Our Lady, Patroness of the United States, at formal opening of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, Largest Catholic church in the U.S., its huge dome of brilliant mosaic in the primary colors of red, blue and yellow, with the adjacent Knights' Tower, dominates Washington's northeast skyline.

country's enduring loyalty to the Mother of God. Most of its \$18 million cost was contributed by individuals and organizations, every dollar given gladly. I shall not recapitulate further statistics. You have seen them in your daily and diocesan papers. But, for those unable to attend on the day of dedication of Mary's Shrine, I'd like to give you a women's eye version:

THE BREATHTAKENLY beautiful structure is built to last for the ages — movement to the Blessed Virgin amid the

As the six cardinals, more than 200 bishops in their flowing robes marched up the front steps of the Shrine, a local political writer whispered, "Did you ever see such a self-possessed, poised group of men? Each supreme in his own diocese — the Church is in good hands."

THE ENTIRE procession of hierarchy were lined on either side by high-ranking Knights of Columbus in plumed hats and with swords and sashes. Our attention was caught by one "Mrs. Knight", huffing up her husband's plumed hat, blowing her breath onto it. "Now that's pretty," and adding with wifely caution, "Remember, George, that sword is too long for you. Don't trip!"

"That's our Cardinal," from various segments of the waiting crowd as Princes of the Church passed and amateur photographers raised their arms above the crowds, held camera over their heads, aimed — and hoped for the best.

Also amidst the crowd: "Jimmie, I'll boost you up. Now take a good look. You'll never see a sight like this again. See our bishop? No, Jimmie, not the tall one — on his other side, the Gospel side. Wave, Jimmie!" (His Excellency waved back.)

"There's Bishop Sheen. Gee, he looks just like he goes on TV! Hi, Bishop!"

Two by two, the bishops kept advancing. "Whisper from a mother: 'Of course they all started as altar boys, Bobby. Now will you study your Latin?'"

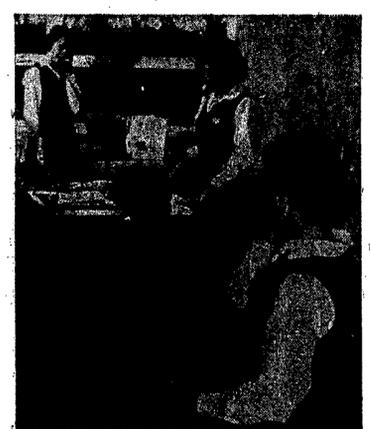
Something not noted in the secular press but quite evident to one brought up in the "Blessed Mother Blue" tradition — the great number of blue coats, blue dresses, and particularly blue hats. It seemed as though nearly every woman in attendance must have had the same idea, "I'll wear my blue hat today, in honor of the blessed Mother Blue" tradition of the congregation would show I feel sure, a preponderance of blue feather hats.

THE MASS was offered by Cardinal Spellman and a letter of congratulation from Pope John XXIII was read by the Apostolic Delegate, the Most Rev. Egidio Vagnozzi. The thousands within the Shrine, and the thousands outside, on the Catholic University campus, were in silent prayer. A color picture service continued. Even traffic was killed.

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"Most Holy Trinity, we put the United States of America into the hands of Mary Immaculate in order that she may present the country to you. Through her we wish to thank you for the great resources of this land and for the freedom which has been its heritage. Through the intercession of Mary, have mercy on the Catholic Church in America. Grant us peace. Have mercy on our Pres-



Training in correct use of telephones is practiced by freshmen speech students at St. Agnes High.

Off The Record

Little Gem

By SUZANNE WIGG

Every so often a singer makes a record. This is the case with a new Christmas disc called "God's Christmas" by Bill Durkin on InVista label. I have never heard of Bill Durkin or InVista before and sadly enough probably never will again. However, we can be thankful for this one little gem.

The lyrics have a message, the arrangement is well handled by Luther Henderson, InVista recorded the session with good sense and above all Bill Durkin can sing. Although the melody strains a bit for originality, it is a small point. Here's hoping to hear more of this fine tenor, Bill Durkin.

ALL SORTS of parodies have been set to the famous poem "Twas The Night Before Christmas" and there's no reason why the beatniks should be left out, so here it is, "Yuletown" by Edd "Kookie" Byrnes on Warner Brothers. With a background of "Jingle bells" and "Deck The Hall" in jazz version, the narrator (Edd Byrnes) tells the story: "Twas the night before Christmas and all through the pad, not a hip-cat was swingin' and that's nowhere, the words too drippy and worst of all Pat Boone stops singing and recites the words with chorus humming in the background and that's deadly. The other side is fine, "My Faithful Heart" written by Sammy Cohn. It is from the Twentieth Century-Fox production "Journey To The Center Of The Earth." It is a lovely tune, well arranged and of course, well sung.

HERE IS ONE of the happiest ditties to come along in the entire Christmas season. "Cracker Christmas" by Don Rakke, chorus and orchestra on Stardisc label. The words are so delightful they deserve mention. Unlike the usual worn-out, tired, slushy, melodramatic lyrics that plague this joyous season, this song contains nothing but happy thoughts.

It must have been written by happy people, for happy people. Get a load of this: "We're gonna have a real jim-dandy, ginger-peachy, sugar-candy, jamboree, jubilee, crackerjack Christmas this year. We're gonna have a sleigh-bell ringin', warmin' and friendly carol-singin', rollickin', frolickin', crackerjack Christmas I hear."

FOR SOMETHING real pretty, try "White Christmas" by Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops orchestra on RCA Victor. Since we will probably hear Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" a thousand times before Dec. 25th, it might as well be a good arrangement. The entire Boston Pops orchestra is employed and the lush, and clever arrangement by Mason almost makes this long-standing favorite sound like a new tune.

Speaking of jim-dandys, here's a pip. "The Christmas List" written and sung by Peggy Lee on Capitol. This one is arranged in the 18th century minuet style. As a matter of fact there is a passage where the melody is the same, note for note, as the second movement of Haydn's Symphony No. 94 in "G" major, more commonly known as "The Surprise" symphony.

THE CHILDREN'S chorus in the song is employed in good taste, Peggy sings in her usual wonderful way and all in all it is two and a half minutes of real treat. The other side of the record is "The Tree" also written by Peggy Lee. This is a brass band version of an old German tune called the "Happy Farmer." Again with children's chorus Peggy puts over another cutie as only Peggy Lee can.

Named Provincial New Orleans — (NC) — Father Andrew C. Smith, S.J., President of Spring Hill (Ala.) College for the past seven years, has been named vice provincial of the Jesuits' New Orleans Province.

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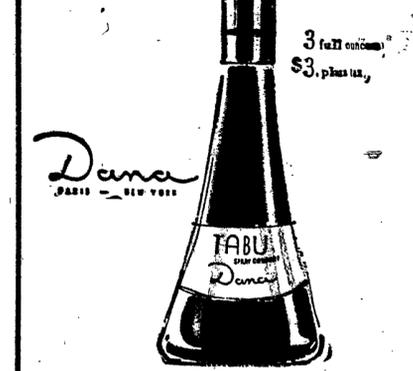
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