

Great Mothers

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA
Nazareth College

Mothers: A Catholic Treasury of Great Stories. With 3 half-tone reproductions. Ed. by Anne Fremantle. Stephen Daye Press, New York, '51. 383 pp. Our Lady, Queen of the Religious Life, by Louis Collin, CSSR. Newman '51. 234 pp.

In this most beautiful month for mothers, two books offer thoughts that fall as gently as the snow on life's rough and smooth places, helping us to see the peace-bringing, unifying Will of God in all things.

ANNE FREMANTLE'S treasury of great Catholic stories is packed full and brimming over with surprises. Generous hours of human fears and hopes, stories ending in happiness or in the grander triumph of a mother's sacrifice; twilight half-hours of poetry every mother can share, like the opening poem, Azdon's lullaby of Mary, the Manger, "Little One, sleep," she whispers. "Dream, in human dreams earth ascends to Heaven."

Where no one need pray or ever feel alone. In your first few hours of life here, O have you Chosen already what death must be your own? How soon will you start on the sorrowful Way?

Dream while you may. From all round the world, come these stories: two New York ones, Kathleen Norris' "Mother of Angela Hogan" and Anzia Zezirska's "Fat of the Land"; two about Indiana, Louise Gaimy's tale of a little boy — "Provider" and one of Liam O'Flaherty's; a little English mother from Hardy's pen, "An Indian jungle story, too, of a jaguar who defends her cubs. Then to stretch our sympathy, a mother drawn by Maxim Gorki in Mary-loving Russia, and a little Jewish girl mother of World War II whose flight with her baby brother to a convent is described by Sholem Asch.

Italy and France and Spain and Switzerland are represented by good names like Graia Deledda and Pedro de Alarcón, and by stories over which Our Lady visibly presides. When it comes to motherhood, authors sometimes far away in faith draw closer to Mary. Here and there God's holiest ones have their own story: Jeanne de Chantal, St. Monica, Our Lady herself.

"THE MOST valid and eternally valid relationship is that of mother," says Anne Fremantle, and she has brought together rare proofs of her thesis.

Father Collin's Our Lady, Queen of the Religious Life, is a study of Mary's loveliness, the multitudinous whiteness of her perfections, the snowflake worlds of her virtues, each distinct, each crystallizing moment by moment into new reaches of the design.

Such a book does not limit itself to religious even though specially directed to them. Anyone who loves to think of Mary will like this wonderful, life-giving, oxygen-filled purity. In many scenes from history and legend, its sturdy doctrine.

FULL OF GRACE, the All-Pure, the Greatest Love, the Royal Road, Queen, and then from our side, Filial Veneration, Childlike Trust — these are chapter-headings, and within the chapters the soft tumult of praises keeps us in heavenly company, divines us. What would we learn our manner of the manner of receiving Life, without Mary, the Lady, the Loan-Giver, the Bread-Giver, Christ-Giver?

Imagine a snowfall with the sun pouring and burrowing through it, such is Father Collin's love-drawn portrait of Mary-in-God, a book for sacred moments of prayer.

When Mary Barton, London-born actress, arrived at Grailville this fall she already had some knowledge of the Grail in England.

Cardinal Wendel of Munich spoke at a ceremony highlighting preparations for the congress, to be held July 31 to August 7.

While Catholics from all parts of the world are preparing to meet here in real unity and hope to find salvation in human peace, the Cardinal noted, "division and tension in the world are bringing alarm and fear to mankind."

Cardinal Wendel emphasized that the congress will take the whole of mankind as its place in a world facing many big problems. He noted particularly the problems of underdeveloped countries with impoverished peoples living side by side with nations of great wealth, of goods of the spirit and faith of their conversation was that the millions of refugees disappear.

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New Hat For Cardinal

Rome—(RNS)—Aloysius Cardinal Muench, formerly Bishop of Fargo, N.D., tries on the broad-brimmed tasseled galero given him by Pope John XXIII as the chief symbol of his rank as a Prince of the Church. The galero or Red Hat is officially worn only at the time it is received. At a cardinal's death it is placed at the foot of his casket, and after his burial is suspended high above the altar of the prelate's cathedral.

Grail—Laity Apostolate

Loveland, Ohio — (NC) — A professional actress from England, a Cincinnati commercial artist, a Wisconsin policewoman, a Connecticut medical student, a missionary catechist from the Philippines — these are some of the young women enrolled this fall at Grailville, now observing its 15th anniversary as U.S. headquarters of the worldwide Grail movement.

All five continents are represented at the training center here where young women prepare to play a dynamic role in the lay apostolate.

"I plan to return to the Philippines," said Thybaida Mendoza, "to do catechetical work there."

A graduate of the University of Santo Tomas at Manila, she gained her first experience as a mission teacher with the Mill Hill Fathers, English missionary order, in North Borneo.

Miss Mendoza casually underlined the global character of the Grail movement by remarking that she had read about Grailville in the Malayian Catholic News at Singapore.

Meanwhile, one of her classmates at Santo Tomas, Frances Piedad, had read about Grailville in another Catholic paper, the Manila Sentinel. She decided to give up her teaching job for a time in order to deepen her understanding of the apostolate and of the specific role of woman in God's plan for the conversion of the world.

"More depth" is exactly what Arlene Ross of Wilton, Conn., was seeking when she interrupted her studies at the University of Pittsburgh's medical college to spend the current year at Grailville.

Miss Ross, who plans to re-examine her preparation for a medical career, heard about the Grail in conversations with fellow students while she was taking undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto. She is convinced that "the deeper your spiritual life, the more good you can accomplish in your profession."

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A Son Is Born

Mary has a Son
A lovely little Son
And Joseph smiles And in his joy
He marvels that this Wife and Boy
Are charged to such a one

Mary has a Son
Redemptions Work begun
And I, like Joseph too, am awed
To know that He, the Son of God,
For such as me has come.

Helen Wooden, Waterloo

Rome Coordinates Laity Programs

Rome—(NC)—The worldwide role of laymen in spreading Catholicism is the special concern of a small office tucked away in one of the Church's large office buildings here.

It is the Permanent Committee for International Congresses of the Lay Apostolate. The committee not only organizes world congresses such as the one held here in 1957, but also seeks to coordinate lay Catholic efforts in various parts of the world on an international level.

TO CONSOLIDATE recent gains made in developing the lay apostolate, His Holiness Pope John XXIII has set up a six-member directing council headed by Professor Silvio Galzio.

The Pope has left the office of secretary general vacant following the resignation of Vittorio Veronesi, who resigned to become director general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) a year ago.

"We are strictly a service organization," explained Rosemary Goldie, executive secretary of the committee. "We have no members. We can suggest ideas, draw up possible plans but it is up to Catholic organizations we serve to put them into action."

Miss Goldie is assisted by four full-time workers and seven part-time employees. Her office maintains day-to-day work of the committee which has set up a Roman center to handle all the problems and ideas that come to the committee.

AUSTRALIAN-BORN Miss Goldie lists four principal functions of the committee: First is organizing international meetings on the world scale or on regional levels.

The school is located on a 400-acre estate just east of Loveland. Students live, family style, in some of the small buildings, while converted barns serve as lecture and meeting rooms, art studios and sleeping quarters.

The main building contains dining hall, kitchen, reception rooms, and bedrooms. A community book and art store, bakery, laundry, library, and meeting hall are in a nearby building.

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Daily Mass Calendar

Sunday, Dec. 27 — St. John, apostle and evangelist (white), Gloria, 2nd prayer of Christmas. Creed, Preface and Canon prayers of Christmas.

Monday, Dec. 28 — Holy Innocents (purple), no Gloria, 2nd prayer of Christmas, Creed, Preface, etc. as Sunday.

Tuesday, Dec. 29 — St. Thomas Becket, martyr (red), Gloria, etc. as Sunday.

Wednesday, Dec. 30 — Mass of Sunday within Christmas Octave (white), Gloria, etc. as Sunday.

Thursday, Dec. 31 — St. Sylvester, pope (white), Gloria, etc. as Sunday.

First Friday, Jan. 1 — Circumcision of our Lord (white), Gloria, etc. as Sunday Holiday.

First Saturday, Jan. 2 — Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin (white), Gloria, Preface of our Lady.

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