At Our House . . .

January Freeze

By MARY TINLEY DALY

Our house is pretty grim these days. Reason? Mid-year examinations.

The high spiritedness of the Christmas-New Year season is a thing-of-the-past. One would scarcely recognize as the same personnel of our house the erst-while gadabouts, now serious students who set alarm clocks to review in the pre-dawn lessons pored over until late the night before.

It's a metamorphosis.

Girls who have recently been deeply concerned as to what to wear now couldn't care less. Eyes glued on a book, they dress in the morning, donning handiest regalia. If socks don't match, well they just stay unmatched.

MASS EACH morning, with prayers of petition. And prayers requested from us at home: "Now, at 9:30 please pray. I'll be too busy concentrating to pray for myself."

Breakfast time sees our examination takers unmindful of what they're eating — attention focused on a heavy tome propped up in front of the sugar bowl. Now and then the Head of the House forgets that this is a moment of decision and breaks forth with a comment occasioned by the morning paper.

"Please, Daddy — not now!" If I turn on the radio to get news, weather report, or whatever, comes the same nervous plea: "Must you turn that thing on?"

I have to bite my tongue to keep from reminding them of the same comment I made at them when they turned on rock-n-roll in the wee hours during holiday time as we were trying to sleep.

O tempora, O mores!

For a long time, we have advocated raising the tone of our dinner table conversation. According to the books, young people should be exposed to culture, and what better time than at the family dinner table? Now and then we've tried it: discussion of foreign policy as related to world history — that didn't get very far; English literature as a whole in comparison with contemporary writings — that didn't either.

NOW WE find a freshman in high school and a junior in college instigating the notion that we all take up on successive evenings a discussion of Latin writers and Shakespeare's ideas on thirsty-that.

These didn't get very far with us. So, dinner table conversation sagged into a "Please pass the salt" and "You know I hate lima beans."

Eventually we got back to the usual: jokes somebody had heard, the trouble with a bus that didn't come, chit-chat about friends and relatives.

"Well, I must say," Mary announced, "This is a complete rest from 'culture.' Anybody mind if I now take myself off to a session with the books?"

"Not until after the dishes!" the chorus arose. "Other people have to study too!"

Desultorily, we go through Latin conjugations and declensions, each dish-wiping ticking off another Latin form.

THIS IS the perfect time to bring out the old saw: "If you had studied every single day, every single lesson to the utmost of your ability, you wouldn't be worried now. You'd be all set — and welcome these examinations!"

This was met with a withering glance and the succinct, "Like house cleaning?"

This hit home. Always, we have maintained — but never lived up to it — that thorough cleaning of a room at a time, and everlastingly keeping at it, would obviate the necessity for wearying, whirlwind general house cleaning.

We're even.

We promise prayers, helping with the boning up, keeping the radio and TV turned off, no record playing — even admitting Latin and Shakespeare to the dinner table, edging out Jokes by the Head of the House.

That's life at our house — and probably at yours — these late January days.

85,764 Baptisms

St. Columbans — (NC) — A total of 85,764 persons were baptized by Society of St. Columban missionaries during 1959.

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Letters To Producers Needed For Good Films

Detroit — (NC) — A movie producer's wife told women of the Detroit archdiocese that letters are needed to prod moviemakers into producing "clean" films.

Mrs. George P. Skouras, international chairman of Boys Towns of Italy, visited the Motor City to attend a reception given by the local chapter and to discuss plans for a benefit showing of "Ben Hur".

THE WIFE of the president of the United Artists theaters pointed out that letters — plenty of them — will provide an impetus to "clean up the movies."

Organizations should ask their members to send protesting letters directly to Hollywood studios, Mrs. Skouras suggested.

She explained:

"MOVIEMAKERS recognize only that which they see in the studio. And they are in business to make money. If they see letters protesting the type of films they are making, they will produce what the public wants."

She noted that her producer-exhibitor husband believes a theater is a place for "families to come and be entertained" and that family groups deserve "good, clean entertainment."

Protest letters, she continued, are more effective if they are sent before, not after, a movie is produced.

A Hollywood "lobbyist" who could keep abreast of what scripts have been published and what movies are to be produced could help to combat objectionable movies, she asserted.

She also suggested more awards for suitable stories, skits and plays.

Elmira Mass Set On WENY Radio

The High Mass at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 31 at St. John the Baptist Church, Elmira, will be broadcast over Radio Station WENY, according to the Rev. Raymond G. Heisel, pastor.

Rev. William L. Reed, assistant pastor, will be the celebrant of the Mass and Father Heisel will deliver the sermon. Narrator for the radio will be Attorney James L. Burke.

The choir will be under the direction of Elizabeth Byrne Bacon.

Family Rosary Radio Program

Friday, Jan. 22 — Robert T. O'Leary, national commander, Catholic War Veterans, accompanied by Monroe County Chapter CWV and Ladies Auxiliaries.

Saturday, Jan. 23 — Robert Berna, SS. Peter and Paul's.

Sunday, Jan 24 — A representative of St. Christopher Society, Holy Trinity, Webster.

Monday, Jan. 25 — Francis J. Brennan, St. Monica.

Tuesday, Jan. 26 — Joseph Walla, St. Cecilia.

Wednesday, Jan. 27 — John Hayes, Blessed Sacrament, accompanied by members of the Holy Cross Alumni Club of Rochester.

Thursday, Jan. 28 — David O'Connor, Corpus Christi, accompanied by a group of employees of Rochester Products Division.

Theatre Group Lists 'Crime, Punishment'

Feodor Dostoievsky's classic, "Crime and Punishment," will be presented on the Rochester stage for the first time next month by Catholic Theater of Rochester, Evening performances are scheduled Feb. 5, 6, 7 at Nazareth College, East Ave.

The dramatization is the work of the English playwright Rodney Ackland.

DIRECTING the story of the student Raskolnikoff, who attempts to place himself beyond orthodox morality by committing murder, is Wilford Scott, who directed the CTR "Othello" at the college last season. Richard Mancini acts as producer.

Because of the size of the cast which numbers more than 40, Scott plans to utilize central staging techniques, with modern sets by Carl Zollo. David Charlton is in charge of lighting, with Callista Estergaard handling costumes and Pilli Parker the props.

THEATER EXPERTS consider the Ackland adaptation of permanent value in translating the mammoth, vastly-populated novel in meaningful theater, not only for the average playgoer, but for the student as well.

Tickets are available downtown at Trant's, or by writing CTR, Box 1249, Rochester 3.

A special performance for Sisters of the area is listed for Thursday, Feb. 4, at 8:30 p.m.

Men Told To Learn Mind Of Christ

St. Louis — (NC) — Many Catholic men have placed too much emphasis on the devotional aspects of religion, and not enough on attempting to learn the "mind of Christ" on contemporary problems of society, Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter of St. Louis has stated.

Speaking before the annual meeting of the St. Louis Archdiocesan Holy Name Society, the Archbishop stressed the need for Christian-minded men to bring principles from the Gospels to bear on contemporary problems.

"TOO MUCH emphasis has been placed on the devotional aspects of religion," he said. "So many who claim to be associated with Christ are so very alien and foreign to His mentality."

The prelate urged Catholic men to "examine their consciences" to determine if they have studied contemporary problems in the light of Christian principles.

"Your resolution should be to make your thinking more in accordance with Christ's," he said.

"I need not tell you that to be a Holy Name man is your greatest honor, — to be enrolled under the banner of Our Lord, and to profess Him," he told some 800 delegates from parish Holy Name branches throughout the archdiocese.

Movie On Priesthood

Pittsburgh — (NC) — The Diocese of Pittsburgh has produced its own film on vocations to the priesthood.

The half-hour color film uses local talent against local backgrounds to portray the lives of three priests, from childhood to manhood, showing why they became priests.

The vocations film is the second the diocese has produced. The first dealt with the diocese's charitable agencies. The new film is entitled "Whom Shall I Send?"

Lourdes Trip For Sick

Washington — (NC) — A national pilgrimage to Lourdes for the sick will take place in 1960 for the fifth straight year.

Participants in the nine-day pilgrimage will leave New York on September 11 by plane, and will fly directly to Lourdes, France.

MRS. DONALD O'BRIEN

O'Brien-O'Neill Wedding Held

The marriage of Miss Anne Sheila O'Neill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ewart Patrick O'Neill, Greagh Knoll Farm, Downingtown, Penna., and Donald Edward O'Brien, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Edward O'Brien, 135 West Ave., East Rochester, was solemnized on Dec. 26, in St. Agnes Church, West Chester, PA.

The single ring ceremony was performed and the Nuptial Mass celebrated by Rev. Andre Hertel, O.C., cousin of the bride, Saint Anastasia's Church, Teaneck, N.J.

Following a reception, the bridal couple left on a trip to Quebec, after which they will reside at 141 Crary St., Binghamton. Mr. O'Brien is a former member of Saint Jerome's parish, East Rochester.

Talk It Over

Success

By ANNE CULKIN

Dear Miss Culkin:

You, no doubt, will tell me that money is not the most important thing in life. I know that. Still in this prep school where I attend, the boys have money. I feel so inferior. I try not to show my feelings, but I'm sure they can spot it. What is the matter with me? I am on a scholarship.

David

Dear David:

Frankly, David, I think you're a contradiction. You say that money is not the all-important; then why are you acting as though it were!

Let me ask you a question. How do you think a pagan would judge the worth, the importance, of another individual? Would the expensive car impress him? the high zoned neighborhood? How about the high-salaried man? the best clothes? They would impress the pagan wouldn't they? Ask yourself why?

They would because to him they would spell success. And if it just so happens that he is not quite so successful, how do you think he feels when he is with successful people. Inferior, don't you think?

Now, David, don't you think it would be a little different with you? I presume you do believe in God. You believe, don't you, that His life proved the unimportance of the car, the neighborhood, clothes, prestige? And He died to prove the great worth of a person's soul, didn't He?

Have you ever spent much time with people who never seem to forget this important fact? Their lives were so exemplary of it that it made you feel a little guilty—a little inferior. Your conscience started to pinch. But you were a little better for the experience, weren't you? In other words it was a healthy inferiority.

Start placing your values where they should be placed. Feel inferior, if you must, with people who have spiritual wealth — real wealth. People who have something that won't depreciate like the car or the neighborhood, but something that will never go out of style like fashion.

And for heaven's sake, stop trying to hide your complex. Recognize it for what it really is — ridiculous. And if your smart enough to have a scholarship, you should be smart enough to recognize your feeling of inferiority as just that. Don't you agree?

Dear Miss Culkin:

What do you think of a girl taking a boy friend to a babysitting job with her?

Babysitter

Dear Babysitter:

If you were hired to work in a local department store, would you ask your employer if you might invite a "friend" to stand with you behind the counter? No, you don't ask a boy to the home where you are babysitting any more than you would invite him to your home when your parents are not expected to be there.

Maybe I can make the point this way: As a babysitter, you're taking care of the baby; but who's taking care of you?

Dear Miss Culkin:

How can you cover up freckles on the face?

C. P.

Dear C. P.:

Everyone seems to like freckles except the people who have them. Stay out of the sun and use freckle cream. Stillman's freckle cream is a good one. P.S. I'm not payed to endorse it!

Auto Show Billed At War Memorial

Rochester's 43rd Auto Show will be staged in the War Memorial Building Jan. 30 through Feb. 6 under the auspices of Rochester Auto Shows Incorporated.

There will be a "3-way" flavor to the show this year as it will include first, exhibits of all of the 1960 models of American manufacture; second, an extensive display of new 1960 sports models of foreign makes; third, an especially interesting section devoted to antique cars, some of which will be as old as the Rochester Auto Show itself which spans more than 50 years since its origin in 1908.

Anglicans Claim Catholic Converts

London — (RNS) — Between 1954 and 1956, some 10,440 Roman Catholics were admitted to the Church of England (Anglican), according to the denomination's official yearbook. Those admitted from other groups totaled 33,884.

The total number for all baptized members of the Church of England was reported to be 26,771,000. Of these, it was estimated that 9,691,000 were confirmed members, but only about one in four were listed as Easter communicants.

New Church At Nazareth

Nazareth — (RNS) — Foundations for the new Franciscan Basilica of the Annunciation here will be dug early this spring. The basilica, which will take more than two years to build, will be the largest in Israel and one of the largest in the Middle East.

Supervising preliminary site clearing operations by 40 Arab workers is Father Benedetto Antonucci, O.F.M., archaeology specialist, who crosses regularly into Israel from Jerusalem's Arab-held Old City to oversee the work at Nazareth.

Weekend Set By More Club

The St. Thomas More Club will leave for Old Forge by chartered bus on Friday, Jan. 29 at 6:45 p.m. from St. Andrew Church. Skating, skiing and dancing will be highlights of the weekend at the Moosehead, returning on Sunday night.

Reservations may be made by sending a $5 deposit to Kay Srokose, 50 Rogers Pkwy, Deadline for reservations is Jan. 25. Approximate cost of the weekend is $25 including transportation, food and lodging. For further information call Nancy Jean Borsic at GR 3-7277.

Ray McIntyre is chairman of the event. The group is open to single Catholics of post high school age and over.

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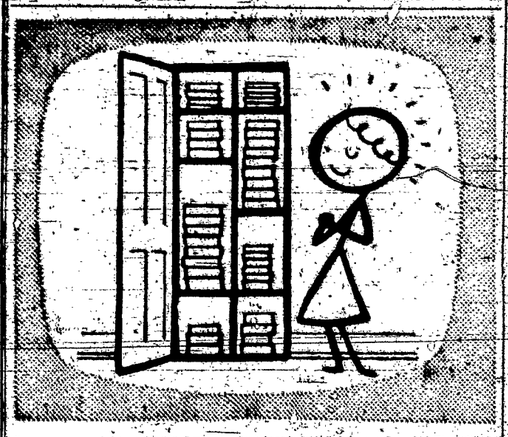
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