

COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday, December 9, 1960

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At Our House ...

First Communion

By MARY TIMNEY DALY

It was eight o'clock of a frosty Saturday morning in a far-off suburban parish. Notwithstanding the church resembled a metropolitan cathedral at Christmas midnight Mass.

By 7:30 that morning the last seat was taken in the tightly packed pews. Fifteen minutes later, men and women, dressed in their finest, stood like cypresses in a package, jamming the aisles and the rear of the church.

This day and hour were of supreme importance: First Communion Day.

AN AURA of subdued excitement prevailed. Young mothers could now relax. Last night they had been at the ironing board, had set the table for the celebration breakfast, had set hair of little girls, laid out the

Earlier, they had helped with that important "Examination of Conscience" preceding First Communion. On down the Commandments they had gone with the youngsters. After Communion eight, came the comment, "These other two aren't for children. They're grown people's sins." Then the plaintive, "But, Mommy, look at Number ten. I sure have wished for a heck of a lot of things I never got!"

Mommy then had to explain the difference between wishing and coveting thy neighbor's goods.

Now, that First Communion was over. The long-awaited day had arrived.

Young fathers, armed with movie and still cameras, were posed at the line of silver-haired seven-year-olds filed into the church. Everybody on the boys' side had a fresh haircut, all the girls were in curls.

GRANDPARENTS, godparents, aunts and uncles, older sisters and brothers—all awaited the procession. For the eyes of each, there was just one target, "ours." There he is, rounding the turn. "There she is, on the other side, right behind that red-headed girl."

Through the crowd on the outside steps came the inevitable late-comers, bystanders gladly making way for small, peering, white-clad figures.

"S-O-R-R-Y, battery trouble," gasped a harassed young father. "Auntie didn't go off from another

Mass, was celebrated by the pastor, of course, in keeping with tradition on this memorable day. The Latin words could be heard clearly in the dead silence of the church. Not a murmur or whisper from the seven-year-olds; a tiny sound an occasional whirr of a movie camera or the cry of a baby.

The chancel was opened and the children went "into the altar of God" for this precious moment—the reception of Holy Communion for the first time by a class of more than 150. From their devotion, it was evident that they knew the importance of the occasion—precisely as St. Paul X was right in advocating early First Communion.

AS PARENTS, the Head of the House and I have thrilled to such a sight many times. Now, for the first time as grandparents we were present when our oldest grandchild, La Anna, made her First Holy Communion.

There was a singing behind the altar, a few moments when breath seemed suspended, a fervent prayer that the innocence of today might continue on and on.

Also came a prayer of thanksgiving for the fulfillment of the marital blessing given us so many years ago. "May you both see your children's children, even to the third and fourth generation."

Well, we don't look that far ahead! However, what a privilege to see even one of our

Worried

By ANNE CURRIN

Dear Miss Calkin:

I have been going with a girl since last June. I'm a senior and she is a junior. She has a job after-school and always has more money to spend than I have. What I'm worried about is what I should give her at Christmas. I'll have about ten dollars to spend but am afraid she will give me something costing much more. If she does, what do I say?

Marty

Dear Marty:

If you planned to spend one-half of ten dollars, or nothing at all, I would still say you have nothing to be concerned about. A young woman who knows the rules knows that good taste dictates that during the first year of a friendship, she remembers the young man at Christmas with nothing more tangible than a card.

If your friend ignores this rule and presents you with something costing more than ten dollars, the cost of your remembrance to her, be kind but firm in refusing to accept it. Don't place yourself in a compromising position. Tell her that you appreciate her generosity, but be conclusive you could not accept such an expensive gift. This is exactly what the young woman of breeding does when the situation is reversed.

Dear Miss Calkin:

If you go to a formal dance wearing high-heeled shoes, what do you do if they make you miserable? Isn't it all right to "children's children" receive our Lord.

By 9:30 of that frosty Saturday morning, the church and parking lot were cleared. Individual family celebrations took over to mark this special, never-to-be-forgotten day.

A new group of little Catholics had begun their lifetime march as members of the Church Militant.

Dance Opens Yule Season At Nazareth

Holiday festivities for Nazareth College students will open with the annual Christmas dance, to be held on Dec. 17 at the Country Club of Rochester.

The principal decorations and the refreshments for "La Danse de Noel" are being kept as a surprise for the students and their escorts attending the affair. Johnny Matt's orchestra will play for dancing from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

General plans for the dance are under the co-chairmanship of Martha Jo Rotoli and Anne Kehoe. They have appointed Ellen Green in charge of tickets, Kathy Sleschman, bids, and Ann Gluzowski, band. Loretta La Russa is directing the preparation of decorations. Invitations have been issued by Sheila Sullivan. Publicity is being handled by Marie Van Ness.

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Worried

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Glee Club Plans Events

The members of the St. Agnes High School Glee Club will participate in several pre-Christmas events including the following:

Dec. 12 — Mothers Club Christmas party; Dec. 15 — Sibbey's Southtown; Dec. 18 — Alumnae party; Dec. 19 — Manger Hotel, The Holy Angels Guild Party; Dec. 22 — Sibbey's Southtown; Dec. 23 — School Christmas program.

The girls will sing the usual Christmas Carols as well as special arrangements of "No Candle is There, The Heavens are Telling, Schubert's Ave Maria and a Cantata written especially for this Christmas season.

Friday, Dec. 9 — John Scharr, Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Saturday, Dec. 10 — Lawrence Burton, Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Sunday, Dec. 11 — James O. Stein, Weiter, accompanied by Fourth Degree Assembly, Knights of Columbus.

Monday, Dec. 12 — Anthony Santella, St. Joseph's accompanied by Holy Name Society.

Tuesday, Dec. 13 — Paul Stock, St. Philip Neri, accompanied by Holy Name Society.

Wednesday, Dec. 14 — Carl Trent, St. Andrew's accompanied by Holy Name Society.

Thursday, Dec. 15 — Frank Mckeivich, St. George accompanied by Holy Name Society.

Parents' Day

Junior museum activities will be demonstrated on Parents' Day, Dec. 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Rochester Museum of Art and Science. After-school activities under the supervision of the school service division will be on exhibit.

Family Rosary Radio Program

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The Holiday spirit is reflected in three films to be shown at Rochester Museum of Art and Science on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 2:30 p.m. and again at 3:30 p.m.

One film colorfully demonstrates "The Art of Gift-Wrapping." The other relates the Black Forest legend "The Cuckoo Clock that Wouldn't Cuckoo." And the third shows "Spotty the Fawn in Winter" through the seasons of the first year of his life.

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