



VALENTINE DAY remembrances will be exchanged by young and old alike in the next few days. Here James Gertner gives Sidonie Merkel a Valentine for the occasion. Both are students at St. Thomas More School.

Be My Valentine

By MARY TINLEY DALY

Valentine Day, Feb. 14, that "I love you truly" day, is about upon us again.

Stores—five-and-dimes, Super This-and-That, drug stores, and especially push department and specialty shops are cashing in on the "I Love You Truly" theme: A fur stole for your true love. A London Fog coat for himself? Even a color television to prove you love him or her (and would delight in the entertainment yourself)?

BESIEGED AS we are on all sides with the advertisements and trying to become numb to them, there is still that hold-over from childhood when Feb. 14 meant, and still means, a personal, quite often a sentimental, message to those we love.

Shifting off the "buy big" commercialism—so soon after they have high-pressed us for Christmas—we turn to the little, personal messages: the 42 valentines for 59 cents, plus envelopes the slightly higher, 38 for 59 cents—often including a "special one for teacher."

Well, it's been a long time since we've sent a "Valentine to Teacher" but we do appreciate the gayly colorful assortment. In the package deal, there are many thoroughly inappropriate—but some—

There is a heart, with a "Thinking about you" imprint. Accompanied by a personal message written on the other side, this takes up the slack of our long, no-write to a friend in a distant city. And a "Hi, How's your doin'" for an elderly relative—remembrance that we are thinking of him—no special reason for writing, but just a loving "Hi!"

AS FOR THE rest of the conglomeration in our 59 cent package: here is a Valentine for each of the grandchildren—to be added to the "take" in their Valentine boxes from school; a silly one for each of their parents, in remembrance of the time when they were Valentine-box conscious.

And, in a practical sense, this is wrap-up at our house, and probably at yours, of the paraphernalia of Christmas.

Take red candles, for in-

stance: There was a plethora of red candles. They were on the mantle, in the dining room, in every candlestick we own. Nowadays, only time we use candles are at our evening meal.

Frankly, we were getting a bit tired of red candles, but there they were: unused, unburned. During the long, dull days of January we supplemented them with long, dull, beige colored candles.

Now, in honor of St. Valentine, we can once more bring out the red candles—unburned, use 'em up in all their splendor, just as though they had been bought for this particular occasion!

Another holdover from Christmas: all that red ribbon, too good to throw away, not worth storing as a fire hazard for 10 more months.

Now, we can use it to wrap a "Happy St. Valentine" gift for lots and lots of people, little people, big people, St. Valentine's people.

There are those to whom we would not ordinarily send Christmas gifts—yet this is the perfect time, in the mid-winter doldrums, to bake a batch of cookies, a loaf of homemade bread and send these goodies as a complete surprise. To wrap the gifts in "St. Valentine's ribbons," bright red, adds to the surprise.

It's getting mileage not only out of the Christmas ribbons, but a carry-over of the Christmas spirit.

St. Valentine, martyred in Rome, Feb. 14, 269 A.D., probably looks down sympathetically and compassionately on such goings-on carried out in his name. A lot of the goings-on are silly—but when one human being reaches out to another, it means that life, after all, is worth living.

The spirit behind St. Valentine's Day is actually the symbol of love. Each Valentine card, gift, wish, phone call or whatnot means simply and truly, "I love you!"

So, Happy Valentine Day coming up—and may your valentine never grow lesser or lose his (or her) love for you. That's the wish that comes from Our House!

(This is Mary Tinley Daly's weekly column at Our House which regularly appears on the women's page of the Courier-Journal.)

Forty Hours

Devotions of the Forty Hours in Churches of the Diocese of Rochester will be conducted as follows: Sunday, Feb. 14—St. John of Rochester.

Looking Back

Rochester Carmelite Nun A Link to a Better World

By THOMAS H. O'CONNOR

In our association—the diocesan newspaper staff and our family—with Reverend Mother Ignatius of Jesus and Mary, prioress of the Discalced Carmelite Sisters who was called to her eternal reward, Feb. 2, we found her confidence in eventually achieving heaven was constantly unshaken.

The writer's family has known Mother Ignatius since the arrival of these contemplative nuns in Rochester in 1930. It was always a pleasure to hear her cheery voice on the phone calling to ask news space for a novena, the forty hours or other services to be held at the Monastery.

Since the Carmelites came to this diocese, they have had two chaplains, now the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John S. Randall, president chaplain, and formerly, the late Rev. Leo C. Mooney.

Each of these priests also held the title of managing editor of the Catholic Courier Journal. Each during Mother Ignatius' tenure in Rochester kept her informed about the newspaper. She took a deep interest in our situation and especially offered prayers during the depression era.

Whenever Mother Ignatius called me about a Solemn Mass or any public service, Monsignor Randall was contacted and gave us the name of the priests who would officiate. These frequently included Monsignor Wilfred Craugh, St. Bernard's Seminary Rector.; Monsignor Patrick J. Flynn, now St. Helen Church pastor; Rev. Joseph P. Brennan and others who were "on ceremonies" with Monsignor Randall.

I can recall when the new and modern Monastery was opened on Jefferson Road. My wife, Helen; her sister, Mrs. Theodore J. Houck and the late Mr. Houck and I were in the vicinity. At the time the Monastery was not canonically enclosed. We called at the "turn" and Mother Ignatius responded.

It was "the Grand Tour," we received. Chatting enthusiastically as was her nature, Mother Ignatius took us through the rooms where the Sisters occupied their time, other than in the chapel. We saw the basement where the type of food permitted by Carmelite rule, could be stored. We all went out in the yard where the reverend Mother told of future plans for the Monastery and grounds. Deeply spiritual, her practical side was a revelation to all who met her.

While I did not have an active part in the campaign to raise funds for the new Monastery, I had an intense interest in it. The goal was \$94,782 for a "finishing fund." The campaign opened May 30, 1954 at a Communion Mass in Immaculate Conception Church, of which Monsignor Randall is pastor. Directed by William A. Lang, president of Rochester Transit Company, as general chairman, the drive was a success. Bill, for many years on our editorial staff, was long aware of the Sisters and their problems.

When the Carmelites were on East Ave. in what is now the Day Care Center, it was another era of adjustment for Mother Ignatius after leaving Saratoga Carmel. She took it in stride.

A report of a prowler out there, one time, brought to the Monastery, the late John A. Doyle, head of Doyle Detective Agency. I remember he marveled at the casual manner in which Mother Ignatius viewed the incident and her deep seated confidence that these sisters never have to fear bodily harm.

Our family had its most memorable occasion at the East Ave. Monastery in 1947 when our 26th wedding anniversary was marked with Mass by Bishop Kearney in the public chapel. Mother Ignatius demonstrated as much interest in our family as if related. She had a faculty for being intently interested in those who took interest in the nuns.

Back in 1930 the Carmelite Sisters, headed by the late and most memorable Mother Beatrix, came to Rochester at Bishop O'Hara's invitation. Father Mooney was named chaplain. He arranged for the Monastery at 161 Saratoga Ave., the former home of Rev. Mr. Clarence Barber, widely known minister of Lake Ave. Baptist Church.

"Recall the nuns' arrival," Mother Beatrix was kindly and distinguished. She had founded Carmel in many places. The young nun with her who stood out above the others was one who, according to those who saw her said, resembled St. Theresa the Little Flower, Mother Ignatius.

Before the nuns' arrival, the monastery was opened to the public. Some visitors said they could not understand the austerity of the Sisters' lives. The beds on opening day were but boards on saw horses. Some of us however, found out on bringing them in that straw ticks went on the boards and that the order is practical in community living.

My memory of those days is dimming but I remember being a bearer for one of the Sisters whose burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

In 1933, my wife and I had four sons and a daughter. Scarlet fever struck our daughter, Mary Catherine, a year and a half, was a victim. Mother Ignatius consoled us and impressed upon us the great gift of having an "angel in heaven." Ever since we have been in touch with the Carmelites on the child's birthday in August and date of death in March.

Down through the years since, our family has been blessed. Six sons and a son-in-law served in the armed forces and came back safely. When any serious problem presented itself we asked the prayers of Carmel. Mother Ignatius always assured us of their interest, concern and prayers.

All who knew Mother Ignatius have felt another Carmelite Sister has earned a high place in Heaven. We feel that way and pray for Mother Ignatius and at the same time to her.

Marriage Conferences Set By Avon Parish Group

Avon—In the Christian life, Marriage is not just a contract or an institution, but a Sacrament which unites the man and woman in a most intimate way with God, to participate in His work of creating and redeeming the world.

Conferences for married couples of the Avon area, will be conducted Sunday, Feb. 21 at St. Agnes School. The conferences will be sponsored by St. Agnes Mothers' Circles for Catholic and non-Catholic couples, beginning at 7:15 p.m.

They are designed to "explain the truths which underlie the vocation of Marriage, and to inspire the couples with a deeper understanding and appreciation of their dignity as husband and wife."

Lectures will be given by Father Gerald Dunn of St. Monica's Church, Rochester, and will treat topics such as the meaning of love and happiness.

Alumni Teams List Game

St. John Fisher College Alumni basketball team will play the St. Michaels College Alumni team on Saturday, Feb. 13, at 1 p.m. The game will be played at the new gymnasium located on the Fisher campus.

The alumni game will be followed by a variety game between the two schools. Tickets are \$1, and all are invited.

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LOCAL NEWS

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Dedication Rite at Hospital

Bishop Kearney blessed a new "education building" at St. Mary's School of Nursing Sunday afternoon. The new unit, named in his honor, was open for public inspection and an estimated 500 toured the structure after the blessing rite. With him in photo are Father John Rosse, chaplain, Sister Winifred, administrator, and, standing, architect Robert Hall, Dr. Louis Tuppa, chief of staff, and Warren Uarlaub, contractor.

Today's Teeners Better Students

Teen-agers often feel that they are over-criticized by their elders, whether it's for the delinquency of some or the "Beatle" haircuts of others. They could feel encouraged by the laudatory remarks of Aquinas vice-principal Father Albert Gaelens, C.S.B., this week.

"Present day students at Aquinas Institute are doing better academically than did their fathers," he commented after reviewing the mid-term reports.

More than one-third of the student body received honors ratings in the recent exams, the highest percentage in the school's history, he stated.

This is especially significant in view of the more detailed courses being offered now. Advanced placement programs in English, French, mathematics and science now given at Aquinas are equivalent to first year college courses. The science courses, Father Gaelens added, are taught in greater depth than they were a generation ago.

Aquinas student David Hill proves the point neatly. He recorded an almost incredible 92.66% average in the January tests, presumably the highest average in Aquinas history. Subjects included Religion, French, English, Latin, math, chemistry, music and art.

His father R. James Hill, readily admits that when he attended Aquinas (1935-1939), his marks were good—"but not that good!" The Hills live at 75 Lettington Drive in St. Helen's parish.

Despite David's high average, he was closely pressed by senior James Chafery of St. Ambrose parish, who obtained a 98% average in subjects which included college-level math, French and English. He lives at 453 Hazelwood Terrace.

DEADLINE For All News Is Monday Noon

SCHOEMAN'S OPEN HOURS 11:30 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.

1 PRICE 2 SALE

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