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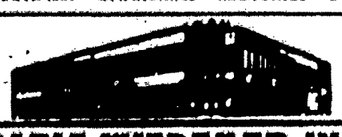
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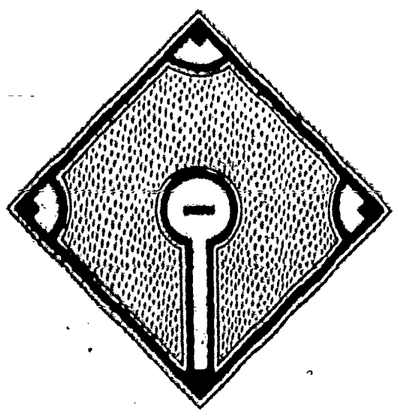
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Growth in Prayer

By LEO J. TRESE

It is possible to get to heaven without receiving a single sacrament. For example, a person may be ignorant of the need for baptism, yet may achieve the state of grace by having a genuine love for God.

It is possible to get to heaven without a sacrament, but for a person having the use of reason it is not possible to get to heaven without prayer. The obligation to pray (in proportion to one's capacity) is absolute.

It is surprising that many of us take the duty of prayer so lightly. Too often we remain on a juvenile level, with hardly any progress in prayer beyond the habits of childhood. We perform our little ritual of stylized orisons at our bedside morning and night. Daily we try to cover (however distractedly) the five decades of our beads. Having spoken our quota of words, we feel that we have discharged adequately our obligation to pray.

We keep lecturing our young people, "Get all the education you can. You'll go nowhere in today's world unless you have a college education or some special skill." We all recognize that as civilization grows more complex, the competition for jobs becomes tougher and tougher.

It is too bad that we do not apply to the problem of religious survival the same reasoning which we apply to the problem of economic survival. The difficulties and challenges have increased in the spiritual sphere of employment. Our temptations, especially to self-indulgence and covetousness, are far greater than our grandparents had to contend with.

The field of our Christian responsibilities has widened enormously, too. Our obligations to neighbor are more numerous and more urgent than a previous generation had to face; or at least, than a previous generation recognized. Yet, too few of us strive for that progress in prayer which makes for spiritual maturity.

Can we say, in complete honesty, that our prayers really fulfill the definition of prayer, which is "a raising of the mind and heart to God?" Prayer is not merely a matter of "talking to God." Prayer means to communicate with God, and communication must work both ways or it is not communication at all. Prayer must have its periods of serious self-examination. Prayer must have its periods of silent contemplation. Otherwise God has no opportunity to speak and our prayer is only half-prayer.

It is easier, admittedly, to talk to God than to listen to God. It is much less discomforting to rattle off words than to probe the depths of one's own heart. Yet, God cannot tell us where to go from here unless first we discover, by self-reflection, where we are standing right now.

It is difficult and fatiguing, too, to focus our attention on God in silence, waiting for Him to speak, waiting for an inspiration of grace. Some times we are reluctant to listen for fear of what God may ask of us. At other times we simply cannot hear His voice.

One reason why we cannot get God's message may be because we have such a limited vocabulary. We know how hard it is for an adult to talk to a small child. There are so few words that the child knows. Similarly, if we do not keep developing our religious understanding by means of regular spiritual reading, God has a hard time getting through to us.

He cannot show us how to be more Christlike if we do not really know what it means to be Christlike. He cannot, by a movement of grace, bring an idea to the forefront of our mind if the idea is not in the mind to begin with.

WE LABOR so hard to excel in so many things. We work to improve our golf, our bridge, our bowling, our gardening or our cooking. It is too bad that it so seldom occurs to us to strive for excellence in the greatest skill of all — the ability to pray.

Famed Statue Deeded Church

Rio de Janeiro—(RNS)—The land surrounding the gigantic statue of Christ the Redeemer atop the Corcovado Mountain here has been donated to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Rio de Janeiro by the Brazilian government.

A decree signed by President Humberto Castello Branco recording the transfer of title was formally presented to Jaime Cardinal de Barros Camara, Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro.

Overlooking the city and harbor of Rio, the Corcovado Mountain is 2,300 feet high. The statue of Christ on its summit is 125 feet high and weighs 1,145 tons. Seven years in construction, it was dedicated Oct. 12, 1931, as a symbol of peace and democracy. Cost of the statue was $250,000, raised by public subscription.

Rosarians Meet At Newark Valley

Newark Valley — The Rosary Society of St. John The Evangelist Church met July 1, at 8 p.m. in church for recitation of the rosary, led by the officers.

A business meeting followed in the hall. The program consisted of readings from the book "The Wall Betwween Us" by Betty King and Lorraine Juliana. Mrs. Philip Lee and Mrs. James Baylor read letters from the book.

Novena at Monastery

Carmelite Father John Clarke last night opened the novena at the Carmelite Monastery, Waverly, for the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel which will occur next Friday, July 16. Services, including Mass, are scheduled each evening of the novena at 7:30 p.m. Those unable to attend may send their intentions to the Monastery, Box 189, Waverly, and these will be included in the prayers of the novena services.

Seneca Falls Parish Lists Summer Festival

Seneca Falls — Annual Summer Carnival of St. Patrick's Church is being readied for the parking lot behind the Parochial School, July 15, 16 and 17. Rev. John P. O'Beirne, pastor and Rev. Raymond Ringwood, assistant pastor are general chairmen. Fausto Calarco is chairman. They have set up the following projects and committees to handle them:

Special games, Louis Laude and John Moreland, chairmen; doll booth, Albert Capacci, chairman; William Crelly, co-chairman; small stuffed animals, Carlo Lorenzetti, chairman; Richard Vedora, co-chairman; large stuffed animals, Mario Giovannini, chairman; Dino Morganti, co-chairman; big six, Adolphe Capacci, chairman; Louis Turri, co-chairman; horse, Nemo D'Aurelio and Peter Suffedini; Over and Under, Albert Riscorl and James Moreland; glass, Anthony Di Dominick Sr. and Anthony Di Dominick, Jr.; cake, ice cream and coffee, Miss Vola Barbi; ham, Dominick Pignore; pop corn, Fred Fornesi and Anthony Cammuso; fish pond and cotton candy, Judy Baldassarie and Georgia McDermott; hot dogs, fish fry and refreshments, Leon Bolich and Frank Saracino;

Also cake booth, Mrs. Carmen Martello and Mrs. Vespces Battaglia; special, Miss Angie Manzari; fried dough, Mrs. Dominick Caraccello and Mrs. Anthony Barbieri; special, Father Ringwood; office for finances, Carl Same, Leo Browne and Alexander Turkett; publicity, Mrs. Anthony Barbieri.

The public is welcome. There will be something for entertaining the young and old.

A Fish Fry will be served starting at 5 p.m.

Summer Program For Youngsters

The Charles Settlement House has recently initiated a Summer Activities Program for the children living in Rochester's King Street-Madison Street area. This area is just north of the General Hospital.

The program consists mainly of crafts, group games, and visits to the city parks and pools. Charles House has obtained permission from the City Recreation Department to use a small park (called Madison Park) as a base of operations.

Staff from the Charles House visited many of the families in the area to see if the agency could offer some service. The parents expressed a desire for such activities, especially for 6-10 year old children. They felt this age group was isolated from other playgrounds and community facilities in general. Heavy traffic prevented these children leaving the area. Madison Park itself was also off-limits for these children.

About 50 children registered for the first day's program. Attendance has gained day by day.

At the present time three college student and one full time staff member are coordinating the program. Several young teen-agers, who live in the area, have volunteered to help the staff.

Third Order To Mark Feast

Members of Our Lady of Victory Chapter, Third Order Secular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, will participate in the broadcast of the Family Rosary for Peace on Friday, July 16, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 401 Orange St. Members are requested to be present at 6:45 p.m. Prior Joseph Latour will lead the recitation.

Attention is called to the feast of Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel, July 16.

Our Lady of Victory Church, being a Carmelite Third Order Church, affords opportunity for gaining of indulgences for both Third Order Members as well as for all the faithful, providing general conditions of confession and Communion—within eight days before or after the feast, and the saying of the customary prayers for the intention of the Pope, are met.

A Plenary Indulgence may be gained for each visit to Our Lady of Victory Church between noon of Thursday, July 15 and midnight of Friday, July 16, provided that the general conditions are complied with.

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Cenacle Lists Five Retreats For Students

Two retreats for girls entering the 7th and 8th grades will be held this month at the Cenacle Retreat House, 693 East Avenue:

July 21-22: conducted by Rev. John P. O'Malley.

July 26-27: conducted by Rev. Michael Volpe.

Three retreats for high school students are scheduled for August:

August 6-8, conducted by Rev. Andrew Ansbro, C.P.

August 20-22, limited to Juniors and Seniors.

August 27-29, High School General.

Reservations are being made by mail, or by phoning the Cenacle at BR 1-8755.

GOLDEN JUBILARIANS, Mr. and Mrs. George J. Jost of Holy Rosary parish in Rochester.

Gaelic Football Listed Sunday

Rochester Harps Gaelic football team will line up against the Syracuse Shamrocks, Sunday, July 11 at Genesee Valley Park meadows. Game time is 3:30 p. m.

The game is expected to be hotly contested as the Pat Fahy trophy is at stake.

A reception for both teams will be held at the Harps Club, 115 Buffalo Rd. immediately after the game.

Polish Clubs

The American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs will hold its annual National Convention at Alliance College, Cambridge Springs, Pa. August 10 through 14.

Couple Married Fifty Years

A Mass of Thanksgiving on the occasion of the Golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. George J. Jost, was celebrated by Monsignor Charles Shay at Holy Rosary Church on June 29.

The Josts of 140 Oriole St. have been parishioners at Holy Rosary since 1921, Mr. Jost having served as president of the Holy Name Society, and Mrs. Jost, as treasurer of the Ladies Catholic Benevolent Association there.

85 relatives and friends attened an anniversary party for the couple at the Lakeview Firemen's club in Greece. Their children include George L. Jost, Mrs. Richard Rahm, Mrs. James Cole, Mrs. Betty Anderson and Mrs. Thomas Guider. The Josts have 23 grandchildern.

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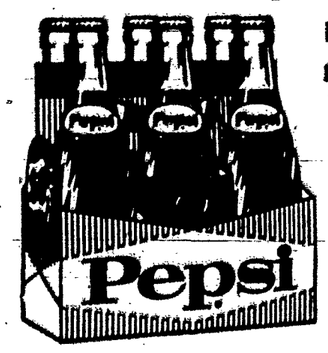

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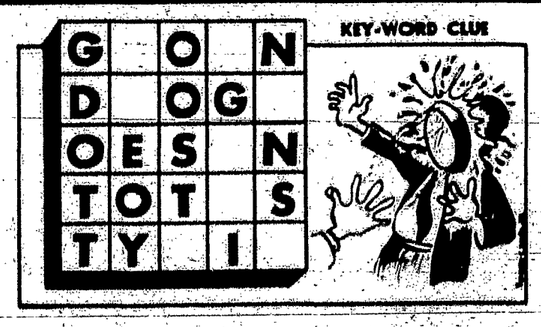

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