

# Luci's Baptism - Gamble's Wedding

Two Catholic ceremonies raised many questions this past week — one was Luci Baines Johnson's "baptism" and the other was heiress Gamble Benedict's wedding.

Both, it was said, had received such sacraments before — how come they get them a second time?

Church officials promptly pointed out such sacraments are in fact "once only" sacraments (for marriage, of course, so long as both spouses are alive).

Father James Montgomery, who received the President's daughter into the Catholic faith at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, said he baptized her "conditionally" — according to her own request.

Catholic ritual laws require that the priest say, "If you are not already baptized, then I baptize you..." In those cases where there is any doubt about the prior baptism rite.

Conditional baptism was one of the subjects touched upon by Catholic and Episcopalian delegates at their first official ecumenical talks June 22 to 24 at headquarters of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, Washington.

Delegates agreed that what had become an almost routine practice of conditional baptism of Episcopalians received into the Catholic Church does not conform with traditional Christian doctrine.

However, it was pointed out that if a person had doubts of his own, there was nothing to prevent compliance with a request for conditional baptism.

Commenting in Rome on Luci's "baptism" Paulist Father Thomas Stransky of Milwaukee, a member of the Vatican's Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, said there is "no reason to doubt" Episcopal baptismal rites and that "indiscriminate" conditional baptism of converts to the Catholic Church is contrary to Vatican decrees.

He pointed out two noted converts from the Episcopal Church who became Catholics without a conditional baptism rite — Blessed Mother Elizabeth Seton, founder of the U.S. Sisters of Charity, and Cardinal

John Henry Newman, saintly scholar of Oxford University. The Gamble Benedict wedding to State policeman Thomas F. Gallagher in a Catholic church at Clinton, N.Y., had to clear the shambles of four previous "marriages" to meet the requirements for a Catholic ceremony.

The 1960 marriage of the heiress to ex-chauffeur Andre Porumbanu was held to be null since he had been bound by a previously valid marriage. Gallagher's circumstances were the same. His former wife, Doris M. Kelly of Syracuse, also had been married previously.

Miss Benedict's 1960 marriage ended in an annulment last October. She was given custody of the two children. A declaration of nullity on Gallagher's first marriage was issued through the Syracuse diocesan marriage tribunal several weeks ago.

Miss Benedict, 24, was left an estimated \$50 million from a fortune built by her grandfather who once headed the Remington Typewriter Co. in Ilion near Clinton. Gallagher, 32, is assigned to state police barracks at New Hartford, N.Y. His 13-year-old daughter, Christine Ann, resides with her mother in Syracuse.



## Boning Up On Spanish

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY of the Mercy nuns who will be heading for their new Chilean mission in August, is tested in the language laboratory at McAuley College. From left are: Sister M. de Porres, Sister M. Canisius, Sister M. Joan and Sister M. Terrance.

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### Lutherans

#### Now Monks

Stockholm — (NC) — Two Swedish Lutherans have become novices at the Catholic Benedictine monastery of Kloster Erlach near Linz, Austria.

They have not been received into the Church but intend to remain Lutherans. When they finish their novitiate they plan to return to Sweden and start a Lutheran religious community that will follow the Benedictine rule.

The two were received at the monastery following an agreement between Bishop Franz Zauner of Linz and Lutheran Bishop Olof Hurrin of Visby, Sweden, who blessed the Benedictine habits the novices were given on their reception at Kloster Erlach.

**Quits Chaplaincy**  
Nijmegen — (NC) — Father W. F. E. Hansen, O.P., has resigned as student chaplain at the Catholic University of Nijmegen. He explained that he found distasteful what he called the mentality of conformism and the "lukewarm and sterile" atmosphere in the student body of 5,000.

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