

Alma Mater Revisited

By Mary Tinley Daly

This post-commencement time in universities, colleges, even some high schools, means reunion for old grads a brief nostalgic, "backward-turn-backward" period if for only a week end.

Hearts quicken in anticipation, yet there's the inevitable self-conscious shyness.

Here we'll be, you think, classmates again after each has long since packed away cap and gown, has "picked up the torch" tossed to that long-ago graduating class by the commencement speaker (What was his name?), and entered "the wide world of challenge."

"The torch," the immediate one, was probably an employment application, transcript for graduate school, a marriage license. Light of that torch has alternately brightened and dimmed, sputtered often but never quite been extinguished.

Now, seemingly eons later, you're back at Alma Mater, back on the campus you know so well. All these new buildings? That's progress for you!

It's a campus strangely quiet, cleared out of present-day students, gussied up for the arrival of the old grads following recent commencement activity, the faculty bone-weary after the academic year but still friendly and welcoming.

You glimpse a favorite teacher, one who remembers you. And another, who even recalls your married name and asks about your children. How do they do it?

Though you're well along in maturity, probably as old now as these teachers were when you sat in their classrooms, the former teacher-student relationship asserts itself and you find yourself somewhat bashful, hesitant, almost tongue-tied in this person-to-person confrontation.

With trepidation, you dress for the class banquet. (Why didn't you start that diet earlier or stick with it more strictly?) Mentally, you go over the roster in the class yearbook, sure you'll remember every classmate, wonder if they'll remember you.

You don't, and neither do they. You rely heavily on the nametags with their large lettering, if you can see them in time.

You find yourself engulfed in a pair of arms. "Connie! I'm so glad to see you!" (Your name is Mary) "Did you marry that boy you were dating?"

Yes, you admit truthfully, you married him. And so, probably, did the unknown "Connie" — at least she must have dated the guy before she married him. Say, come to think of it, perhaps "Connie" didn't marry at all, but it's too late to do any-

thing about that now. Your classmate is affectionately embracing somebody else. (Maybe it's the real Connie!)

Another gives you a peck on the cheek, holds you at arms' length by the shoulders, looks you up and down with the pragmatic:

"My, how you've changed. You really have changed!"

You counter with the cliché that "Time doesn't stand still for any of us, does it?" wondering, however: "Change? For better? For worse? Rationalizing, and to save face, you kid yourself that Ruth, being one of the smarter ones of the class, wouldn't have brought up the matter if the change hadn't been for the better. But you still wonder . . .

You introduce yourself to another, using the name you've had for years, so well known to your creditors, then quickly supply your maiden name.

"Of course! I remember you. You're the one who fainted in biology when we had to cut up the frog!"

That's fame for you.

Gradually, all the old grads get themselves sorted out, and it's almost the same as being back in school again, as tongues clatter getting caught up on what has happened since we flipped those mortarboard tassels.

But not quite.

There is the inevitable sadness at the gasp in the ranks.

Some of the dolls are dolls no longer; some of the quiet, more bookish have blossomed as poised, interesting persons.

One constant you note among what Michael Field calls "The enchanting miracles of change": that those who were kind and charitable as students, have retained and even augmented that virtue. "The greatest of these."

Valuable Books For Nazareth

Sister Helen Daniel, president of Nazareth College, announced last week receipt of a gift of fifty-six books from the Goethe Institute of Munich, Germany to be added to the College Library for the use of Nazareth faculty and students who are engaged in the study of German literature and culture.

The gift was arranged by Dr. Edith Manne of the Nazareth faculty and includes valuable items for reference and research purposes.

Social Club Dates

St. Christopher's Social Club will hold a picnic at Stony Brook state park, Sunday, July 10. Cars will leave St. Michael's church parking lot at 11 a.m. Transportation, \$1.50 per person; picnic donation, \$1.25 for members, \$1.75 for guests. Call Nick Cardinale at GL 8-1220 for information.

A business meeting of the St. Christopher's Social Club is planned for Wednesday, July 13 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Michael's parish hall. Single Catholics between 30 and 45 interested in joining the group are invited to attend. The club is a private diocesan club organized to provide religious-social activities for its members. Father Benedict Ehmann is the club's honorary moderator.



'Father's Love'

Franklin Park, N.J.—(RNS)—This life-size sculpture of the late President Kennedy and his son, John, was dedicated at St. Augustine's parochial school in Franklin Park, N.J., on June 19, Father's Day. The Rev. John J. Reilly, pastor of St. Augustine's and superintendent of the school, said the statue, entitled "Father's Love," is symbolic of the parish's youth program which stresses the relationship between father and son. The white marble sculpture was done by Spartaco Pallà of Pietrasanta, Italy.

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'Parable'

Protestant Film Wins Catholic Theatre Award

New York—(RNS)—The National Catholic Theater Conference will present its 1966 Religious Film Award to "Parable," the controversial movie produced by the Protestant Council of the City of New York and shown at the 1964-65 World's Fair here.

"Parable," is a 22-minute color film, entirely in pantomime, with original music. It has a circus setting with a clown as a "Christ image." The clown has a series of experiences and is subsequently killed. Some objections arose over the depiction of a clown figure as representing Christ.

The Protestant Council, however, has never interpreted the film. It has been described by a council spokesman as "expressive rather than definitive and should be interpreted by each viewer in the light of his own personal feelings, background and experience."

Presentation of the film award by the NCTC will be made during its 21st annual meeting in St. Paul, Minn., Aug. 16-22. It will be accepted by a Protestant Council representative.

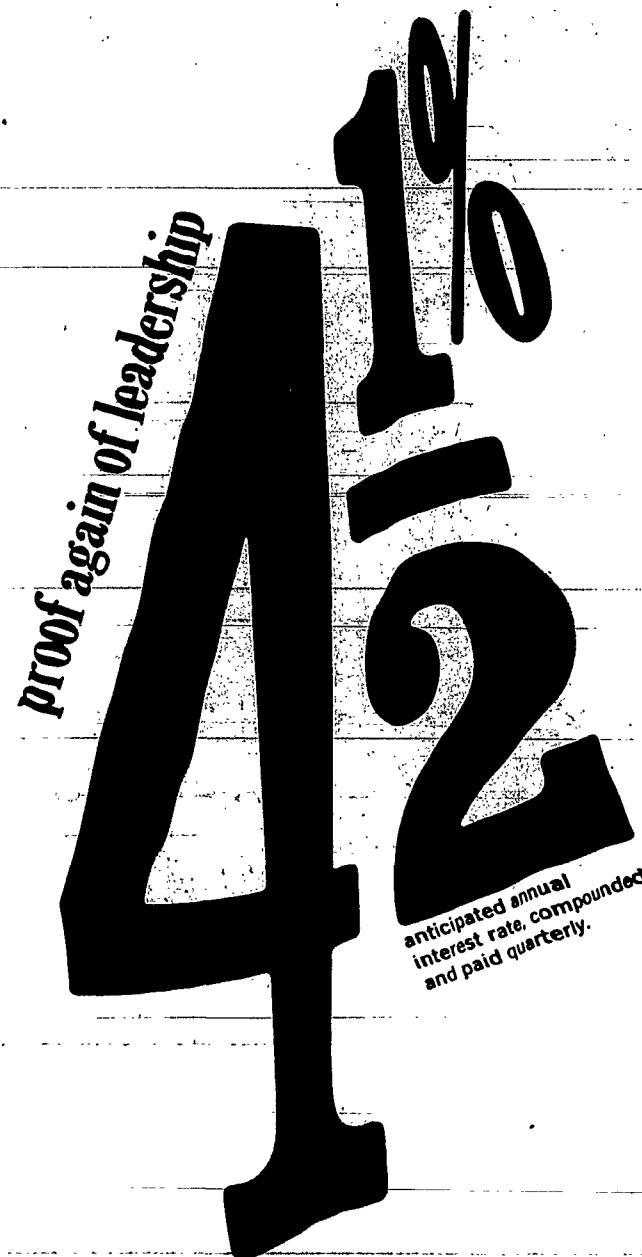
"Parable" has been honored at the Cannes, Venice and Edinburgh Film Festivals. Shown during the World's Fair at the Protestant and Orthodox Center, the movie is being distributed on a rental basis by the Protestant Council.

The English translation of Pope Pius XII's radio address to the entire world June 29 (1941) was given by Father Walter S. Carroll, an American priest attached to the Papal Secretariate of State and a nephew of Thomas E. and John G. Carroll of Rochester.

The Anglican Archbishop of York, Dr. Temple, stressed the need of a true Christian education in all the schools of England at a Church Assembly meeting in London.

To Be Wed

Mr. and Mrs. C. Jack Zites, 2nd Lt. Robert R. Rivers, USMC, 25 Fernboro Rd., have announced the engagement of Rivers Jr., 21 Bridle Path, Al. their daughter, Penelope, to bany.



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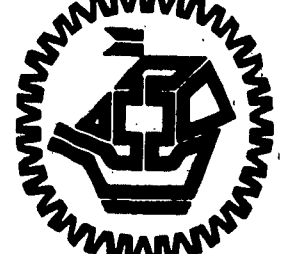
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Theologian

Father Paul E. McKeever of Immaculate Conception Seminary, Huntington, N.Y., was named president of the Catholic Theological Society of America at its 21st annual meeting in Providence, R.I. Elected vice-president was Father Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., of Woodstock (Md.) College. (RNS Photo)

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