The Legion of Mary: 6

Mary in the Apostolate

By WILLIAM W. BUECHEL

(This is the sixth in a series of articles on the Legion of Mary in the Diocese of Rochester. Today's topic deals with devotion to Mary — in the Church, and in the Legion.)

★ ★ ★

Legion of Mary meetings are to be set in an atmosphere reminiscent of the holy house of Nazareth. Mary's statue is given the place of honor and set on a sparkling white cloth with candles and flowers.

No Legionary ever suggests that the statue of Mary be placed under the rug. No Legionary can visualize Christ at the door of the home at Nazareth addressing a friend from the doorway with the words, "Just a moment, please, until I hide My Mother in a closet."

Legionaries meet people, many people, and are therefore aware that there are some Catholics who fear that Mary is being downgraded by the Church, put under the rug, locked in the closet, so as not to offend *non-Catholics who do not* view her with reverence.

Some individual members of the Church may even feel this to be the correct approach to ecumenism; fortunately, these *few individuals are not the* Church.

The documents of Vatican II show clearly the position of the Church. The Council's Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, for example, says clearly:

"The perfect example of this type of spiritual and apostolic life is the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Apostles. While leading on earth a life common to all men, one filled with family concerns and labors, she was always intimately united with her Son and cooperated in the work of the Savior in a manner altogether special. Now that she has been taken up into heaven, with her maternal charity she cares for these brothers of her Son who are still on their earthly pilgrimage and are surrounded by dangers and difficulties; she will care until they are led into their blessed fatherland. All should devoutly venerate her and commend their life and apostolate to her motherly concern."

It is with great interest that members of the Legion of Mary read that paragraph since it affirms so strongly the instructions of the Legion Handbook.

The Legion asks it's members to imitate, to the best of their ability, the spirit, the humility, the sweetness, the courage, and the charity of Mary.

The Catena, composed primarily of Mary's prayer, the Magnificat, is said daily by all members of the Legion, no matter where they are in the world. It is the chain which binds the members together.

The Rosary is said daily by Auxiliary members, and is an integral part of the weekly meetings of active members.

The Legionary Promise is addressed to the Holy Spirit, and reads in part, "But I know that Thou, who hast come to regenerate the world in Christ, Hast not willed to do so except through Mary . . ."

At the Acies, the annual Consecration of Legionaries to Our Lady, each member places his hand upon the Vexillum, the standard of the Legion, and says, "I am all thine, my Queen, my Mother, and all that I have is thine."

Good Pope John XXIII once said, "the Legion of Mary presents the true face of the Church." Perhaps this is because every Legionary feels that when the world reaches out it's hand to Mary, she will clasp it gently and lead the way to her Son.

Next week: Teen-age apostles: the Junior legionaries.

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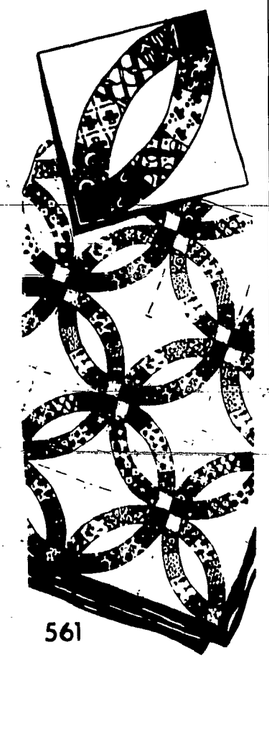

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John E. Reisdorf Rites, Father of Two Nuns

Auburn—Funeral services for John E. Reisdorf, 96, of 247½ Seymour St., were held Sept. 3 in St Aloysius Church. Father Edward A. Shamon, pastor, offered a solemn High Mass of requiem assisted by Father Robert L. Kress as deacon and Father C. Irwin Sullivan as subdeacon.

In the sanctuary were Fathers Leo McManus, Raymond Nolan, Richard Hart, Robert Buckland, Regis, O.Carm., Raymond Wahl and Leo Jones.

Burial was in St. Joseph's Cemetery where prayers were offered by Father Shamon assisted by Fathers McManus, Nolan, Kress and Sullivan.

Sisters of St. Joseph were in attendance.

Mr. Residorf was survived by five daughters: Sister Francis Raphael of St. Ambrose Church, Rochester; Sister Rose Irene of St. Stephen's Church, Geneva; Mrs. Clarence Hayden, and the Misses Katherine and Elizabeth Reisdorf and a sister, Mrs. Robert Kruger, all of Auburn.

Arrangements by Avery E. Neagle Funeral Home.

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