

'On the Rocks'

By Mary Tinley Daly

This column has been asked to comment about "marriage on the rocks" among Catholic couples, the stagnation of a long-time marriage with its wreckage realized only by the husband and wife—though probably suspected by the older children.

This is a large order and one we would not presume to tackle without recourse to wise and scholarly authors who have studied the problems of marriage, particularly Catholic marriage.

From a purely personal viewpoint, one based on experience and observation, it would be that the good old "ounce of prevention" plays a mighty important role: keeping family lines of communication open and operative from the very beginning. A shared religion, experiences, ambition, ideas, friends—and those privately funny family jokes when nobody on the outside knows what you're talking about—all these serve to bulwark a marriage relationship as securely as concrete does for a brick wall. Keep those lines of communication open, and friendly!

Dr. Alphonse H. Clemens in his new edition of "Marriage and the Family," entitled "Design for Successful Marriage" (Prentice-Hall, New York) bring this out when he says, "The middle-age problem, a climax to a process of gradual and mutual withdrawal which has been going on for many years previously, is probably due to breakdown of communication more than to any other cause."

Developing a closeness, a "feeling," as Dr. Clemens describes it, "can only be accomplished if there is verbal communication, both verbal and non-verbal. . . . By sharing work, affection, recreation, and religion, spouses, parents, and children automatically grow to an enhanced knowledge of one another and to a blending of psychological differences."

However, the extent of communication is limited by such sharing of external actions. One can very effectively block off others from closeness unless internal sharing is added to external sharing. This implies the revelation of one's innermost thoughts, ambitions, goals, sentiments, and feelings, which can best be accomplished by verbal communication. Converting together in family life assumes, accordingly, tremendous importance.

This is but one aspect. "In the Divine Plan," says Dr. Clemens, "marriage was not intended to be successful without the aid of religion, nothing more important for marital adjustment and success: Religion was to teach the truths by which marriage should live and prosper; it was to afford both the supernatural aids of the Mass, the sacraments, the sacraments, prayer and sacrifice, and the natural aids which are the practical effects of charity. Religion was to afford that supernatural point of view which would insure adjustment, peace, and harmony despite difficulties. It was to hold firm to the sacredness of marriage and its benefits, to its unity and stability, when secularism would deny them all."

A recently published book by another eminent Catholic layman, William A. Lynch, M.D., "A Marriage Manual for Catholics" (Trident Press, New York) is, as Richard Cardinal Cushing says in its foreword, "a reverent, practical, and realistic source of information about the physical, emotional, and esthetic aspects of marriage. A practical, positive book, the manual covers a wide range of subjects related to marriage, most of them not in the problem area."

A scientific, thoroughly readable volume by Father John L. Thomas, S.J., is "The American Catholic Family," published in 1956 by Prentice-Hall. A comprehensive reference study of marriage and the family, it deserves a place on the library shelves of every Catholic family seriously interested in making a success of marriage and family living in a truly Christian atmosphere. Its five parts give a notion of the scope: Minority Survival in a Complex Society, The Catholic Concept of Marriage, Characteristics of the American Catholic Family, Family Breakdown, and Programs for Survival.

We cannot close without mention of "The Catholic Family Handbook" (Random House, New York) by Msgr. George A. Kelly, dealing more with the rearing of Catholic children than with the marriage partners themselves, but a complete book on practical guidance and inspiration on all phases of family life.

Help is available in these and other texts for those whose marriage is "on the rocks" or approaching such a state.



St. Louis Rosary Guild membership tea Sunday, Sept. 25, has been arranged by Mrs. Walter Shea, Mrs. Charles Kenning, Mrs. Alex Bochetto and Mrs. Raymond Blum.

were outlined by Mrs. Eugene at the 33rd Convention of the Mryzka Miss Josephine and National Council of Catholic Women Oct. 5-8 in Miami Beach, Florida.

99th Birthday Marked By Mrs. Thomas A. Kane

Geneva — Mrs. Thomas A. Kane of 36 Genesee St., celebrated her 99th birthday on Friday, Sept. 16, at her home. She is the mother of the late Judge Thomas A. Kane of Geneva.

A family birthday supper was held for Mrs. Kane and a decorated birthday cake was prominent in the table decorations. In fairly good health, Mrs. Kane maintains a deep interest in the community and national affairs. Although her eyesight has failed somewhat, she still reads the newspaper and keeps up on events by using magnifying glasses.

MRS. KANE was born in Aurora, Cayuga County, the daughter of Cornelius and Alice Dwyer. She received a musical education at Wells College, Aurora, and finished at the old Cayuga Lake Academy in Aurora. She was married to Thomas A. Kane in St. Francis de Sales Church in Geneva on Oct. 29, 1890. She came to Geneva when she was about 18 years

old and became organist of St. Francis de Sales Church, a position which she held for more than 50 years. She was honored with a citation for her work by the late Monsignor Walter J. Lee, former pastor of the church.

Mrs. Kane is a member of the Rosary Society of St. Francis de Sales; of the Catholic Daughters of America; and was also an organizer of the local unit of the Rochester Diocesan Council, National Council of Catholic Women. She was president of the latter unit and was active in church circles and civic organizations.

She was purchasing commissioner for the old Geneva City Hospital for a number of years; was a member of the Visiting Managers of Newark State School; member of the Mental Hygiene After Care Committee of Willard State Hospital; and a member of the Child Welfare Board of Ontario County.

Mrs. Kane is the mother of the late Judge Kane and the late Miss Ellen Kane.

What's New in the Parishes

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, Rochester. Holy Name Society officers installed by Father Joseph Bealini, pastor; Joseph Gilano, president; Fred DiGrazia, 1st vice president; Frank Perno, 2nd vice president; Anthony Sofia, treasurer; Carl Taddeo, secretary; Joseph Rizzari, marshal.

ST. THEODORE, Rochester. Rosary and Altar Society installation banquet Wednesday, Sept. 28 at Logan's, Scottsville Rd. at 6:30 p.m. New slate: Mrs. Thomas Vaccarelli, president; Mrs. Sam Palma, vice president; Mrs. James Kane, recording secretary; Mrs. Clemens Dobbertin-treasurer; Mrs. William DiBacco, corresponding secretary; Mrs. John Huether, chairman; Mrs. Carl Blind, toastmistress; Dr. M. J. Gornican, guest speaker.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL, Rochester. Rosary and Altar Society dessert card party Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 1 p.m. in auditorium. Table prizes.

MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD, Rochester. Sacred Heart League meeting Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 8 p.m. in auditorium. New officers: Mrs. John Finzi, president; Mrs. Ralph Gordon, vice president; Mrs. Albert Cosmano, secretary; James Calandra, treasurer.

ST. JOSEPH, Livonia. Rosary-Altar Society meeting Wednesday, Oct. 5 at 7:45 p.m. Living Rosary in church hall by Mrs. Thomas McManara and her band. New officers: Mesdames Joseph Ferlicca, Donald Auble, Robert Nasonovich and Samuel Cicero.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, Rochester. Rosary Society Pot Luck Supper Monday, Sept. 26 at 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker, Mrs. Stanley Sanders, International Friendship Council.

ST. SALOME, Rochester. Mission Society desert luncheon and card party Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 12:30 p.m. Reservations by Sept. 28, Mrs. Leo Henrick, HO 7-2242. Communion and breakfast Sunday, Sept. 30, HO 7-8358 or HO 7-2442. Mrs. Dazil La Rose, chairman.

ANNUNCIATION, Rochester. Rosary Guild meeting Sept. 27 at 8 p.m. in church hall. Arnold Cicciocci, guest speaker. Mrs. Luke Grande, hostess. New officers: Mesdames Nicholas Crisci, Sam Aloi, Edwin Goodman, Frank Viola, Dominic Tiano, Robert Mapes, Aurelia Guarino and Thomas Colombo.

ST. LOUIS, Pittsford. Membership tea Sunday, Sept. 25 from 3 to 5 p.m. at home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Kerning, 23 Old Farm Circle. Chairmen: Mesdames Walter Shea, Raymond Blum, Orlando Ferrone, Syl Novelli and Edward Shaub. Guild officers will act as reception committee.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE, Rochester. Home School Association meeting Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 8:30 p.m. in school hall following open house in school to meet Sister Mary Christine, principal, and faculty. Officers: Clement Crowley, president; Gardner Wales, vice president; Donald Foley, treasurer; Mrs. Robert Treacy, secretary. Chairmen: Richard Brookins, Mrs. William Archibald, Mrs. Marquis Paul, Mrs. Thomas Kerwick.

HOLY APOSTLES, Annual Communion and Breakfast for this parish's Legion of Mary

ST. JASAPHAT, Irondequoit. St. Anne Society Fashion Show Friday, Sept. 30 at 8:15 p.m. Harold Berman, Berman's Furs and Sportswear, commentator. Chairmen: Mesdames Stephen Behley, Andrew Skar, Walter Sweryda, Alfred Skar, John Uliano, Charles Bastuk, Steve Andrews, Ronald Pasmak and Diane Graziano. Refreshments. Entertainment, Joanne Hartman.

ST. MARY, Canandaigua. Rosary Altar Society rummage sale Sept. 30 at former McElwee store. Mother-Daughter Communion Breakfast Oct. 9, at American Legion following 7:45 a.m. Mass.

HOLY GHOST Sacred Heart Society card party Wednesday, Sept. 28.

ST. JANUARIUS, Naples. Grape Festival Day, Saturday, Sept. 24. Beef barbecue supper 4 to 6 p.m. Dr. William Lyon, Mrs. Paul Smith, chairmen. Tours will be conducted through new church.

HOLY CROSS, Rochester. A Catholic Education for Freedom caucus Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 8 p.m. to be sponsored by Holy Cross Parish Board of Education. Paul Brayer, past president of the New York State Federation of C.E.F., guest speaker. C.E.F. members and all others interested are invited.

ST. HELEN, Rochester. Altar and Rosary Society Fall Fashion Show Oct. 5 at 8 p.m. in the school auditorium. Tracy Ann Fashions, Westgate Plaza; hairstyles by Style Manor. Commentator, Jerry Carr. Donation, \$1. Refreshments.

ST. LUCY, Retef. A flag presentation service took place at Mass celebrated by Father Charles Reynolds, pastor on Sept. 18. Participating were members of McQuaid General Assembly, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus from Danville in full regalia. Color guard comprised Colonel Clarence Gessner of Wayland, Captain Clyde Smith of Danville and Sam Tanwells, Mt. Morris. Lieut. Harter Miller of Perkinsville and William Ryan, Edward Schledron, Danville, and Bernard Ryan, Genesee; Anthony LaBarbera, Nick Tennant and Charles Garozzo, Mt. Morris. An American flag was presented to St. Lucy Church by the Noble-Sanzara Post, American Legion of Retef represented by William Felt, James Accenti and Anthony Giglio. A Papal Flag was donated by St. Lucy's Rosary Society.

ST. THERESA, Stanley. St. Mary, Ruhville. Rosary Society of both parishes met Wednesday, Sept. 14. Plans for a steak roast for women of the two parishes, their husbands and friends, Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. at the rectory meeting room, were made. Chairman and committee are: Mrs. Richard Reifsteck and Mesdames William Dannahee, Joseph Valesko and Thomas Goman. Officers for 1966-1967 are: Mrs. Joseph Valesko, Mrs. Dennis McNamara, Mrs. Clement Hill and Mrs. Emmett Daller. Meeting nights are second Wednesday in the month.

ST. STANISLAUS Holy Name of Mary Society new officers were installed in the church before meeting in school hall Sept. 13, by Father John Karp. Seated in office were: Mrs. Peter Zernialis, president; Mrs. John Czerwinski, vice president; Mrs. Daniel Gudell, recording secretary; Mrs. Catharine Amara, treasurer; Mrs. Charles Vorn-dran, financial secretary; Mrs. Frank Sokol, marshal. Plans for Harvest Bazaar in November

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP, Rochester. Ladies Catholic Benevolent Association supper meeting Monday, Sept. 26 in parish hall at 6 p.m. Rosary followed by business meeting. Mrs. Niemtjps, president, social hour, branch 977.

ST. JEROME, East Rochester. Tureen supper Monday, Sept. 26 at 8:30 p.m. Hostess: Leora Donatoni, president of Rosary Society. Guests requested to bring dish to pass and place setting.

MT. CARMEL, Rochester. Rummage Sale, Friday, Sept. 23 in school hall from 4 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 24 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at 55 Ontario St. Clothing for adults and children.

ST. MARGARET MARY, Rochester. Altar and Rosary Society rummage sale Sept. 28 and 27. Mrs. Thomas Plumb, chairman.

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