



FROM INDIA are Sisters Selka, Edith, Therese Mary and Mary Attracta.



FROM JAPAN is Miyuki Mashiyama and from Thailand, Nuchanat Palakawongs and Araya Kongsmai.

First Communion Day 'Too Spanish' At Nazareth

By AUGUSTO MILANA

Gaeta, Italy — (NC) — The scene is repeated every year. While young voices rise in a hymn to the Eucharist, rows of children approach the altar for the first time, under the proud gaze of their parents and relatives.

For most of these children, it is the happiest day of their young lives. But for some, the joy of this first encounter with Christ in the Eucharist is smothered beneath humiliation and perhaps envy. They are not dressed as well as their companions.

ACCORDING TO Bishop Lorenzo Gargiulo of Gaeta, "first communion, like other religious feasts, is taking on great deal of paganism. This is a result of greater prosperity in recent times among some sectors of the population, and a forgetfulness of the meaning the ceremony used to have."

Even the children whose parents can dress them beautifully, the bishop says, become so immersed in their own finery that they are distracted from the religious meaning of the ceremony.

Italian custom dictates that children prepared for their first Communion be dressed as brides and grooms, or else in the habit or cassock of a priest or religious. In many cases, such uniforms are expensive and elaborate and sometimes beyond the means of the family whose children wear them. And since it is generally a significant investment for the family, they make the most of it and usually pay a photographer to record the event and the costume in detail.

The first priest in this area to forbid photographs during the ceremony was Father Mauro Mancini, of the nearby town of Itri, who was particularly anxious that flashbulbs not mar the solemnity of the moment when the children were actually receiving Communion.

He forbade this prevalent custom "in the most categorical way," he said, "because the children's minds were being distracted from the greatness and importance of the moment in which they were receiving the Body of Christ for the first time by having to pose for photographers."

The whole question of first Communion clothing, according to Father Giuseppe Parissi of St. Mary Major church here, "is full of difficulties. Every year there are cases of boys and girls who do not want to receive Communion because they are ashamed of their clothes, and it is not easy to convince them that clothes are mere externals and have no importance. We have been compelled in these instances to turn to kind people, asking them to donate money so that such children's families can buy clothes they could not otherwise afford."

Sometimes these uniforms are themselves passed from one family to another. But according to Claudia Milana, president of the women's section of the local Catholic Action organization, "this is a tricky matter. The children must be kept from knowing they are wear-

'Around the World' At Nazareth

Students from several foreign countries are attending Nazareth College this year.

From south of the border, three countries are represented: Helene Wilkie from Trinidad, Lucille Chung from Jamaica, both of whom will receive their degrees in 1967, and plan to return to their homes to work in their own countries.

Also Marie Jose Macedo, a freshman who comes to Nazareth from Sao Simao, State of Goias, Brazil. Miss Macedo has been working with the Sisters of Saint Joseph in their Brazilian mission in Matara and Sao Simao since the mission was opened in 1965.

Cheum Kim, whose home is in Seoul, Korea, spent last year at Penfield High School as an exchange student. She is a graduate of the Seoul High School of Music and Art and is now a freshman in the Nazareth College Art Department. Miss Kim

lives with Mr. and Mrs. John Riddle, Jr., 1756 Jackson Road, Penfield.

Two freshmen from Bangkok, Thailand—Araya Kongsmai and Nuchanat Palakawongs—spent their senior year at St. Joseph's Academy in Malone in preparation for the college work.

Japan is represented at Nazareth by Miyuki Mashiyama, a sophomore. Second in a class of 150 at Koen Girls' School in Tokyo, Miyuki plans to be a Sociology major at Nazareth.

Four nuns from India are among the interesting foreign visitors at Nazareth this year: Sister Selka, Sister Edith and Sister Therese Mary from Kerala and Sister Mary Attracta from Mysore. These four sisters have studied at Macaulay College and are now working for their degrees at Nazareth.

Another freshman, whose home is now in Saudi Arabia, is

Mary Ellen Bowman, daughter of Barbara Kelley Bowman, an alumna. Her father has been connected for a number of years with the Arabian-American Oil Company ARAMCO in Rastan, Saudi Arabia. Mary Ellen spent her senior year at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Portsmouth, Rhode Island.

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Corning, Painted Post Form Adoration Society Unit

Blessed Sacrament Father Hector C. Lemieux of New York City presented the charter to the newly formed unit of the Nocturnal Adoration Society in the Corning, Painted Post area.

At the same time, 135 men of southern tier parishes were enrolled as charter members.

The men attended a breakfast following Mass together at St. Vincent de Paul's Church, Corning, where the devotion of monthly, hour-long adoration will be held. Members are di-

vided into groups to take turns in the devotion which runs from late Saturday evening through to Sunday morning.

Father Lemieux, in his talk, encouraged the new members to fidelity in their commitment and described the strength soldiers and their families gained from devotion to the Blessed Sacrament during World War II.

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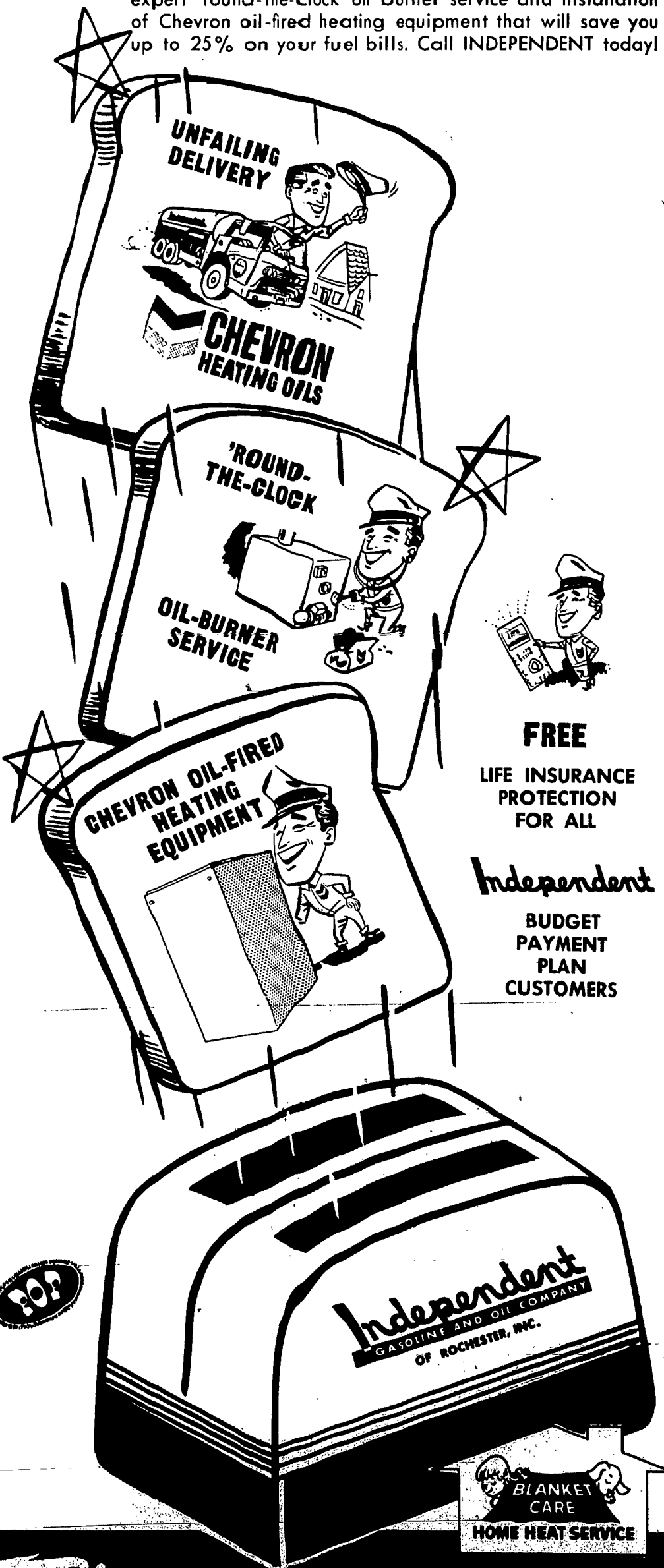


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