

Lord, Help Me Stop Kicking the Bathroom Scale

Catholic Press Features

Gladwyne, Pa.—Busy housewives and mothers who think they can find neither the time nor the inspiration to pray every day are just not paying enough attention to their bathroom scales, the supermarket check-out line, the skin cream, the shoe polish the 4-year-old spilled on the rug, that broken string of imitation pearls, and over-stuffed closets.

Jean Reynolds Davis, wife of

an Episcopal minister, mother of two boys, writer, musician and composer, dashes off prayer ideas like favorite recipes in a book titled "To God with Love," a collection of casual "letters to God from a busy housewife and mother."

Take that irritating, slow-moving supermarket line:

"Why couldn't you have seen to it, Lord, that all check-out girls in supermarkets have six arms? I'm in such a hurry

today... That woman ahead of me: she must think she's going to be snowbound for the rest of the winter. Two shopping carts full!... And now, while my lowly pot roast is drying up in the Dutch oven, she's stopping to sort out her detergent coupons! Some people just don't care about the rest of the world...

"Lord, would you believe? That gaunt, gaunt old man behind me—he's been there all the time, patient as you

please, while I stand here and gripe. What's that he's got in his hands? Isn't that a combination? A carton of cigarettes and a box of dried prunes. I guess that's what fate may hold for all of us someday. I've got to slow down, Lord, and learn some consideration for others so that when I'm next in line with my box of prunes, I can wait my turn with proper humility."

In another of her "love letters," she tells of scolding her son for spilling shoe polish on a rug and sending him to his room. Later, when she says she forgives him and says he can come back down, she is surprised at the boy's reluctance to stop crying and come out of his room. She suddenly realizes that it is because she has not demonstrated her forgiveness, and so she runs up to his room, hugs him, kisses him, rocks him a few minutes and together they start working to clean out the stain.

That letter closes:

"And then, I could begin to understand—in some elementary way—why you had to come to earth. We had to know that we were forgiven. We were childish and unbelieving. We had to know your presence. And Jesus had to rush to us, here in our very own world, sweep us up in his arms, show us your love for us, prove to us that we truly are forgiven."

Cleaning out a closet loaded with old baby toys, sea shells, pebbles, jars and old Valentines prompts her to pray for "plenty of help in sorting out my life intelligently so that I may know keep from hoard, save from give. Come into my closet, Lord, and help me sweep it clean."

Her son's gift to her of a broken string of pearls, purchased at his school's "Trash and Treasure" bazaar, suggests a conversation with God that goes: "How many times do I bring you broken strings of pearls, Lord? Disjointed prayers, false adorations, lives come unstrung. And you take them as gifts, assuring me that once they are threaded back together, they will be pleasing to you."

Other prayers in her household litany include:

"Lord, as I daily dab myself with ointments, creams, and perfumes, why can't I realize that 'you' in me does not always need adorning, if I can just let it be seen?"

"Lord, thank you for your gifts of good food and appetite by which I may truly enjoy that food. Help me to be thankful for the one and to exercise discretion in control of the other. And O Lord, help me to stop kicking the bathroom scale."



President Honored

President Johnson receives a bronze plaque in the form of an open book from the Catholic College Coordinating Council for his "innovative and massive" assistance to education. Making the presentation is the CCCC president, Father Edmund Haughey of Stonehill College in North Easton, Mass. Looking on are two other officials of the Catholic organization: Sister Wanda of Albernia College in Reading, Pa., and Catherine Casciato of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. (RNS)

Will Benefits Three Colleges

St. Bernard's Seminary, St. John Fisher College and Nazareth College will share equally the bulk of an estate valued at \$341,773 left by Elizabeth A. McSweeney, 92, who died Mar. 12, 1968.

Miss McSweeney, who lived at St. Ann's Home, 1550 Portland Ave., was a retired social worker for what is now the Rochester Catholic Family Center.

Fourteen organizations will receive a total of \$14,000 in specific bequests, and relatives and friends will get a total of \$34,500. The residue will go to the three educational institutions.

CHRISTMAS SHOW

All the delights of "Christmas on Grandfather's Farm" will be seen in the film on the Family Program at Rochester Museum and Science Center on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 22 at 2:30 p.m. and again at 3:30 p.m.


'Buttons' to Play For Kearney Dance

The annual semi-formal dance at Bishop Kearney High School Dec. 30 will feature a "rock" group for the first time.

The Brass Buttons will perform against a background inspired by Charles Dickens' "Christmas Carol." Ray DiBlase has charge of the decorative setting, and Anita D'Amrosia,

of tickets. Other chairmen include Corky Vigna and Peggy Sloane.

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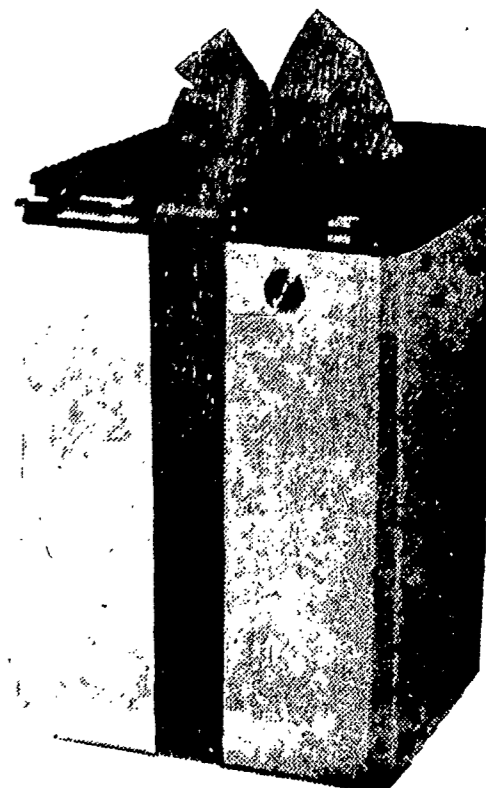
be a good guy



It's that time of year when all the kinfolk gather round the chuck wagon to put on the feed bag. And when chow time is over and they all head for the south forty for an afternoon of fun and games, you can bet that Ma's left behind to wash dishes.

Pardner, this is the year to take the buckboard on into town and lasso one of them automatic dishwashers for Christmas. It will keep Ma's "sky from becoming cloudy all day"—every day of the year. Be a good guy. See your appliance dealer soon.

give her a DISHWASHER
see your Appliance Dealer



Merry Christmas

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