

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Ever Take Your Baby to Church?

By Sarah Child

It wasn't too long ago that a young aunt of mine stood up during the sermon in the small mission church and prepared to take out her irascible toddler who she felt had been disturbing the others about her.

Without missing a beat, the Franciscan who'd been coming to us for the last 20 years, stopped her in her tracks by noting to everybody's immense glee but my aunt's, "That baby isn't bothering anybody. I can remember when you used to make more noise than that."

The church nursery service hasn't been around that long. Champion cut-up in our family was my young brother Sam. At age two, Sam one fine Sunday disappeared underneath the kneeler in the rear pew where my parents were sitting and surfaced several minutes later in the front of the church, somewhat dusty from checking out the underpinnings of every pew in line.

Our first child, a church goer from nine months of age, distinguished herself when the Communion Bells rang out at her first time at Mass.

"Huddo" she yelled out in response to what sounded like the telephone.

All this came back to me a couple of weeks ago after attending a Mass in a little

church outside Albany. It was our first trip to visit her children's Grandma in her new home and thus a different church and when she suggested that we go to Mass first and she would babysit, I pooh poohed the idea.

"Come, let's all go together," I said, "we don't see you that often."

"If the baby should act up," I added, confident that he'd be quiet, "I can always go out with him."

(In our own parish we have a church nursery for two of the most popular Masses and I had forgotten what it was like to take 18 month old John to Mass.)

And so we set out on a spring morning for the church, a distance so short that it was possible to walk, it adding to our enjoyment of the day.

But once inside the enjoyment was short lived. John tasted for all of three minutes. He grew increasingly loud and by the time our young, curly headed and zealous priest began delivering a sermon I really wanted to hear, our John had started acrobatics accompanied by singing.

When the people behind us began singing and a little girl two seats in front of us turned around to stare I sat tight. But my husband began to fidget.

"Better get him out of here", he whispered. I stood up.

Without changing his sermon-pace, the curly headed priest ordered in what seemed like stentorian tones:

"Don't take that child out. It's not necessary."

I sat down, red-faced, muttering under my breath: "Good heavens, Father I wish you'd let me be the judge of that."

During the rest of the sermon as the priest's voice rose so did John's. He sensed the contest. I pleaded softly, I caajoled in vain. He dove head first out of my arms into the pew ahead of us. Brought back, he twisted about in order to gabble to those behind us. He flirted with the little girl who was frowning at him. And when in frustration I squeezed his pudgy little leg somewhat harder than I might have, he squealed with every ounce of revenge he could muster.

At Communion time, John in arms, we went to the rail. The young priest stopped before us, shook his head at John. John looked quite audibly and then flashed us a commiserating smile.

At end of Mass I looked for the priest hoping to apologize. He was nowhere in sight. Somehow I feel we all learned a little something about babies that day. Never, but never, put 'em to the test.

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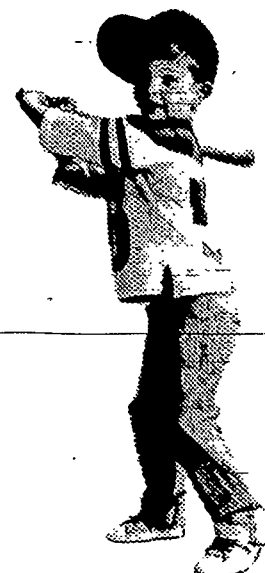
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By Ruth DeMallie



MRS. JOHNSTON SAYS:

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Glamour is traditionally associated with holidays and special occasions and on this we all seem to agree, and deck ourselves accordingly. But what about day-in-day-out good grooming and glamour? Isn't it important to look fresh, attractive and smart when visiting the shopping centers and driving the children about? Should you look less lovely for your family and neighbors than at a cocktail party? We say, NO!

Men have more than hinted about their dislike of curlers, and some types of casual dress. . . . Get the message, gals? Why look less than the image you have tried to create?

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ABOUT THOSE (infernal) rollers . . . You can have lots less to do with them, and look much better than ever. How? A wig, wiglet, cascade or fall to pop on whenever your hair isn't just the way you like.

PEOPLE DO NOTICE how you look, and summertime is the time when more of us is seen. Remember the head-to-toe picture you present — are you in rollers, rumpled outfit, sloppy shoes? Or have you given some thought to the life-saving hairpiece, the drip-dry type of outfit that look good with little care, and shoes and feet that are well groomed, too!

GLAMOUR RATINGS soar upward with a trip to DEONE'S, Greece Towne Mall, 227-1360. Open even. Just inside west entrance. . . . Follow your nose to the sweet scent of perfume and you will find Mary Johnston and her staff awaiting with cosmetics, wigs and hairpieces and great suggestions to make you look good.



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