



**St. Agnes Festival**

The St. Agnes Madrigal Singers and other choral groups directed by Sister Virginia Hogan will perform at the school's annual Fine Arts Festival, at 8:15 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 15-16. Art work will be displayed in the gymnasium before the concert and during intermission, at 300 East River Rd.

**Balancing the Books**

**New English Bible  
Signal Success**

By Father John S. Kennedy

Almost 25 years in the making, "The New English Bible" (Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, \$9.95) is now complete. The New Testament section has been available to readers for some years, and has worn well. The Old Testament has just been published along with it, and the whole undertaking can be pronounced a signal success. It meets the standards set when the work was first proposed. The translation is a completely fresh one from the original languages, not a revision or updating of any previous English version. The aim was to put the original in contemporary English, avoiding both archaisms and present-day expressions which might soon be obsolete.

The translation of each book of the Bible went through several stages. First, a specially qualified person was appointed to perform the task. Then, what he produced was carefully reviewed by a panel of scholarly experts.

When, after detailed discussion, they reached an agreement to which the translator assented, the revised manuscript went to a panel of literary advisers. Their amended version was returned to the translating panel. The final form was decided upon by both panels jointly.

Many people have labored on this project, but the result is anything but labored. The translation reads well. It proceeds easily, as for example, in those verses in Proverbs which describe a capable wife.

The tasks of today's housewife are considerably different from those of her counterpart in ancient Palestine. And the renderings of this passage with which we are familiar are likely to be either incomprehensible in some respects or grotesque in the translator's striving for a modern equivalent.

But here there is no attempt to modernize the housewife; rather, the concern is to make what is said of her intelligible.

In the account of the Annunciation, Mary asks, "How can this be? I am still a virgin." And when the explanation is given, she says, "Here I am. I am the Lord's servant; as you have spoken, so be it."

Everyone will have to try out this translation for himself. We predict that most will approve it, and that it will serve with distinction its purpose of laying open the Scripture to the man of our day.

Anyone who takes up "The Secret Archives of the Vatican" (Little, Brown, 34 Beacon St., Boston, Mass. 02106, \$10), written by Luisa Ambrosini with the assistance of Mary Willis, may suppose that a treasury of discreditable secrets is going to be laid open to him. The title seems to promise an expose.

There are indeed secret archives of the Vatican, but there is nothing sinister about them. They are, in the author's judgment, "perhaps the most important archives of the world," containing some 25 miles of bookshelves laden with parchment and paper manuscripts of great historical value.

Mrs. Ambrosini concludes that the real value of the archives "is not in intellectual discovery but in the sense of the past that they give us, the rich regretful wisdom of our long human experience."

James Dickey, a widely acclaimed poet, produces his first novel in "Deliverance" (Houghton Mifflin, 2 Park St., Boston, Mass. 02107, \$5.95), and already it has won him lustrous fresh laurels. Although acknowledging the excellence of the writing, this department is not joining the dancing in the streets. What Mr. Dickey gives us here is an adventure story. Four men, verging on middle age, residents of a city in Northern Georgia, take a canoe trip down a wild river through a section of rugged country about to be obliterated under the waters of an artificial lake.

While ready to grant Mr. Dickey high marks for the suspense he achieves and for riveting the reader's attention through page after hammering page, one finds the story lacking in spiritual dimension.

These men go through an experience calculated to plumb and scour their inner being, yet there is no evidence that any change is wrought in them, that they derive any wisdom from it.

**Tryouts Open**

Tryouts for this year's productions by the Storytellers' Summer Playhouse will be held Tuesday, May 19 and Thursday, May 21 at 7 p.m. in the St. Agnes High School auditorium, 300 East River Road. Boys and girls, ages 10 to 20, are welcome to these auditions; they should have a prepared vocal solo or dance routine, and will also be tested on dramatic ability.

The workshop for "Tom Sawyer" runs from June 22 to the performances on July 9 and 10. The first two weeks of the workshop will be held every weekday morning; the third week's session will be every weekday evening from 6-9:30.

The same schedule — two weeks of morning and one week of evening sessions — will be followed for "The Wizard of Oz," starting on July 6 and going until the performances on July 23, 24.

The third workshop is geared for high school and college students who may be working or attending summer school during the day, with sessions in the evening, starting on June 22, and ending with the performances on July 16, 17.

**WEE PALS**

By Morrie Turner



**TWO FOR THE MONEY**

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