



# THE SLOT MAN

## Carmen Viglucci

My grandmother used to hand-stitch major league baseballs. She did it "piece-work" at home. I know it doesn't seem likely now that baseballs intended for the use of the Bob Fellers and Joe DiMaggios of the world were actually the handiwork of little old Italian women in south end ghettos. Yet that's how it was.

Most of the time Grandma used to return even her rejects to the baseball factory but on rare occasion we would get one — when the leather cover wouldn't stretch enough or when she made a mistake in stitching. They were pure white, red-stitched spheres of hope.

Later, we actually got to live near the baseball factory and many a day was spent searching through the waste barrels, hoping to come up with the barest facsimile of a baseball.

When it came to actually playing the game we more often than not used a taped ball. Sometimes we could afford to buy a new, cheap baseball but they soon lost their covers and remained usable only through the use of black electric tape. Other times we used to buy what were known as "nickel rockets." That's how much they cost and that's how long they lasted.

Still later when I began to play on some "real" sandlot teams, I had a manager named Jigger Hayes. Whenever he needed a new baseball he would send me "downstreet" with the princely sum of about \$2 to get an "official" American League ball.

They had them at the Albany Hardware and Iron, each ball wrapped in tissue inside its own so-dignified box. On the way home, I would open the box and sniff the ball. Visions of the Babe, Hank Greenberg, Ted Williams and hometown favorites such as Jimmy Cullinane and Ralph Kiner.

In those days black players weren't in organized baseball and it's a little saddening to think how much more enjoyment "the game" would have provided if they had been.

## Mercy Sister Takes Vows

Sister Theresa Rutty made her final profession of vows in the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester on Sunday, Oct. 7. The profession took place at an afternoon Eucharistic liturgy at the Mercy Motherhouse on Blossom Road.

Fr. James Ruddick, SJ, Sister Theresa's foster-brother, was the principal celebrant. He is rector of the Jesuit community at Canisius College, Buffalo.

Sister Theresa is the daughter of the late John F. Rutty and Mrs. Ann Smith of Batavia, and the foster daughter of Mrs. Mary Ruddick of Elmira. She entered the Mercy Congregation in 1964 and made her first temporary commitment in 1967. She was graduated from SUNY at Brockport in 1972 with a B.A. in psychology. She has taught at St. Michael's in Newark and at St. Thomas the Apostle, and now is teaching at St. Andrew's.

### MARIAN DEVOTIONS

Auburn — Marian devotions are held 7:30 p.m. Wednesday evenings during October at St. Aloysius Church. Holy Hour consists of rosary, scripture reading, Communion, benediction.

For instance imagine how much less this World Series would be without Reggie Jackson, Vida Blue, Cleon Jones and even the aging Willie Mays, who at 42 is still generating excitement.

Yes, even the good old days could have been a lot better.

**Milwaukee [RNS]** — The National Conference of Catholic Charities adopted a resolution at its 59th annual meeting here that criticized the Nixon administration for its budget priorities and asked Congress to take money from the military and other programs and use it to fill human needs.

There is no way we can meet the needs of the people without a reallocation of federal funds," said Father Joseph Sullivan of the Brooklyn diocese, the new president of NCCC.

## Charities Head Hits Nixon Policies

The conference also approved resolutions asking Congress to institute a "human care system" that is less complicated, more equitable and "truly responsive to human dignity," urging adequate health care especially for low and fixed income groups, and requesting steps to alleviate the housing crisis and unemployment.

Father Sullivan said in his acceptance speech that 1974 goals of the conference included bettering the quality of life for

the poor, the family, youth and the aged.

He said: the goal would necessitate "conscientizing of our Catholic people and all men of good will; that is, developing a true social awareness of the condition of the poor, the family, youth and aged at the parish and neighborhood level. It necessitates study, the involvement of Catholic Charities' professional staffs and community people in the critical analysis of the local situation."

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