



Music Lovers

Photo by Susan McKinney

Tonya Harrington, (left) and Christine Stavish, both second graders at St. Mary's School, Dansville, follow the words intently as they sing along with the rest of the school at a recent assembly. The session, led by Fran Schram, who directs some Sunday masses, and organist Mrs. Roxanne Moyer, was for the purpose of helping school children learn words and music to Sunday Mass hymns.

### ON THE RIGHT SIDE

#### Father Paul J. Cuddy

What ever happened to May devotions?

That's the trouble. Nothing! By a quiet "doing nothing" precious devotions in honor of the Blessed Mother began to disappear.

But these devotions were beautiful.

Aye, and edifying. Saint Paul constantly uses the term "to edify," i.e. to build up. He instructs the people to edify, i.e. to build up the Mystical Body of Christ, to build up the local parishes, to build up one's own spiritual life.

However, by a subtle neglect, good customs and habits disappear. For example, I do not know of any directive telling our youngsters not to bow their heads at the Holy Name of Jesus. But few children today are trained to do so. Consequently that Name above all names is spoken with the casualness one uses with names like Joe Doakes or Archie Bunker. No liturgical directive has come forbidding us to strike our breast at the Mea Culpa, or at the Lord I Am Not Worthy. Nevertheless, this dramatic symbolism of penitence and humility has pretty much ceased to be practiced. I think people have lost a psychological tiger in their spiritual tanks when they quit these external actions. External actions intensify internal convictions and emotions. Why do you think a wife rightly expects a loving hug from her husband?

What has that to do with May devotions?

By a quiet disuse, May devotions are ceasing to be. In these days of boundless surveys, this would make an interesting survey. "How many Catholic schools have Our Lady's May shrine in their class-rooms? How many Catholic school and CCD teachers have encouraged parents and children to make a May shrine for home? What has replaced this pious custom? With all the talk about "involvement" what involvement is more attractive to children? They want to do something they are able to do, and to experience. Frequently, at hospitals, mothers show me with radiant eyes some home-made "Mommy, I love you" cards which their children made. Don't you think the May shrines and the children's bringing gifts of flowers to their Blessed Mother is an edifying practice? Default is a form of sloth. Sloth is the 7th deadly sin — and most indolent. The trouble with the world is apathy. But who cares? Until we care, the individual, the Church and

the Community continue to suffer.

Didn't Vatican II put the quietus on devotion to Mary?

Are you kidding! The whole Magisterium of the Church, — and Vatican Council II certainly is a notable part of the Magisterium, — is permeated with love and devotion regarding the Virgin Mother. Pope Paul himself wrote a long and tightly written letter to the Bishops of the world. The document took up the whole of the April 4 English language edition of L'Osservatore Romano. It is tough reading, and for most people much of the document would be like mining for gold with a shovel and pick axe. But it was really written for bishops. Inasmuch as they are appointed teachers and shepherds of their people, I think most bishops will get some capable person to simplify the document for popular consumption.

The document, officially entitled "Apostolic Exhortation: Marialis Cultus," for the right ordering and development of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, has a multitude of facets which are marvelous, and some interestingly contemporaneous. A section on women in modern society is an eye-opener. However, I think most Catholics are less interested in profound theology, and more interested in devotion and practice. So the section in which Pope Paul develops the reasons for a strong devotion to Our Lady and Her Son through the recitation of the Angelus and the Rosary will relieve a lot of Catholics who have wondered if these devotions had been booted out with St. Christopher, Gregorian chant and Latin.

Next week, since this is the month of Mary, we shall consider the document's treatment of Mary and Ecumenism, Mary and womanhood, Mary the temple of the Holy Spirit. If you are inclined to study the document itself, many rectories, convents and institutions have L'Osservatore Romano. But fair warning, have a bottle of aspirin handy. It is tough reading.

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## Latin Mass Will Open Army Vigil

Father John Dillon will celebrate a Mass in Latin at the opening of an all night vigil in Holy Rosary Church, May 3, at 9 p.m.

The vigil is the monthly prayer service of the Blue Army, and is held in reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Others who will lead the assembly in prayer during the vigil are Msgr. John Duffy, Fathers Francis Vogt, John Steger, Paul Wohlrab and Robert Meng, as well as Deacons Steven Kraus and William Hodge.

## Triduum Set At St. John's

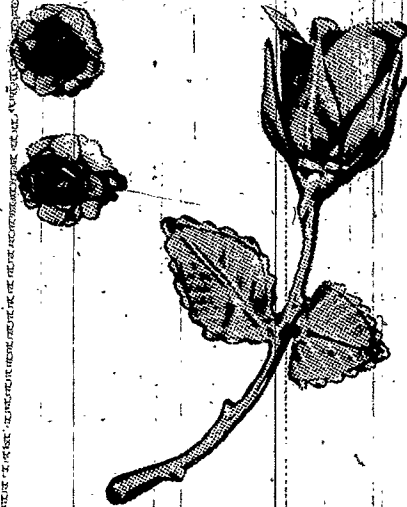
A triduum in honor of Our Lady of Hope will be conducted at St. John the Evangelist Church in Greece.

Ammering. The devotions will start at 7 p.m. each evening.

Co-ordinated by seminarians from St. Bernard's and members of the Rosary Society of St. John's, the devotions will involve the children of the grammar school, the youth of the parish, and representatives of the various parish organizations and societies.

This devotion will be held today, May 1, tomorrow, May 2, and Friday, May 3. The guest speakers for the occasion will be Father Ronald Antinorelli, Father Edward Callens, and Father Bruce

May is "Do Something Beautiful" month at Hershberg's.



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