

Catherine of Siena Feastday Plans Set

New York (RNS) — A charismatic figure... a roving ambassador who traveled widely accompanied by a sizeable retinue... an accomplished mediator who reconciled warring states, statesmen and families... a friend of the most powerful leaders of the day.

A prolific writer who resorted to letters when unable to exhort in person... a tireless organizer who divided numerous programs of aid for the poor, prisoners and refugees... and one of the most influential figures in the history of Christianity.

Facets of a life that sounds strangely modern, yet they refer to one who lived and died 600 years ago... and the person who lived it was a woman.

She was Catherine Benincassa of Siena who died, aged 33, on April 30, 1380, and she is a patron saint of Italy with Francis of Assisi. To mark her birth, seminars and retreats are taking place, a television show is being produced and several books are being published.

Secular historians acknowledge Catherine as the most influential woman of the turbulent 14th century. Rightly or wrongly, she is credited with having precipitated the Great Schism which divided the church under the two rival popes and lasted until 1417.

Born in Siena in 1347, Catherine was the youngest of

23 children of a well-to-do dye manufacturer. At six, she had a vision that set the course of her life; she saw Christ in papal vestments standing atop the local Dominican church.

Activities to mark the 600th anniversary of St. Catherine's death are being coordinated in this country by a Dominican nun, Sister Jean David Finley of Sparkill, N.Y., who set up a Dominican office of media and communications two years ago. The sixth centenary is its first big project.

At least four books are being published to mark the anniversary. Paulist Press this month is bringing out a new translation of Catherine's Dialogues, the saint's chief literary work. Sister Jean David edited a collection of essays which Our Sunday Visitor Press is publishing with the title "Catherine, the Charismatic Woman."

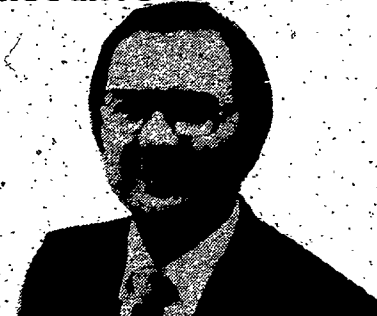
Sister Jean David believes that the scope and variety of St. Catherine's activities make her an ideal model for Christian women today. She compares her as a peacemaker to Mother Teresa of India, the recent Nobel Prize winner.

"Catherine was a public figure, a papal legate who moved in and out of political circles, yet she remained a grassroots person," Sister Jean David observes. "She is a particularly relevant person for today because she showed that if you really have moral values, you can transcend even failure."



St. Catherine of Siena in an old painting is depicted giving clothes to Christ.

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



EDWIN SULEWSKI
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

"After the Funeral"

Soon after the funeral, the bereaved are often unintentionally left very much alone. Relatives who traveled far to be with them at the time of the funeral have gone home — friends have taken up their own lives again. And it is now, as they try to rebuild their own lives, that the bereaved most need friendship and concern. It takes a special kind of person to anticipate the needs of others — and to do something about them. During the long months that follow the death, you can be a great help. Keep in touch regularly — call occasionally just to talk — extend an invitation to a movie, lunch, or shopping. It is often difficult for someone who has suffered a great sadness to accept friendship — and you may feel that your help is not wanted. Probably through, it simply takes some time for your friend to feel up to facing life again — and your continued interest is both welcome and needed. We can answer many questions for you about death. Call or stop in at your convenience. Use our lending library, audio-visual aids, and audio cassettes on dying, death, bereavement and related subjects. We are available for group discussions.

SCHAUMAN FUNERAL

2100 St. Paul St. HOME 342-5400



Calendar

ARCH CONFRATERNITY, OUR LADY OF VICTORY - ST. JOSEPH — Mass at 9 a.m. Sunday, May 4; breakfast at Holiday Inn.

CATHOLIC MISSION GUILD — May Banquet, Wednesday noon, May 14, at K of C; reservations with Mrs. Errist, 458-9331.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE CENACLE — Cenacle Sisters invite their friends to celebration May 17, 10:30 a.m. Mass in chapel, 693 East Ave.; noon lunch at Century Club. Details: 271-8755.

SPAGHETTI DINNER — Foreman Center fund-raiser in center's cafeteria, 41 O'Connor Rd., Fairport, noon-8 p.m. Saturday, May 3. Take-out available; tickets at door.

ITHACA OPERA ASSOCIATION — Performing: The Impresario (Mozart) and The Secret of Susanne (Wolf-Ferrari) in English, 8:15 p.m. May 2, 3, in Strand Theatre, Ithaca.

GREECE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA — Concert of popular classics conducted by Dr. David Fetter, 7:30 p.m. May 4, Greece Arcadia High School, 120 Island Cottage Rd. Free.

ROCHESTER THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY — Presenting Maria Kumagai, concert and recording artist, at 8:15 p.m. Friday, May 9, at Wurlitzer pipe organ in

Auditorium Theatre, 875 East Main. Ticket information: 482-1136 or 544-6595.

NOVAL TRIO — Final concert of season 3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 4, St. Paul's Church, East Avenue at Vick Park B.

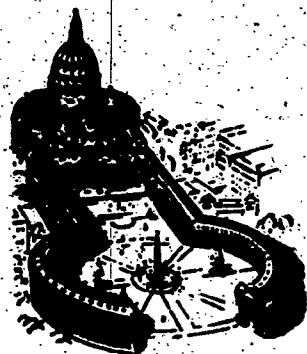
GALLERY CONCERT — Howard Spindler, Stanley Chepaitis and string quartet from Eastman School, 3 p.m. Sunday, May 4, Memorial Art Gallery.

VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL — Drama, dance, mime, music, art shows, workshops, presented and performed by students from area public and private schools, with guest artists, May 5 at Rochester Institute of Technology, 9-4 and 6:30-9. Sponsored by State Education Department; public, free.

SENIOR CITIZEN MATINEES — At Eastman House 1:30 p.m. tomorrow: Three Comrades, starring Robert Taylor, Margaret Sullivan, Franchoy Tone.

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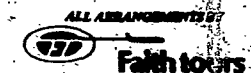
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