

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

A young girl's strength

By Joe Michael Feist
NC News Service

When Anne Frank was 10 years old, in 1939, a terrible war began in Europe. It soon seemed as if the whole world was fighting.

Anne, her older sister and their parents were Jews living in Holland. Some people in Germany, called Nazis, hated Jews. Wherever the Nazis went they made rules saying what Jews could and could not do.

Anne couldn't go to movies or go swimming or even be friends with someone who was not Jewish. But there was something even worse. The Nazis were taking Jews to awful prison camps.

Then Anne's father decided that the family should go into hiding.

One night when she was 13, Anne and her family moved into a small group of rooms above the warehouse and offices where her father worked. Soon they were joined by another family and an old man. Anne called the hiding

place the "Secret Annex."

Only a few of her father's friends knew where Anne and the others were hiding. They brought food and news from outside.

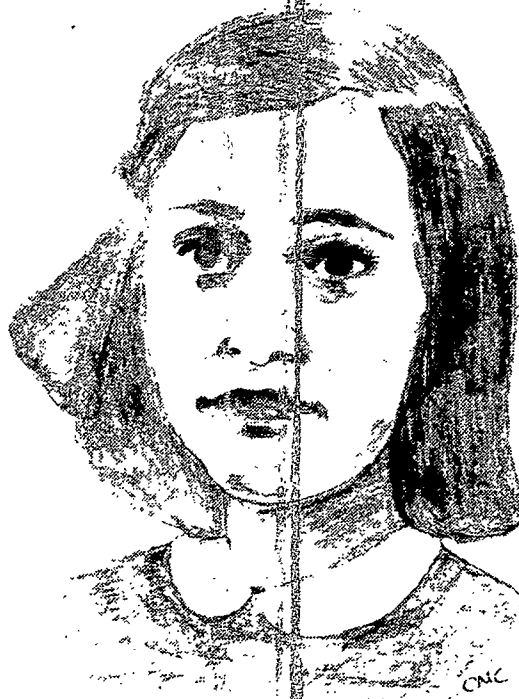
During the days, Anne and the others had to be very still so that the men working in the warehouse below wouldn't hear them.

In the evenings Anne would talk and study and write in the diary her parents had given her for her 13th birthday.

Anne wrote about many things in her diary: how she felt about growing up, how she loved her family but sometimes didn't get along too well with them and how she didn't understand the cruel things happening around her.

It was hard for Anne and the others. They could never go outside and they didn't have a lot to eat.

But despite the bad things happening around her, Anne still trusted God. "Again and again I



"we all still love life; we haven't yet forgotten the voice of nature, we still hope, hope about everything."

After the family had been hiding more than two years, the Nazis found out about the "Secret Annex." They broke in and took Anne and her family and friends to prison camps. Anne died in one of the camps. She was 15. Her sister and mother and the others from the "Secret Annex" also died. Only Anne's father survived the war.

But in a way, Anne lived on as well. Her diary was published as a book. Later a play and a movie based on the diary were made. Many people now know that Anne Frank was a brave, sensitive and talented girl.

She believed, in spite of everything, that people were still good at heart.

(Feist is associate editor of Faith Today.)

ask myself," she wrote in her diary, "would it not have been better for us all if we had not gone into hiding?" But she added,

a game

WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble the words and fit each one into a word box? All of the words are from this week's children's story.

Example: 1. aridy

diary

2. nihidg

3. awr

4. hoersaew

5. isorpn

6. suler

7. peoh

8. miafly

9. tfghinig

Answers: 2. hiding, 3. war, 4. warehouse, 5. prison, 6. rules, 7. hope, 8. family, 9. fighting

a game

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Anne Frank was a young woman who left the world a message about hope and goodness. If you could give the world a special message through your own diary, what would that message be?

Children's Reading Corner

"Bedtime Stories of the Saints," by Father Frank Lee, CSSR. The author retells life histories of five familiar saints so that children can understand better what makes the saints special. He tells of St. Therese of Lisieux, who experienced some difficulties as a child that other children may recognize. She wanted to be "the teacher's pet" as a school girl and she was "grabby" too. But Therese grew up to be a holy woman, the author points out. (Liguori Publications. One Liguori Dr., Liguori, Mo. 63057. \$1.95.)



Love

Making the warmth of God's love manifest to terminally ill patients is important to the ministry of Sister Rosella Molitor, D.C. With funding from the Catholic Church Extension Society she serves the spiritual needs of those living in eastern Oklahoma's home mission territory.

Sister Molitor is one of a team of home missionaries who, in partnership with Extension, pursue the vital and urgent task of evangelization here in the United States. But the team is too small to do its job without help. It

needs new members. It needs you.

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