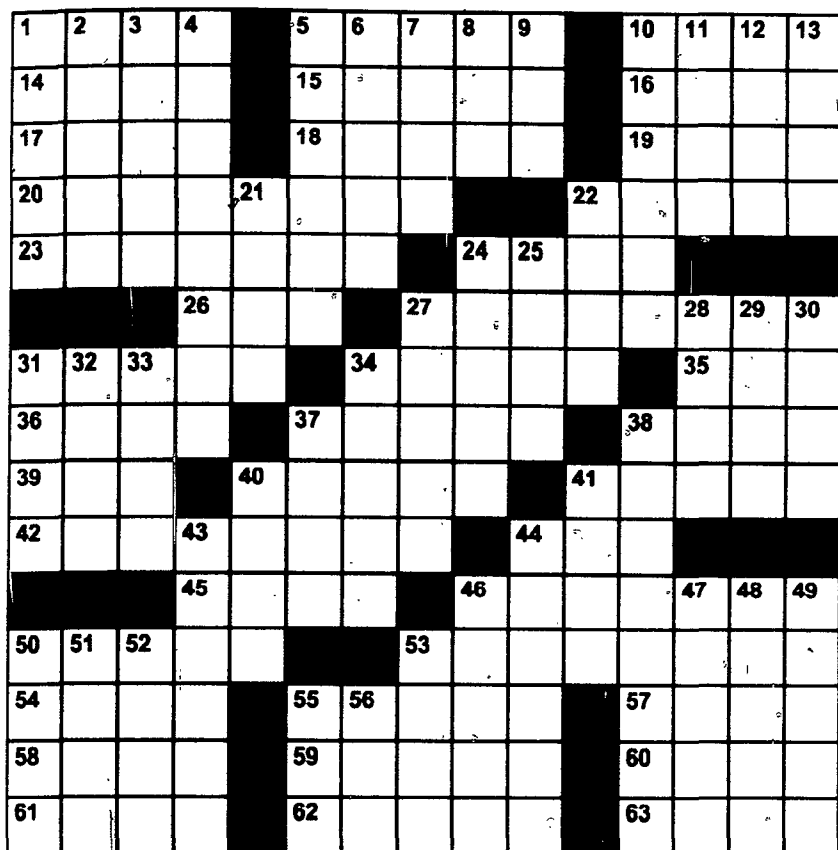


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ACROSS

- 1 _____ *et Orbi*
- 5 Proficient
- 10 Certain typewriter keys
- 14 Kind of sign
- 15 Fountain treats
- 16 Double curve
- 17 Stuff up
- 18 Kid leather
- 19 Dies _____
- 20 Peruvian legume?
- 22 Antelope
- 23 Rapturous delight
- 24 Telephone or flag
- 26 Possesses
- 27 _____ Thomas
- 31 Biblical tower
- 34 Explorer Father Junipero _____
- 35 AFL-_____
- 36 Biblical measure
- 37 Edicts
- 38 _____ weevil
- 39 First Patriarch, to his friends?
- 40 They were converted by St. Patrick
- 41 Longed (with "for")
- 42 Wife of Moses
- 44 OT book
- 45 St. _____ Church, the parish church of Vatican City
- 46 Opinion collectors

- 50 "_____ be with you."
- 53 Describes the earliest stage of development
- 54 First man
- 55 Position
- 57 Procession (comb.)
- 58 Monetary unit of Italy
- 59 Therefore
- 60 At the summit
- 61 Type of gun
- 62 Borders
- 63 Liturgical season
- 25 Belonging to us
- 27 "Dying you destroyed our _____"
- 28 Holy image
- 29 River from which baby Moses was retrieved
- 30 One of the wise men's gifts
- 31 Husband of Ruth
- 32 Prefix meaning "both"
- 33 Horn sound
- 34 Companion of Paul and Barnabas
- 37 Plant having fronds
- 38 Pertaining to Sacred Scripture
- 40 Fruit of the pine
- 41 Particular Sunday
- 43 Video game character
- 44 Large groups
- 46 Peter's _____
- 47 Person related on one's mother's side
- 48 Certain inert-gas
- 49 What Samson did while his hair was shaved
- 50 Buddies
- 51 Prepare for publication
- 52 River in central Switzerland
- 53 Criminal group
- 55 Feminine pronoun
- 56 One of the Kennedys

DOWN

- 1 Laban's relationship to Jacob
- 2 Preserved bone or garment of a saint
- 3 Prosperous times
- 4 Assemble
- 5 Evaluate
- 6 _____-Rheims Bible
- 7 First garden
- 8 Cushion
- 9 Literary monogram
- 10 Washroom
- 11 Site of the Taj Mahal
- 12 Pole or kidney
- 13 What the sower planted in the parable
- 21 False god of the Old Testament
- 22 "Able was I ere I saw _____"
- 24 Harbor towns

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Does church OK May crownings?

B17

Faith & Family Catholic Courier | Diocese of Rochester, NY | July 2004



Father John Dietzen

Question Corner

Q. A local Catholic high school, where a relative of mine is principal, is embroiled over a May crowning that he and some parents want to observe with the students. The head of the religion department, a woman in her 40s, objects that this ceremony started in the Middle Ages to entice nonbelievers into adoration of Mary and that this ritual was denounced at Vatican Council II.

My family and I attended grammar school after Vatican II, and we remember May crownings. What is the church's position? Is there a reason not to have them? (New York)

A. I realize this response will not reach you during May, but I have no idea why this woman would think Vatican II "denounced" May crowning ceremonies. Just the opposite. If it is a form of devotion to the mother of Christ that enhances honor for him, the rite is encouraged.

The Council of Ephesus (431) defended the teaching that Mary is the Mother of God, not first to honor Mary but to clarify Catholic belief that Jesus is one (divine) person with two natures, human and divine.

Following this council, Catholic honor of Mary increased greatly, a fact which the church generally saw as fulfilling her words in the Magnificat, "From now on will all ages call me blessed; the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

Through the centuries certain forms of devotion to Our Lady tended to cloud the vital distinction between her role and the role of her Son. Some prayers appeared, for example, seeming to place her on an equal footing with Jesus as redeemer of the world.

So it is true that Vatican II told the-

ologians and preachers to be alert to treat correctly the unique dignity of the Mother of God. They should, said the council, "equally avoid the falsity of exaggeration on the one hand, and the excess of narrow-mindedness on the other" (Constitution on the Church, No. 67).

It insists that traditional practices and exercises of devotion toward her be treasured, as approved by the church through the centuries, since "Mary shines forth on earth ... as a sign of sure hope and solace for the pilgrim people of God" (No. 68).

If there's a problem with Mary being called, or crowned as, queen, that too is unfounded.

The concept of Mary as Queen Mother, a prestigious title often given to the mother of a king in ancient times to signify her particular influence with her son, has good scriptural and traditional roots.

There is no need, therefore, to see May crownings as anything more than a legitimate form of paraliturgical prayer, a way of appropriately honoring the mother of Jesus.

Father John Dietzen is a columnist for Catholic News Service. Questions may be sent to him at Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651, or e-mail jjdietzen@aol.com.



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