

Third in a Series

Devotion To Virgin Mary Plays Important Part in Catholic's Life



BIG SNOWMAN—Little Ronnie Chambers, 2, gets a close view of the seven-foot snowman his parents erected for him when records were broken in the Harrisburg, Pa., area, with five inches of snow added to the 19 which fell a week ago. (UPI Telephoto)

Family Branches Convinced Other Gravely in Error

By LOUIS CASSELS
UPI Correspondent

Of all the doctrines that divide Protestants and Catholics none arouses greater emotion than the veneration of the Virgin Mary.

Devotion to Mary plays a very important part in Catholic religious life. But the mother of Jesus is rarely mentioned in Protestant churches except at Christmas time.

Each branch of the Christian family is convinced that the other is gravely in error.

Catholics say that Protestants are denying Mary the honor that is rightfully hers. Protestants say that Catholics are in danger of slipping into "mariolatry"—the idolatrous worship of a human creature.

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In this matter, as in others, there is a tendency for Catholics and Protestants to magnify their differences to the point of obscuring their common beliefs.

All Christians who believe in the miracle of the Incarnation must look upon Mary with awe and respect.

The New Testament depicts her as a humble and devout Jewish maiden who was chosen by God for a central role in His supreme self-revelation to men. Mary, the scriptures say, conceived while a virgin, and bore a child in whom divine and human natures were inseparably united. This child was Jesus Christ, whom Christians have hailed for 20 centuries as the son of God, the Lord and Savior of mankind.

Say Little About Mary
Beyond the tremendous affirmation that she was the human vehicle by which the world of God was made flesh, the scriptures say relatively little about Mary. They record just enough of her story to make clear that she was a wise and tender mother. She did not always fully understand her extraordinary Son, but she remained close to Him throughout His early ministry, and stood at the foot of His cross when He gave up His life to atone for men's sins.

Protestants, who regard the Bible as the only authoritative source of doctrine, stop there in their beliefs about Mary. But Catholics believe that the traditions of the church, handed down orally through the centuries, can be as valid a source of doctrine as the written record of the Gospels. On this basis, the Catholic church makes several assertions about Mary which go beyond the Biblical record.

It teaches, for example, that Mary was preserved from all taint of sin from the moment she was conceived in her own mother's womb (the dogma of the Immaculate Conception) and that she was bodily assumed into heaven when she died (the dogma of the Assumption, proclaimed by Pope Pius XII in 1950).

Catholics also believe that Mary, as "the mother of God," has special prerogatives in heaven, including power to intercede on behalf of the faithful who pray for her help. It is a widely held belief that she is "the mediatrix of all graces"—the one through whom all spiritual gifts are distributed.

May Become Dogma
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One Catholic bishop has proposed that the ecumenical council go farther and proclaim Mary "co-redemptrix"—a full "partner" with Christ in the redemption of the world from sin.

Such titles make Protestants shudder. They say that Catholics seem to be forgetting the clear Biblical teaching that "there is only one mediator between God and men, namely Jesus Christ." Some alarmed Protestant theologians assert that Catholic doctrine is only one short step away from attributing divinity to Mary.

Catholic scholars vigorously deny that. They say that Catholic teaching treats Mary only as "the most exalted of human creatures" and that it explicitly forbids any "adoration" of her as a divine being.

Some Catholics acknowledge, however, that popular piety is not always as careful as official theology in drawing this important distinction.

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Irradiation Facility Will Make Possible Food Storage Research

Corvallis—To make possible long-term storage of present shelf-life food items will be one of the aims in using a new irradiation facility at Oregon State college.

Sterilization by radiation offers the first promising new principle of food sterilization since Appert discovered the art of canning in 1809.

Dr. C. H. Wang, professor of chemistry and chairman of the campus radiation safety committee, said with the new \$20,000 cobalt irradiation facility, it will be possible for OSC scientists to subject foods to 3,000 to 500,000 roentgens of radiation an hour. Five hundred roentgens will kill a man.

By using smaller doses of irradiation (radio-pasteurization), the bacterial population of micro-organisms can be reduced 90 to 99 per cent without causing undesirable changes in food.

Considerable Research
In past years, OSC has done considerable irradiation research on meats and seafoods. This research will be expanded and other work on genetic changes in insects, irradiation damage to plastics and other materials, and radiation decomposition of chemicals will be started.

Ironically, in recent research, OSC bacteriologists have isolated a bacteria that can withstand an unusually large dose.

The cobalt irradiation instrument is only about 3½

feet high and 2½ feet in diameter. For safety, the cobalt 60 irradiation source is shielded with one foot of lead. The radioactivity is in 12 cobalt pencils—like rods measuring one-half inch in circumference and 6 inches in length. The 12 pencils can be moved as a unit towards an irradiation chamber.

The cobalt 60 source will be half exhausted in 5.5 years. The irradiation equipment will be fenced off in a campus building. It was purchased by the department of food and dairy technology, bacteriology, chemistry and agricultural chemistry.

An irradiation operations committee will schedule the use of the cobalt 60 source.

Fitness Decline Bothers Kennedy

Washington—(UPI)—President Kennedy said Tuesday he was concerned about "a steady decline" in the physical fitness standards of Americans as compared with Europeans and other people around the world.

He said he hoped that the White House would "do our best to emphasize" that physical fitness was vital to the nation's survival and that something must be done about the problem.

Physical Sciences Summer Institute Set for Teachers

Eugene—A Summer Institute in the Physical Sciences for Elementary Teachers will be conducted at the University of Oregon from June 19 to Aug. 12, under a grant of \$42,000 from the National Science Foundation.

Purpose of the institute, which will be under the direction of Dr. E. G. Ebbighausen, professor of physics in the university, is to improve the science background of elementary school teachers.

Thirty-five participants will be selected from elementary schools in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and northern California. Each participant will receive a stipend of \$75 per week for the eight-week period, plus allowance for dependents and travel.

Requirements of the institute will be one course in each of the subjects of astronomy, geology, meteorology, and mathematics. The four courses are all designed specifically for the elementary school teachers.

Instructors in the institute will include Dr. Ebbighausen; Vern Hiebert, assistant professor of mathematics, Oregon College of Education; and James Stovall, associate professor of geology in the University of Oregon.

The institute will be one of 19 for elementary school teachers throughout the United States.

All inquiries concerning the institute should be sent to the director, addressed to the Elementary Science Institute, Science building, University of Oregon, Eugene.

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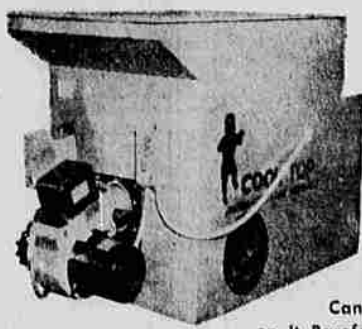
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LOTTA LITTER—Residents of South Oakdale ave. near Medford High school have long complained about the litter left by students in the form of papers and sacks left after they finish their lunches. This photograph, made last week, corroborates their complaints. The street and sidewalks frequently look as bad as this, or worse, despite the fact that several waste paper containers are nearby.

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Agriculture Secretary Takes Turn on Elevator

Washington—(UPI)—Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman is not using the "instant elevator" button he inherited from his predecessor, Ezra T. Benson.

The button was installed at a receptionist's desk in the agriculture secretary's outer office during Benson's term. The object was to make sure that when the secretary was ready to leave his second-floor office, he didn't have to wait for an elevator.

The button controls the two automatic elevators serving the central wing of the Agriculture department's main administration building.

When it is pressed, both elevators are held at the second floor. Would-be passengers on other floors of the building have to wait.

A Freeman aide confirmed today, in answer to a reporter's query, that the new agriculture secretary ordered use of the device dropped shortly after taking office.

When Freeman leaves his office, the aide said, he walks down the single flight of stairs to the ground floor or pushes the regular elevator button like everyone else.

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