



The Benois—Susan (at window), Mr. and Mrs. Benoit (seated), Thomas (above them), Louise (far right), and Sandra (foreground)—took in all nine Craigs after their parents' death.

# A Full House

She has nine more children than she had last Mother's Day

LAST YEAR, four children celebrated Mother's Day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Benoit in Norwalk, Conn.

This year there are 13.

The nine additional children are there because of a tragic pre-Christmas auto accident which took the lives of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Craig. The orphans, who range in age from 18 months to 18 years, could have been

farmed out to various families. But Mrs. Benoit (who is Mrs. Craig's sister) talked with her husband, and they decided to take all the children into their home.

The additional work and responsibility would have overwhelmed some women. But not Mrs. Benoit. She cherishes her own four youngsters—but there is plenty of love left over for the nine orphaned Craig children. She says, "The children are wonderful. They listen to me, they're helpful, they mind. It's not so hard. I just make more of everything."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARTHUR LEIPZIG



Despite the additional chores, Mrs. Benoit (left) has time to lull baby Mary to sleep. At right, some of the kids decide Thomas has slept enough for one morning.

## What Makes a Woman CHOOSE SUCH A LIFE?

You see her walking down the street, and you wonder about her.

She isn't fashionably dressed like other women. She wears no lipstick, no make-up, no high heels or nylons. Instead of a "perky" hat, her head is covered by a hood and veil. Her dress is a billowing, full-length habit that bears little resemblance to feminine fashions.

And as she passes by, you realize that here is a woman different from others not only in dress... but in her entire way of life. Here is one who has deliberately turned her back upon the worldly pleasures which other women seek and enjoy. And perhaps you wonder why a woman should give up all this to become a Catholic nun.

Is it because she is afraid to face the world and its responsibilities? Is it because she lacks talents that other women possess and therefore seeks shelter in the convent? Is she devoid of maternal instinct? Or does she choose the life of a nun because she thinks it is easier and more secure than life in a world of fluctuating economic conditions?

No—a nun who will knock at your door asking for alms for the poor surely is not afraid of the world. A Catholic sister competent to teach in a school... and often highly gifted in the arts and languages... is surely not lacking in talents. Nor can anyone who has seen a Catholic nun mothering the sick in a hospital believe that she is lacking in the maternal instinct.

What is it, then, that prompts a woman to turn her back upon

the pleasures and luxuries of the world for a life of poverty, chastity and obedience? How is it that hundreds of thousands of women do this... many of them coming from well-to-do families which could supply their every need and wish? What is the spark that fires their zeal for God, and for humanity?

The answer is that the heart of a nun is filled with the desire to serve God. And that desire is the product of her Catholic Faith. If you doubt the power of Catholic belief, remember this fact... the Church is the only institution on earth having large numbers of such consecrated women who devote their lives to Christ.

Perhaps you would not or could not become a nun, or a priest, or a religious of the Catholic Church. Perhaps you would not even want to be a Catholic. But if you wish to inform yourself concerning the teachings and beliefs of the Church which can inspire such magnificent sacrifice and service, write for Free Pamphlet FM-25. It will be sent in a plain wrapper and nobody will call on you.

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