University of Notre Dame Religious Bulletin February 25, 1953

Recent Questions

Query: Is June Haver, the new nun and former actress, just disappointed?

Reply: Miss Haver, a convert to the Church from Presbyterianism at the age of 16, married the musician, Jimmy Zito. This union soon ended in divorce. Later, she became a very close friend of Dr. John L. Duzik, a Catholic, who died in 1949. These events appear discouraging in her life.

But don't call her a num yet. She won't become a Sister of Charity for two years yet -- she must spend 6 months as a postulant; then 18 months as a novice. If she is merely disappointed in love, she'll be back in the world very soon. Nums come from sterner stuff than that. We prefer to think that Miss Haver is like anyone else seeking admission to the Religious Life. No one knows if he has a vocation until he puts it to the test. If she has a vocation, she will survive in this new kind of life. After all, she isn't the first stage or screen star to choose this path. Give the girl a chance to find herself.

Query: Why all the Italian Cardinals and Popes ?

Reply: To quote Columnist Joe Breig: "If I want a meal, I want somebody who knows how to cook; and I won't be such an idiot as to choose an American who will give me indigestion over a Frenchman who can work culinary miracles... If I'm drowning, what I want is a good swimmer; and the color of his skin, or the country he was born in, is of merely academic interest... If I've got appendicitis I'm looking for a good surgeon, not a good Texan or a loyal Brooklynite. And when it comes to the Pope, -- well, give me a good Pope. If his ancestors came over on the Mayflower, all right; if they came over in the steerage, all right; and if they didn't come over at all, all right too. If a man is the right man for Pope, then he ought to be Pope, whether he's fat or thin, tall or short, Negro, White, Yellow, Brown, or American, Italian, German, Scottish, Irish, or Fiji Islander. If Italians can keep giving us Popes like Pius XII, Pius XI, Pius X -- then as far as I am concerned the Popes can keep on being Italian from now on in, and a mighty good thing..." (Ave Maria, 2/14/53)

Query: What about campus boarders eating in South Bend during Lent ?

Reply: Our interpretation is that when you go into South Bend, you are then bound by the laws of the diocese, since our dispensation is local. The diocese permits you to have meat at one meal each day (dinner or supper). Hence, you may eat meat once a day at noon or evening in South Bend. Abstinence forbids eating between meals. Hence, in South Bend, you may take only liquids (coffee, milk, fruit jujuices, etc.). Abstinence binds all aged 7 years and up. Students living off-campus enjoy the same privileges as campus boarders -- no matter where they eat their meals, and regardless of age.

Query: Why were there so many Italian Communists after the war ?

Reply: "We may mouth eternally about freedom, about sovereign rights of the individual -- but if a man is hungry, is lacking essential clothing, and hasn't a roof over his head, he is concerned first of all with any system which promises him these fundamentals; and he will think later on about the freedom."

PRAYERS -- Deceased: friend of Kim Hewson of Alumni; William Murphy (Niagra U.) friend of Jack Mullane of Alumni; father of Leonard Wolniak, of Walsh. Ill: Jim Gallagher; mother of Bill Kerwin; aunt of Wm. Boirley of Zahm; friend of Herman Wolz of Farley; daughter of Jim Miller, chef at Corby Hall.