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RELIGIOUS



BULLETIN

Dolores W. Tantoco

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Office of University Ministry
University of Notre Dame

The Dress Code

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In New York, on a stuffy summer night, the members of the parish prayer group, gathered in a basement room, left the door at the head of the stairs open, hoping for a breeze. Sixth Avenue was busy with passersby. Eventually, Lena, a bag lady, spotted the group, and came in, unasked, to join them. You could tell who she was from her appearance. She wore tennis shoes with holes in them, and several skirts, the outside one a tablecloth she had wrapped around herself; and a man's blue work shirt, dirty and wrinkled and too tight.

(cont.)

Visitors were always welcome in that small circle. Nobody minded Lena's coming in, wanting a place to sit down. Still, they were sure she had no idea why they were there; even if they explained why, she wouldn't understand them. They hoped she wouldn't embarrass them with her talking or shouting. Such an unkempt woman was certainly a distraction.

Lena slumped in her chair for a brief nap, probably exhausted; bag ladies always seem weary. After ten minutes, when they had almost gotten used to her, she woke up with a jump, as though she felt someone was there to hurt her. She checked the hiding places in the folds of her clothing, where she probably kept her treasures. Then sighting an open pack of Pall Malls left lying on a cafeteria table, she shuffled over, picked them up, and sat down again to light one with her own matches. They were kind people, but Lena's smoking was a nuisance disruptive of prayer. The moderator went over to whisper in her ear. Lena, getting the word, headed for the street, taking the cigarettes with her. Later, on the way home, they would see her encamped for the night in a doorway, and ask if she needed anything. She would tell them in anger to mind their business and go away. They were deeply Christian men and women, and Lena was a character known in the neighborhood....

Fred was a young executive who dressed casually in patched jeans and a t-shirt. One day he wanted to take a young woman from out of town to tea in the Palm Court Room at the Plaza Hotel. Fred thought the Plaza would be fun, because Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald used to attend parties there. The maitre d' refused to seat them because, he said, Fred wasn't wearing a suitcoat. Outside, Fred swore an oath he would never set foot in the Plaza again until the hired help knew his face from the magazines, and paid him respect as a celebrity. "Places that want you," he said, "keep jackets they can lend you in the cloakroom." Jeans as beat up as his jeans, he felt, would be a status symbol anywhere, if one of the Beautiful People wore them.

In New York, where professionals can size you up at a glance, it's important to pay attention to the dress code. A couple looking like a hard luck case while trying to register at the Waldorf, will be referred to the welfare office, unless they quickly produce the plastic credentials to prove they can pay their way. The churches, noted for tolerance, still post signs requesting modest attire.

Today's parable tells us the way it will be in the kingdom: you have to care enough to get ready. Salvation isn't an Alice-blue gown or a Brooks Brothers' suit the angels force on you as though you were a

tailor's dummy, as indifferent as a log. Heaven is a place that wants and welcomes you. The wedding garments of grace are free of charge and available for the asking. However, you have to look at your tatters and nakedness, and ask for the help of God --through prayer and the sacraments and acts of kindness toward the least of Christ's brothers--that makes you clean, and dresses you up. At the supper of the Lamb, you will not come as begger, lame boy, orphan, or bag lady. The poor will not look for corners to hide in out of embarrassment for rags they have worn threadbare. We will be celebrities redeemed to look beautiful and worthy of our places, dressed in priceless white robes in which love has hemmed the stitches. This is the kind of meta-

phor the Bible uses to describe the poor in spirit made happy, seeing the face of God: ragtag types gathered from the ghettos and street corners to have their feet washed as honored guests, and drink wine more miraculous than the vintages of Cana, and dance like children to the tunes of pipers, happy to be of service to the bridegroom whom they love.

Only the king, disappointed and punitive, making do with replacements, remains a dark figure. Jesus, telling stories, was consciously on the way to the cross. This parable, so comforting to the newly enfranchised, is terrible with the mystery of rejection. There was no simple way He could tell us He was Lord of heaven and hell.

...IF THIS IS THE WAY YOU TREAT YOUR FRIENDS, LORD, IT IS SMALL WONDER YOU HAVE SO FEW.

Theresa of Avila - Feast Day October 15

Coupons for the Needy

Cut out your coupons and help others cut their costs.

Coupons are needed for group homes for the mentally handicapped. These adult residents use the coupons for grocery shopping and discounts while dining out, e.g. Hardee's, Pizza Hut, etc.

Coupons can be mailed to or dropped off at the University Ministry Office.

Experience Latin America

Holy Cross Associates in Chile.

Would you be interested in a 2½ year cross cultural experience. Live in community, teach, and come to an understanding of the church and people in Latin America. Deadline for all those interested is Nov. First. For more information see Mary Ann Roemer at the Center for Social Concerns (239-7949) or John Fitzpatrick (239-6522).



Founder's Day

October 13th is the Feast of St. Edward the Confessor, the patron saint of Edward Sorin, the French Holy Cross Priest who founded the University of Notre Dame during the winter of 1892. In the past this feast was observed as "Founder's Day." Until not so long ago Founder's Day was celebrated as an academic holiday, and the faculty and students were encouraged at this time to see how well we have lived up to some of the ideals of the founder and what the future holds for the University. Let us pray that we will continue to serve the Church and the world, and wholeheartedly serve one another.

Liturgical Schedule

SUNDAY MASS

Main Church 5:15 pm (vigil-Sat.)
 9:00 am
 10:30 am
 12:15 pm

Crypt 6:00 am
 7:15 am
 8:15 am
 9:30 am
 10:45 am
 12:15 pm

WEEKDAY MASS

Main Church 11:30 am (Mon. - Sat.)
 5:15 pm (Mon. - Sat.)

Crypt 6:30 am (Mon. - Sat.)
 7:15 am (Mon. - Fri.)
 12:10 pm (Mon. - Fri.)
 5:30 pm (Mon. - Fri.)
 5:00 pm (Football Sat.)

VESPERS

Sunday Vespers in the Lady Chapel
 7:15 pm

ROSARY

Daily Rosary at the Grotto
 6:45 pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

First Fridays in the Lady Chapel
 12:00 noon - 5:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

In the Main Church
 11:15 am (Mon. - Sat.)
 5:00 pm (Mon. - Fri.)
 7:00 pm (Mon. - Thurs.)

In the Crypt
 4:00 pm 5:00 pm (Sat.)