MARIANS IN THE NEWS

Renovator's Cause Advanced

On May 11, 1982 a decree was promulgated on the heroic virtues of the Servant of God, Archbishop George Matulaitis-Matulewicz, the renovator of the Congregation of Marians under the title of the Immaculate Conception, founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and of the Handmaids of Jesus in the Eucharist. He was born in Lugine (Lithuania) and died on January 27, 1927 at Kaunas (Lithuania). All the Marians rejoice at this decree and ask all the Marian Helpers to pray for his early beatification. ■

The Servant of God, Archbishop George Matulaitis Matulewicz.

Religious Profession of Vows

On August 15, 1982, the feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Virgin Mary, the Very Rev. Richard Drabik, M.I.C., the Superior of St. Stanislaus Kostka Province accepted the renewal of temporary vows of ***Walter Dziordz*** and ***Henry Smith*** in Stockbridge. The following took their first vows:

John Bryda of S.S. Peter and Paul Parish, Wallingford, Conn., son of Alexander and Marion (Maziaz) Bryda. He will study for the brotherhood at the Oblate College pursuing courses toward a Master of Theology.

L to R: (top) Richard Clark, Fr. Gerald Ornowski, Kenneth Galisa; L to R: (bottom) John Bryda, Charles Morris, Kazimierz Chwalek.

Kazimierz Chwalek of Queen of Poland Parish in Medrzechow, Poland and of St. Anthony Parish, Washington, D.C. He is the son of Jozef and Pelagia Chwalek. He will pursue his studies for the priesthood at Catholic University with a Master of Arts degree and Theology.

Richard F. Clark of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Jamaica Plain, Mass. He is the son of Stephen W. and Rose (Hughes) Clark. He will study for the brotherhood pursuing courses in Business Management at Catholic University.

Kenneth J. Galisa of St. Joseph's Parish, Stockbridge, Mass. He is the son of Joseph E. and Mary E. (Ruesch) Galisa. He is studying for the brotherhood pursuing graduate studies for two years at the National Catholic School of Social Service at the Catholic University of America.

Charles Scott Morris of Immaculate Conception Parish, Elmhurst, Ill. He is the son of Fredrick H. and Rita Morris. He is studying for the priesthood pursuing courses at Montgomery College, Takoma Park, Maryland.

In addition: ***J. Thomas Downey, Mark Garrow*** and ***John Gayton*** renewed their vows at our headquarters in Rome and ***Robert Volta*** at our parish in Danbury, Conn. ***Paul St. Jean*** renewed his vows on May 31st in Brookeville, Maryland. We wish to congratulate these students on this occasion and ask the Marian Helpers to pray for their perseverance in their vocation. ■

Marian Home of Prayer Established

As of September of this year, The Marian Home of Prayer (a one-year experimental project) will be established in our Marian Novitiate Building located in Brookeville, Md. With the encouragement and support of the Province leadership, Brother Leonard Konopka, MIC, and Deacon Bill Jarema, MIC will co-direct the various activities to be sponsored at this center.

The Marian Home of Prayer is an invitation to share in the discovery and growth of a wholistic spirituality. Opportunities for seeking the gifts of well being, healing, and wholeness are sought through prayer and an eclectic assortment of spiritual disciplines. Teaching, lectures, and workshops are extensions of the relational and personal ministry that encourages the "becoming" process of each individual and their search for the authentic gift of inner self.

All of the ministries that will be sponsored by the Marian Home of Prayer are shared in an environment of silence, solitude, and prayer. Associates for the Center are already being established so that a broad range of people and their already effective ministries can be complemented and celebrated in solidarity.

In prayer, praise, and presence celebrate with our Marian community as two of our men endeavor to further the message of the Living Gospel and the Mercy of God: *"For Christ and the Church"*. ■

Family Reunion

by KATHRYN M. WILSON

As the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays near, the season of reunions is upon us, with many joyful and tearful embraces as long-unseen relatives gather. The blessings of births, marriages, and christenings are announced and discussed, and deaths and illnesses are commiserated upon among the kin.

At most reunions you will find an "Uncle Joe". He drinks, gambles, and is lazy. At each gathering he makes a fool of himself. Much gossip and indignant remarks are whispered around him. Then there is always an elderly parent or grandparent . . . feeble, senile, deaf, who probably has denture problems and makes inane remarks which are forgotten as soon as said. A nuisance, most relatives agree. Yet, tolerantly, the frailties are accepted and each year he or she is welcomed into the group.

Family reunions aren't complete without children, oodles of them! Some very misbehaved, others too noisy, some trouble-makers, some cry-babies, and some crippled physically or mentally. Again snide remarks are passed around. Most starting with "Now if that were MY child . . ." or "What kind of mother has she got?". Yet, even with all the griping, those children are all accepted as a loving, living part of the entire family structure.

Too, there might be an "Aunt Emma" . . . the wealthiest of the clan who reigns over all, impressing everyone with her descriptions of worldly goods, trips abroad, and huge contributions to church and charity. Yet Aunt Emma is a miserable woman, unhappy, and unable to give of herself. Somewhere off by himself you might see meek "Cousin John", as poor as the proverbial church-mouse. He's neat as a pin, needing a haircut, and his clothes show a bachelor's touch in the mending and washing. He watches wistfully as the others romp, play, dance, or sing. "Poor Cousin John! He's not exactly right in the head, you know!"

Among the playing children might be a younger nephew or niece, one born out of wedlock . . . and, sadly, he or she is shunned by some of the more righteous elders.

There are others, can you pick them out at your own reunion? Can you spot the difference in each, the handicaps, the attributes, and the compassion? Yet, each one in the large group has one thing in common with everyone else there: each and every one is a relative of the Lord!

In Mathew 12:46-48, and in Mark 3:31-35, also in Luke 8:19-21 you will find Jesus saying: "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" Then, extending his hand toward his disciples, he said "There are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is brother and sister and mother to me."

The reality of that Bible verse is difficult to grasp. But how simple it is to apply to our daily lives and our encounters with the handicapped . . . the lamed, the alcoholic, the drug addicts, the ill, the maimed, the wheel-chair ridden . . . and so many others. We *all* have a handicap of some sort . . . perhaps not noticeable . . . but not one of us is perfect except in the sight of God!

It is a stupendous awakening to realize that we are ALL relatives of the Lord. It is still more amazing that some day we will have a "Family Reunion" with Christ! And, miraculously, through Christ's compassion and suffering, even the "Uncle Joes", the "Cousin Johns", the "Aunt Emmas", plus all the others of a wordly reunion will be there, too! ■

The author is a widowed senior citizen who does free-lance writing whenever she can. She has appeared in publications of varied religions including the Mormons, Christian Scientists, Baptists, Lutherans . . . Methodists, and others! She has five children, nine grandchildren, and two great grandchildren . . . and a faithful dog and two spoiled cats! Mrs. Wilson belongs to St. Michael's Parish in Pontiac, Michigan and has written for Catholic publications such as Our Sunday Visitor, Parish Digest, and others.