CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS Keep them, I pray Thee dearest

Lord. Keep them, for they are Thine— Thy priests whose lives burn out before

Thy Consecrated Shrine.

Keep them-Thou knowest, dearest Lord-The world—the fresh are strong And Satan spreads a thousand

To lead them into wrong Keep them, for they are in the Though from the world apart, When earthly pleasures tempt,

allure, Shelter them in Thy heart. Keep them and comfort them in hours

Of loneliness and pain When all their life of sacrifice For souls seems but in vain. Keep them, and O remember,

Lord, They have no one but Thee; Yet they have only human hearts, With human frailty.

Keep them as spotless as the Host-That daily they caress—
Their every thought and word and deed,

Deign, dearest Lord, to bless. LITTLE KINDNESSES

Very small kindnesses help so much that it is a thousand pities that more of them are not shown in all of our lives. Thousands of them are shown and they add a great deal to the sum total of human helpfulness. But being kind is one of the beautiful things of the is one of the beautiful things of the world that everyone can cultivate. No rare gift of genius is needed to bring it to the highest degree of perfection. Often it reaches its most beautiful form of expression among the poor. A look, a word, a touch, a little bit of human helpfulness that has a fixed abiding place in the heart. When we hear of a person who has "no heart" we are hearing of one who is not likely to be very kind to anyone or to any-

people.

man's thought sculptures his face into beauty and touches his manner with grace

If we are cheerful and contented all nature smiles with us; the air is balmier, the sky clearer, the earth has a brighter green, the trees have a richer foliage, the flowers are more fragrant, the birds sing more

My mother told me so, When I knelt at her feet Long—so long—ago; more fragrant, the birds sing more sweetly, and the sun, moon, and stars are more beautiful. — The Pilot.

But So long more strong more sweetly, and the sun, moon, and She clasped my hands in hers. Ah! me, that memory stirs My soul's profoundest deep—

TODAY

Doubtless you know many of the type. Accomplishment as far as they are concerned is perpetually around the corner.

Somehow it never turns the corner for them, or rather they never go round the corner after it. They round the corner after it. They promise themselves that tomorrowor next week they will make a new start, turn over a new leaf, and show the world how good they are. But the new start is never made, the old leaf remains unturned, and the world never has a chance to see even a sample of their prowess.

If you are one of this sort, take yourself in hand immediately; have a heart-to-heart talk with yourself and try to realize the danger you are in. Fight against your irresolution and inertia. Whatever you have to do, or whatever you should do, do. Don't talk about it, but do it. Don't promise yourself to do it, but do it "Now."

Never mind tomorrow, which will take care of itself, if you do today all you should do, as well as you can possibly do it.—The Monitor.

he flew to the humble home of Joseph, the carpenter, for it was to his spouse the word of God was sent.

It is probable Mary was in prayer. With frightened eyes and beating heart she gazed at the radiant vision. Her humility made it hard for her to believe. Only when the angel greeted her with the assurance that God was pleased with her was she able to grasp the significance of the wonderful visit. When the full meaning of it dawned on Mary that she was asked by her When the full meaning of it dawned on Mary that she was asked by her Heavenly Father to be the Mother of His Incarnate Son, her humility and purity prompted a refusal. The angel assured her she would sacrifice neither and that it was God's wish. All heaven trembled on her answer. Gently and sweetly the Virgin spoke the greatest word that ever fell from human lips. The angelic hosts heard it and a new song of praise and thanksgiving song of praise and thanksgiving was wafted over the air of heaven. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord,

be it done unto me according to Thy word. And the Word was made Flesh and dwelt amongst us." Thy word. made Flesh and dwelt amongst us."

The feasts of Mary are milestones in the life of the Church. The Church of God loves to honor the Mother of God. It is not a mere sentiment, for our love and confidence in Mary is built on our love and confidence in Mary's Son. The close association of the Divine Mother and the Divine Child, the high privilege and exalted dignity of Mother of God, made her worthy of an honor that is supereminently higher than that of all eminently higher than that of all other saints and angels together. Since the dawning of Christianity churches, cathedrals and convents have arisen in our Lady's honor. Cities and villages bear her name. have proclaimed to all the earth the glory of her whom "all generations shall call blessed"—
"our tainted nature's solitary boast."

In her name and beneath her protecting love orders and congregations of religious men and women have been founded. The Cistercians wear their white habit in honor of heras Patroness and Queen; the Servites, children of her Dolors, the virgin Eve. Eve had written whose order she herself founded; the debt in her hand writing and the Dominicans, "Brothers of Mary," whom she shelters under daughter full of grace stood up in be very kind to anyone or to anything. Being kind includes in its highest perfection kindness to all living things, and there are no class distinctions when it reaches out to people. her mantle, who are the custodians of her rose garden; Marists, Sisters of Marie Reparatrice, who herself desired their institution as so many Maries of the Tabernacie; Francis-cans, whom she keeps sheltered in Angelic Salutation was first heard

The cheerful man is pre-eminently a useful man. The cheerful man does not cramp his mind and take half-views of men and things. The cheerful man knows that there is much misery, but that misery need not be the rule of life.

The cheerful man sees that everywhere the good out-balances the bad, and that every evil has its compensating balm. A habit of cheerfulness enables one to transmute apparent misfortune into real blessings.

He who has formed a habit of looking at the bright, happy side of the transmand heart.

Mary is the model of saint and upon earth. Today is the birthday of the Hall Mary. When we think do four Mother's ineffable joys on this glorious festival, and the graces that came to us as a result of her acquiescence to the Divine Command, we see more clearly the reason of her unique perogatives, her transcendent honors, and her power in supplication.

"Remember, Son, said St. Bonaventure," that Mary invariably answers you with a favor when you greet her with a 'Hail Mary." This prayer which the acquiescence to the Divine Command, we see more clearly the creation should bring to her feet in the maternal heart.

Mary is the model of saint and the world-weary man, of the innocent this glorious festival, and the graces that came to us as a result of her acquiescence to the Divine Command, we see more clearly the creation should bring to her feet in the maternal heart.

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Mary is the model of saint and the world-weary man, of the innocent this glorious festival, and the graces the bear acquiesce blessings.

He who has formed a habit of looking at the bright, happy side of things has a great advantage over the chronic dyspeptic, who sees no good in anything. The cheerful man's thought sculptures his feed.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

BUT GOD IS SWEET

No wonder that I weep. She clasped my hands and smiled. Ah! then I was a child— Keep in mind how Cervantes, the author of Don Quixote, sums up the folly of procrastination: "By the street of By and By one arrives at the house of never." The man who is always "going to" seldom "does."

She clasped my hands and smiled. Ah! then I was a child—I knew not harm—My mother's arm Was flung around me; and I felt That when I knelt To listen to my mother's prayer, Cod was with mother there. God was with mother ther

> Yea! "God is sweet!" She told me so; She never told me wrong And through my years of woe Her whispers soft, and sad, and low And sweet as Angel's song, Have floated like a dream.
>
> -FATHER ABRAM J. RYAN

THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

On this day centuries ago St. Luke tells us in his Gospel, "The angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary; and the angel being come in, said unto her: "Hail full of grace the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women." blessed art thou among women."
Then came the glorious announcedo, do. Don't talk about it, but do it. Don't promise yourself to do it, but do it "Now."

Every time you put off the doing of something demanding immediate action merely because you lack the will power and energy to do it, you are making it just so much harder for yourself ever to make good.

Then came the glorious announcement that she was to be the Mother of Pope Pius therefore, Catholics shou to heart and act upon it would upon the advice of cian concerning their pheng. Time would be not make the glorious announcement that she was to be the Mother of Pope Pius therefore, Catholics shou to heart and act upon it would upon the advice of in this latter case, so it is be a hindrance in the formore important after all. In a word, frequent Company of the wisdom of Pope Pius therefore, Catholics shou to heart and act upon it would upon the advice of in this latter case, so it is be a hindrance in the formore important after all. that have echoed down the ages, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done unto me according to thy many people imagine it to be. And

sayou can possibly do it.—The Monitor.

THE ANNUNICIATION

The usual quiet of Oriental spring hung over the little village of Nazareth. An angel left the Court of Heaven bearing a message from the Most High God. Straightway

St. Thomas in his treatise on the lives than are at present strength-ened by its graces. What sacrifice it entails is well repaid by actual help along the road to heaven, and by the fact that Christ has said: "He who eateth My Flesh and drinketh My Blood hath life everhosts and mighty in battle was coming to overcome the powers of the last day."—Sentinel of the Blessed Sacrament.

these events. The first Eve listening to the Angel of Deceit by disobedience prepared the way for the fall of man. It was therefore fitting that the second Eve giving heed to the Angel of Truth should by obedience prepare the way for the Redemption.

Mary by her Ave of submission reversed the revolt of her mother Eva. As one of the Church's beautiful hymns declares, "Sumens illud Ave Gabrielis ore, mutans Evænomen;" or as Father Southwell's translation puts it:

translation puts it:

"Spell Eva back, and Ave shall you The first began, the last reversed

our harms:
An Angel's witching words did Evabind,
An Angel's Ave disenchants the

charms.

Death first by Woman's weakness entered in, In Woman's virtue Life doth now begin."

The writings of the Fathers contain many lovely hymns and sermons on this contrast between the first and the second Eve. Cardinal Newman tells us that "the contrast between Mary and Eve had passed almost into a proverb at the time when St. Jerome wrote, 'Death by Eve' life by Mary.''
In the writings of St. Ephrem the

Syrian, whom the late Pope Benedict XV. last year proclaimed with solemn ceremony a Doctor of the Universal Church, there is this passage: "Instead of the Serpent arose Gabriel, and instead of Eve, Mary the Virgin. Eve became a debtor to God, she it was who gave ear to the Serpent's counsel. A child of one day, she despised the commandment, and therefore through a young Maiden salvation was sent to the world. Gabriel by his words undid the speech that the his words undid the speech that the execrable wanderer had held with the virgin Eve. Eve had written the debt in her hand writing and

on the first Annunciation Day, and which the Church has happily completed, will bring strength and con-solation to all sinners, in all moments of the constant battle of life, and more especially at the hour of death.-The Pilot.

IS THIS YOUR EXCUSE

We must admit at once that very many Catholics have not the time to go to Holy Communion more frequently. They live too far from church or their duties hinder them. There are countless others, however, for whom "no time" is a very lame excuse. They could find time, as others do, were they to try. For it is a fact that most of those who receive frequently actually "make time."

time."
Again, think for a moment of what people will do when in poor health. If they are at all anxious to recover, and they usually are, they will do exactly what their doctors tell them. Let us suppose that a walk before breakfast and a dyink from a certain spring is predrink from a certain spring is pre-scribed. Let us further suppose that this prescription has been endorsed by several physicians con-sulted on the question. Few, if any, would neglect this simple

remedy.

Now, the times are such that our spiritual life is menaced daily. And a great Pontiff, speaking for the Heavenly Physician, has told the modern Catholic world that frequent Communion — a walk to church before breakfast and a partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ—is necessary for a healthy Christian life. Every priest will vouch for the wisdom of this prescription of Pope Pius X.; and, therefore, Catholics should take it to heart and act upon it, as they would upon the advice of a physician concerning their physical well being. Time would be no obstacle in this latter case, so it should not be a hindrance in the former, the

word."

St. Thomas in his treatise on the lives than are at present strength-

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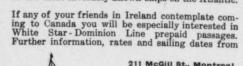
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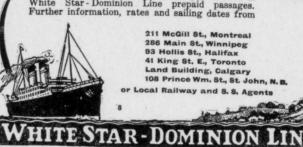
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