

Saints and sinners: We used to use Mr., Mrs. or Miss

When I was a child, I addressed adults by Mr., Mrs. or Miss and their surname. My parents, like many other adults, showed the same courtesy to the neighbors. Nobody does it today. As soon as we are introduced to people, we call them by their first names — even if they are many years our senior. Ten-year-old kids call me George. There are exceptions to this practice. No one, upon being introduced to Mrs. Lyman, would have called her Ruth. Mrs. Lyman was a proper Bostonian, with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereto. As a proper Bostonian, she didn't get too familiar with people, at least at the beginning. Mrs. Lyman died when she was 97 years old, and I knew her for the last 25 years of her life,

but I never addressed her by anything other than Mrs. Lyman. She called me Mr. Plagenz for the first year of our acquaintance. When she did come to call me George, I felt I had earned my way into her circle of close friends. I felt special.

I wonder how many people realize how our attachment to democracy has annihilated almost everything that was special.

Mrs. Lyman, like other Bostonians of her day and class, never descended to our level of instant and easy familiarity.

She even called her favorite cab driver "Mr. Boyle." It conferred a certain dignity upon the man, and it was responsible, I am sure, for the almost soldierly bearing with which Mr. Boyle carried himself — all 300 pounds of him.



george plagenz

• saints & sinners

Mrs. Lyman didn't own a car. She believed there were already too many cars on the road, so she rode in cabs. She preferred Mr. Boyle's cab, but it was not always possible to ride in it. When she had to take a different cab, new drivers learned that Mrs. Lyman did not like to go fast. "Don't hurry, driver," she would always say. (Mrs. Lyman did not fly, but I have

no doubt that if she had, she would have instructed the pilot before takeoff, "Don't hurry, driver.")

Mr. Boyle never hurried. Mrs. Lyman had a marvelously beneficial effect on people who came into her presence.

I have written before about the time in the Lyman home in Milton, Mass., when Mrs. Lyman's cook knocked on her parlor door and asked whether she could sit with her for a while.

"My bunions always feel better after I am with you," the cook said.

Mine always did, too. I didn't really have bunions, but Mrs. Lyman had a way of making loneliness and life's little aches and pains disappear.

She was an affectionate reminder of the better things in life — good manners, good companionship and good conversation.

I remember many stimulating evenings spent in Mrs. Lyman's home in Brookline, Mass., and summers in Northeast Harbor, Maine, when we young people would talk of God and life and many things.

And she was a wise mentor. "Don't be too vivid," she once told me after I had let my imagination run wild in describing a sermon. I have always been grateful for that advice.

To a people who have not learned restraint in either speech or behavior, Mrs. Lyman's counsel of a gracious reticence provides a needed lesson for our time.

American women become consecrated virgins in rare Catholic rite

By Beth J. Harpaz

Associated Press Writer
NEW YORK — At the bridal shop, the saleswomen were puzzled.

Angela Scannapieco didn't want to register. Junette Romero didn't want a consultant. Both women were buying dresses, but not for a regular wedding.

Instead, they needed gowns for an ancient Roman Catholic rite so rare that fewer than 100 American women have gone through it: The Solemn Rite of Consecration of Virgins for Women Living in the World.

The rite formally affirms the chastity of women who are devoted to the church, but who do not want to become nuns.

"The woman in the shop says, OK, she doesn't want spangles, she doesn't want sparkles, she doesn't want a train. She's not getting married, she's being consecrated," Scannapieco recalled with a laugh. "The people in the store may not have understood what was going on, but

I decided I was going to use every opportunity to tell everybody."

Romero walked around the bridal shop for four hours praying.

"I said, 'Lord, the way these young girls are fussing about \$1,500 dresses, I'm going to walk around here and pray that God be the center of their weddings — not the party, not the dress, but the actual church part of it,'" she said. "I was calling the holy spirit to enlighten these young girls' minds. I said, 'Lord, my marriage to you is going to last, but who knows what's going to happen with their marriages.'"

The two women wore their dresses for the ceremony, which was performed Jan. 28 by Bishop Thomas Daily of the Brooklyn Diocese. And both now wear gold bands on their ring fingers to symbolize their marriage to Christ.

"Their calling is not to live in a convent or live a cloistered type of life, or wear a habit or be known as sister," Daily

said. "Their calling is to remain in the world as lay people, but at the same time make this dedication."

The rite can be traced back to the year 500, but it was revived by Pope Paul VI in 1970.

The U.S. Association of Consecrated Virgins, based in Oregon, has 45 official members and estimates another 1,000 live around the world. Consecrated virgins have no formal obligations other than daily prayer, but most also have lay ministries.

Scannapieco works for an organization that sponsors Catholic youth retreats; Romero offers a prayer telephone line from her home. Both women teach Sunday school and are deeply involved in their parish churches.

As children, both flirted with the idea of joining a convent.

Growing up in Brooklyn, Scannapieco, 43, was taught by nuns, so the convent life was "attractive to me." But

when she was in her 20s — the age most women enter convents — "I was away from the church a little bit. I did the bar scene. I went through that stage — 'I'm free now, I'm 21!'"

Still, there were limits to her partying. "I grew up with the idea that you didn't have sex until you got married," she said. "I wasn't planning on being a consecrated virgin when I was 20, 21. I thought, 'OK, it'll happen eventually when Mr. Right comes along.'"

Then a friend asked her to teach Sunday school, and she loved it. She now works for Youth 2000 New York, organizing retreats for young Catholics. The wall over her desk is covered with photos of what she calls her "spiritual children" — girls who call her "Ma," send her their college graduation photos, and drop by to join her for Mass. Her relationship with them, she says, was a "big motivating factor" in consecrating her virginity.

"Things like this tell them that it's OK not to sleep around, it's OK that sex is not a recreation," Scannapieco said. "They're discovering now there are other people out there trying to be chaste. ... Not that I want everyone to be consecrated virgins! We have to have babies, too. We need good Catholic families."

Romero wanted to be a nun growing up in Trinidad, but her mother forbade it. "I have a maid!" she told Junette. "Why would I let you go to a convent and scrub floors?"

Romero, who moved to New York in 1979, found other outlets for her devotion. A wrong number dialed by a woman in tears led her to turn her home phone into a prayer line. She counsels unwed mothers to reject abortion, and prays with the terminally ill.

"People walk up to me and talk to me and I find myself spreading the word of God," she said. "I always say, 'Carry yourself properly because sometimes

you might be the only Bible a person reads.'"

Romero, who would not reveal her age, works at an investment bank in Manhattan near St. Patrick's Cathedral, where she prays daily. But much of her spiritual life revolves around her parish church, St. Jerome's, where she teaches first communion classes and serves as lector, reading Biblical passages during services.

On a recent Sunday, St. Jerome's pastor, Monsignor Guy Sansaricq, congratulated Romero and held her up as an example.

"There are many young ladies and men who marry and give themselves to each other," he told the congregation. "But one can also offer his or her life and body and soul to Jesus."

The St. Jerome children's choir followed with a hymn containing the line: "Who will bear my light to them, whom shall I send?"



First Christian Church

Bible Baptist Church
Pastor: Don Crutcher
Fifth & Broadway
899-7368
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10 am
Evening Service: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Calvary Gospel Church
Pastor:
Fourth & College • 899-3605
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Evening Worship: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Family Night: 7 pm
Adult Bible Study and Youth Group
Saturday: Prayer Meeting: 5-7 pm
If you would like to receive a free newsletter, please call the church office.

Church of Christ
401 Caldwell
899-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of the Nazarene
Pastor: Matthew Delp
Third & Caldwell
899-2080 or 899-3797
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:50 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First Baptist Church
Pastor:
Fifth & Center • 899-3450
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Tuesday: Mens' Prayer Group: 5:30 am
Thursday: Ladies' Bible Study: 10 am

Seventh Day Adventist Church
Pastor: Bobby Potter • 332-3956
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11 am

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Pastor: Loren Strait
Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Worship Service: 10:30 am
Junior & High School Youth Group: 5:30 pm
Tuesday: Bible Study: 7 pm
Wednesday: Devotions: 10 am
Choir Practice: 7 pm
Judi's Rainbow Preschool: Wednesdays and Fridays - 9-11 am (Handicap Accessible, Nursery Provided)

First United Methodist Church
1116 Sherman
899-3631
Pastor: Rev. Carol Moore-Ramey
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sonrise Christian Church
Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398
Minister: Tony Kafka
Youth Minister: Doug Bean
Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am
Wednesday:
Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
13th & Sherman • 899-6161
Pastor: Scott Grimshaw
Sunday: Sunday School: 8:45 am
Worship Service: 10 am
Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Kanorado United Methodist Church
Pastor: Leonard Cox
399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10:15 am

Goodland Bible Church
109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor:
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Morning Worship: 11 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: Call for location

Grace Fellowship Church
104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423
Pastor: Bob Snyder • Residence: 899-0134
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am
Worship Service: 11 am

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
13th & Center
899-2115 or Rectory 899-2114
Priest: Father Charles Schneider
Deacon: Gretchen Talitha
Saturday: Church School: 4 pm
Holy Communion: 5 pm
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm
Sr. Warden for emergencies during the week 899-2067

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (970) 664-2470
Sacrament Meeting: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am
Priesthood/Relief Society: 11:30 am

Word of Life Foursquare Church
223 E. 10th
899-5250
Pastor: John Coumerilh
Sunday: Worship Celebration & Kids' Church: 10:30 am

United Methodist Church Brewster:
Pastor:
Worship Service: 10:45 am CST
Sunday School: 9:45 am CST
Winona:
Minister: Rev. Bob Winters
Worship Service: 9 am CST
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo
La Luz Del Mundo
Spanish Speaking Church
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.
1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Pastor: Father Daryl Olmstead
307 W. 13th • 899-7205
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment
Mass Schedule:
Saturday: 6 pm
Sunday: 8 am and 10:30 am
Spanish Mass: 1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

Pleasant Home Church
Serving the rural community for over 100 years
Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70
Pastor: Jim Cress
899-5784
Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am
Sunday School: 10 am
Evening Service: 6 pm

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