Catholic Enrichment Activities

The Windeatt Dictionary: Pre-Vatican II Terms and Catholic Words from Mary Fabyan Windeatt's Saint Biographies

Janet McKenzie

A RACE for Heaven Product

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Preface to The Windeatt Dictionary: Pre-Vatican II Terms and Catholic Words from Mary Fabyan Windeatt's Saint Biographies

Mary Fabyan Windeatt's series of saint biographies were written between the years of 1941 and 1958—before the changes rendered by the Second Vatican Council, which met from 1962 to 1965. As a convert to the Catholic faith, many of the pre-Vatican II terms and expressions used by Ms. Windeatt were unfamiliar to me as well as to my children. As only some of these terms are contained in the modern Catholic dictionaries, it is difficult to find many of these words without the use of an older, out-of-print Catholic dictionary or encyclopedia. After spending much time looking up these words some several times before they were remembered—I became determined to produce a more permanent resource of these words and phrases.

Included in this dictionary are Catholic terms gleaned from all twenty of the Windeatt biographies—those not commonly defined in either secular dictionaries or popular catechisms. These terms have been researched in several sources (See Bibliography for a complete list.) and defined as simply and completely as possible. Words and terms printed in SMALL CAPS within the definitions include some of those words that

Preface

have a separate entry. Due to its specific scope, fewer entries are included in this dictionary thereby making its use less frustrating to students than the use of other larger dictionaries. In addition, they will more readily find the words and terms they seek.

May this resource help you make better use of this inspiring set of saint biographies as well as increase your knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith, especially as it was lived by the saints of our Church.

> Janet McKenzie January 6, 2002 Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord

(All capitalization and punctuation in this book follow the rules as outlined in *Writing Handbook* by Bernard J. Streicher, Michael P. Kammer, and Charles W. Mulligan, Second Edition, 1996, Loyola Press, Chicago, except the names of the sacraments which are capitalized in conformity with the cap-italization style guide of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.)

A

bbess—superior of a community of nuns; spiritual mother of the religious women under her care; elected, usually for life, by the members of the community

abbey—name for an independent MONASTERY or CON-VENT with a community of at least twelve monks or nuns, ruled by an abbot or abbess; most abbeys are either BENEDICTINE or CISTERCIAN

abbot/father abbot—superior of a community of monks; the head of a MO-NASTERY; elected by secret ballot from the community, usually for life; the title was originally used in Egypt to designate any monk venerated due to age or sanctity

absolution—form or words used in the sacrament of Penance by a duly authorized priest while making the SIGN OF THE CROSS, by which sins are forgiven; the remission of sin by an authorized priest; sacramental forgiveness

act of consecration—act of dedicating one's self to holy service; may be made to a specific entity such as the Blessed Virgin Mary or the SACRED HEART OF JESUS; see CONSECRATION

act of reparation—see RE-PARATION

Adoro Te Devote—hymn written in the thirteenth century by Saint Thomas Aquinas in praise of God; title taken from the first words of the Latin translation which mean "I adore You devoutly"

agape—a Greek word that

means "charity given freely from love"; meal (love feast) that was ceremoniously taken in company with other Christians; designed to signify and cement the bonds of charity among the early Christians; not the same as the Eucharistic meal, but often preceded it

alb—the long white linen VESTMENT tied with a cincture and worn underneath (sleeveless chasuble the outer garment colored in accordance with the liturgical season and symbolic of the yoke of Christ) by the priest during the celebrations of the Mass; derived from the tunic worn during Roman times, now a symbol of purity of heart; also the name of the white garment worn by the newly baptized

Albigenses—members of the Albigensianism heresy

Albigensian heresy—originated in Albi in southern France in the twelfth century; belief in two gods—a good god who created the spirit and an evil god who created the material world including the human body; denied the sacraments, the Trinity, and the hierarchy of the Church; favored suicide and abstaining from marriage; a modified version of the Manichaean heresy Alcantara Franciscansknown also as Alcantarines: named after St. Peter of Alcantara who supported them; the DISCALCED Friars Minor, branch of the Observant Franciscans founded in Spain at the end of the fifteenth century; now known simply as Friars Minor; see ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR alms-money and/or material goods given in Christian charity to one in need almsgiving—the charitable giving of money or material goods to one in need; one of the points on which our Last Judgment will be made (see Matthew 25:31-46); commanded by the law of charity, each is expected to give according to ability, to enemies as well as friends; bound to give only out of surplus after one's own needs and obligations have been met; a principal form of penance in the Church: not to be confused with TITHING **altar**—a place for offering sacrifice; the table used for the celebration of the Sacrifice of the Mass

altar linens—also called altar cloths; formerly three were required upon the altar, but the New Order of the Mass—which took effect on November 30, 1969—requires only one

Altar of Repose—see RE-POSITORY

altar rail—a horizontal bar supported by vertical posts, usually ornamental; separates the SANCTUARY from the body of the church; when Holy Communion is received by the faithful on their knees, may be called the communion rail as the faithful line up kneeling in front of this rail and take turns receiving our Lord's Body and Blood

Anglican—a term that includes all Protestant episcopal churches deriving from the CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Angelus—devotion honoring the Incarnation and venerating the Blessed Virgin at morning (six o'clock), noon, and evening (six o'clock) by the recitation of three HAIL MARYS, with words spoken by the Blessed Virgin at the Annunciation as a final prayer; also refers to the angelus bell which is rung at the three times of the day in a special pattern of three strokes three times and then nine strokes in succession

apostles—members of the clergy or laity who follow the commands of Christ to bring the Good News to others, whether at home or abroad; more specifically refers to the original twelve men chosen by Jesus; see DISCIPLES

Apostles' Creed—a professsion of faith derived from the teachings of the Apostles; contains twelve points of doctrine encompassing the most basic truths of the Christian faith; Rufinus (400 AD) described the Creed as the work of the twelve apostles as composed on PENTECOST

apparition—a supernatural vision in which a person or object that is not accessible to normal human powers is seen and ordinarily also heard

approbation—the act by which a superior gives appro-

val for a religious to perform certain duties or privileges archbishop—bishop of an archdiocese who has authority over the other bishops of a **PROVINCE** archdiocese-diocese presided over by an archbishop; usually located within a city Ark of the Covenant—the sacred chest made by the Israelites while camped in the desert; made of precious materials and could be lifted on two poles thrust through gold rings; the sign of God's presence and protection, it contained the Tables of the Law, a golden dish of Manna and the rod of Aaron which had blossomed; symbol of the Church to come Article of Faith-DOGMA

Ascension, Feast of—the commemoration of Our Lord's rising into heaven forty days after His Resurrection on Easter; the paschal (Easter) candle is extinguished on this day symbolizing the departure of Our Lord and the end of the Easter season

Ash Wednesday—the first day of LENT, when ashes from burnt palms blessed the preceding year are, on this first day of the yearly season of penance, placed on the foreheads of the faithful

assist at Mass—to attend Mass; the faithful are expected to not merely witness the celebration but to participate with the priest in offering the sacrifice, thus to "assist" (see HEAR MASS)

Augustinians—title given to several religious orders based on the RULE of St. Augustine as set forth briefly in 423

Ave—In Latin, the prayer of praise to the Blessed Mother; the HAIL MARY; also referred to as the *Ave Maria*

Introduction to Catholic Book Report Ideas

It is a simple task to hand a book to a student and ask that the book be read or to read the book aloud together. However, after the book has been completed, the material should be summarized to ensure that the lessons the book offers have been assimilated. This is especially important if no discussion has taken place throughout the reading. Every book contains a message (or theme) and provides a model for living. It is important to reinforce those models and lessons that support and encourage us as Catholics and to explore those topics that may conflict with our Faith.

Oftentimes, a book report is a mere regurgitation of the book's contents. Ideally, a book report should be a more personalized expansion of the material that was covered in the book. The following suggested projects encourage critical thinking and are intended to provoke a deeper reflection on the book's themes and topics. Some of these projects require expanded research related to the characters or events in the book. Several of the choices require an incorporation of the book's experience into our faith life—what lesson can we take from this book to strengthen our own faith in God? The suggested activities take shape in various forms, from written exercises to creative art projects.

Do not allow the suggestions that follow to limit report choices, but view them as the beginning of a creative flow of ideas for alternative book report formats. Be open to any format that seems workable including group projects. Encourage students to create their own plan for a book report on any topic upon which the book may have stirred an interest.

It is important to weave general historical material into its proper place in Church history and to encourage students to view events and to analyze characters from a Catholic perspective. To this end, many of the report ideas require the student to research one specific topic in the book rather than analyzing the entire book. A Catholic encyclopedia and/or dictionary, as well as a well-indexed book on Church history (such as Fr. John Laux's *Church History*) are essential reference tools for many of these projects.

Be aware that some of the book report choices outlined below will need to be started at the beginning of the book, so preview options before the reading begins. (See page 98 below for a list of book report options that need prior planning.) The Record of Completed Book Reports found on pages 95-96 provides a summarized list of ideas from each of the following categories:

- Writing Projects (fourteen selections)
- Creative Activities (ten selections)
- > Saint Biography Topics (twenty-one selections)
- ★ Student's Original Report Ideas

Writing Projects

 Research any of the religious orders mentioned in this book.
Consider the founder of the order, the purpose of the order (contemplative, service, etc.),



when and where it was founded, the reason it was founded, and the rule of the order. Follow the order's growth or demise through the ages. Relate this information in the form of an outline, an illustrated chart, an essay, or an oral presentation complete with graphics.

• Write a research paper summarizing the historical conditions during the period of this book. What were the living conditions of that time, in that country and throughout the world? Include information on transportation, religious customs, education, daily family life, economic conditions, the arts, and/or political climate. What was the attitude toward organized religion in general and the Roman Catholic Church in particular? What other famous people lived during this time? What else was happening in the world? (You may wish to consult historical timelines such as the one found at the back of *The Story of the Church, Her Founding, Mission and Progress* by Rev. George John-

son, Rev. Jerome D. Hanran, and Sr. M. Dominica. This excellent resource contains an extensive chronological timeline of events in Church history crossreferenced with general historical events and characters.) An understanding of the events happening within the Church during the historical period the book takes place will lead to a deeper appreciation of the historical characters' motives and views regarding the Catholic Church in particular and religion in general. Your family may wish to begin your own historical timeline to record specific information regarding the topics and saints you study.

• Compose a diary or journal of the main character. Write this in the first person; speak as though you are the character. Start this project at the beginning of the book and



write as many entries as may be required after reading each chapter. Expand and elaborate on the events presented in the book. Be sure to include how the character was affected by the story's events as well as his/her feelings and plans.

Use this book's "Contents" list to produce an outline of this book. If necessary, research how to format an outline; then use the chapter titles as the main headings. As you read through this book, outline events under each chapter heading to produce an outline of the character's life or historical events as seen through the author's or character's eyes.