

Page 75 - A Rare Acadian Religious Song

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Song in English continues from page 73 A gentleman from Alexandria, To whom heaven had not granted any children. Goes, very sad, to see a holy monk and begs him To ask for one, through his very fervent prayers. His chaste wife, distressed likewise, Who since long weeps night and day, Promises without dissimulation. That if she conceive. She will offer the child to the Lord in return. 3 Having received their little Euphrosine, They are keen to bring her up well; Every day they teach her all moral doctrines, And pray God to keep her with them. The moment she is at the age of twelve. Her admired mother is at the end of her time; The moment she expires. Each one wants To caress the dear fruit of her womb. 4 The good Paphnutius, a pious and wise man Who wants to know what is best advisable to do Before giving his daughter in marriage, Goes and asks the holy monk for advice. While he treats with the humble old man, His Euphrosine is ravished aloof, She meditates. To be an hermit; She chooses the best part. 5 At the same time that the feast is being celebrated. And that her father offers thanksgivings to God, She dresses up as a poor anchorite. After having shaved her hair. Father of the day, most beautiful of all stars, Stop here and contemplate this torch: It is Euphrosine Who makes her way Towards the convent that will become her tomb! Under this habit, our modest virgin. Concealing her name, takes the one of Emerand. Confiding in her heavenly Father, She goes and sees the very fervent abbot. The holy old man, ready to receive her. Does not forget to let her know The severe life Of the monastery. And the struggles one may meet therein. 7 "Ah! my dear Father," adds our saint, "I have prepared my heart and my mind. I will never make the least complaint When I'll have to suffer for Jesus Christ. Since long my soul said goodbye To whatever may be unpleasant to the eyes of God. 1 only desire A long martyrdom; Receive me, as a favour, in this holy place." 8 The wise abbot, touched by her constancy. Without resisting, receives her instantly. First is seen her exact observance. Her spirit of obedience and her heart so fervent. There is no one to be unsatisfied With this novice in whom everything is perfect. Each one contemplates His rare example. And everyone wants to follow him in whatever he does 9 The devil represents to the holy monk How many possessions and honours his father has. But Euphrosine, just like another Anthony, Tramples it underfoot and cherishes her happiness. This proud spirit that the saint has overcome. Takes revenge on her through her raire beauty: All his companions. Even the most austere. Near him are tempted of impurity. 10 The Tempter, instead of catching, is himself caught; Instead of overcoming, he sees himself overcome. The abbot commits the monk to the great Agape, Wise old man of high virtue. The chaste girl obeys willingly. The moment she is obliged to avoid the choir. She hides And without respite Loves in her cell her Creator. 11 At the very moment when the holy monk is singing, His sad father is overwhelmed with grief; Everything displeases him, he searches, he laments; The most beautiful days are for him like very dark nights Having lost the object of his desires, He gives way to extreme displeasures. And has for help And for remedy Only sobs, tears and sighs. 12 The spouse-to-be, Paphnutius, and the



father-in-law, Utter screams which penetrate the skies. The three of them, outraged by a bitter distress. Inform all people in a thousand different places. But it is in vain that they make them search The one whom God takes care of hiding from them The girl, safe. In the enclosure Where she stands more firm than on a rock. 13 The father alone, unable to close his eyes, Goes and visits the abbot, his friend since long; He weeps at his feet, imploring his prayer. But tells him only half the grief he suffers. As he cries and holds the knees of the abbot, Suddenly all young and old friars run up. They sympathize, They are moved: "But, Paphnutius," they say, "what's wrong?" ENGLISH CONTINUES ON PAGE 77 Fattier limmy Tompiiins put tlie case for credit unions plainly: "You simply take what extra money you have • the savings in your socl' • and let your neighbour use it for a while, only you don't demand his right arm for security." DOMINION CREDIT UNION 849-8648 COADY CREDIT UNION Glace Bay 849-7610 GLACE BAY CENTRAL CREDIT UNION 849-7512 MAIN-A-DIEU CREDIT UNION 733-2555 NEW WATERFORD CREDIT UNION 862-6453 NORTH SYDNEY CREDIT UNION 794-2535 RESERVE MINES CREDIT UNION 849-4583 ELECTRIC EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION Sydney 564-9707 STEEL CENTRE CREDIT UNION Sydney 562-5559 SYDNEY CREDIT UNION Sydney 562-5593 Sydney River branch 539-1684 WHITNEY CREDIT UNION Sydney 564-6478 PRINCESS CREDIT UNION Sydney Mines 736-9204 BAY ST. LAWRENCE CREDIT UNION 383-2003 CHETICAMP CREDIT UNION 224-2055 HIGHLAND CREDIT UNION Baddeck branch 295-3477 Inverness-Filene branch 258-2045 Margaree branch (main) 235-2659 North East Margaree branch 248-2401 JOHNSTOWN CREDIT UNION 535-3540 L'ARDOISE CREDIT UNION 587-2414 LEMOYNE CREDIT UNION Grand Etang 224-2015 LOUISDALE CREDIT UNION 345-2015 North Isle Madame branch 226-2722 MABOU CREDIT UNION 945-2003 PORT HOOD CREDIT UNION 787-3246 RIVER BOURGEOIS CREDIT UNION 535-3101 ST. JOSEPH'S CREDIT UNION Petit-de-Grat 226-2288 STRAIT AREA CREDIT UNION Port Hawkesbury 625-0190 Mulgrave 747-3142 THE CREDIT UNIONS OF CAPE BRETON ISLAND