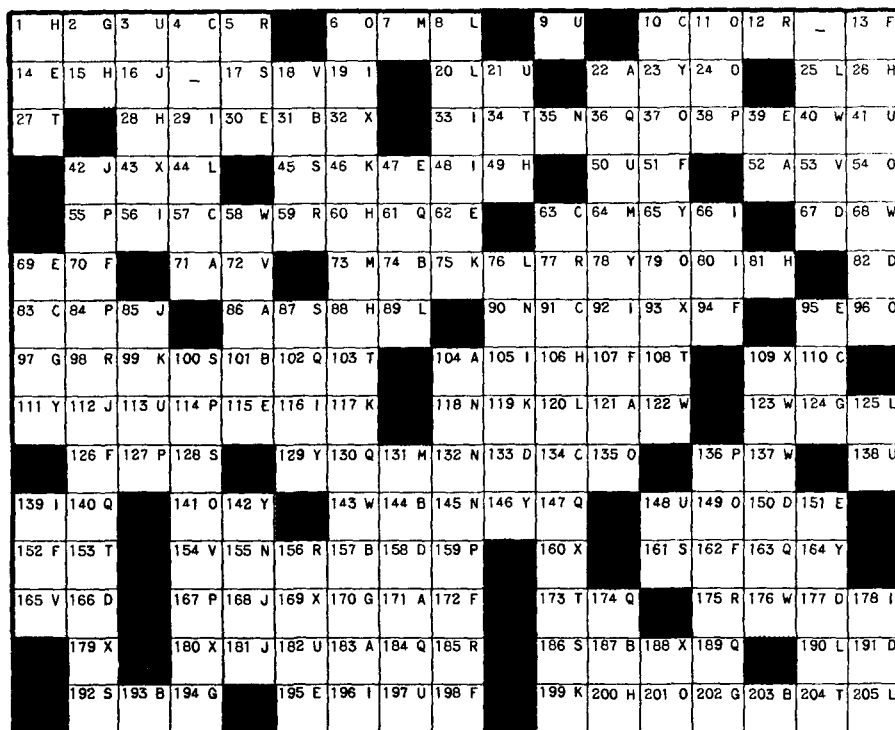


DOUBLE-CROSTIC

Number 157

by Thomas H. Middleton



Instructions:

If you've never solved one of these puzzles, it will probably look much more difficult than it actually is. If you can answer only a few of the WORDS correctly, you're on your way to solving the puzzle. Fill in the numbered blanks of all the WORDS you can guess and write the letter of each numbered blank in its correspondingly numbered square in the diagram. The letters printed in the upper-right-hand corners of the squares indicate from what WORD a particular square's letter comes.

The diagram, when filled in, should read as a quotation from a published work. The dark squares are the spaces between words. If there is no dark square at the end of a line, a word may carry over to the line below.

The first letter of each WORD, reading down, will spell the name of the author and the title of the work from which the quotation is taken.

You should find yourself seeing words and phrases taking form in the diagram; so you can work back and forth, from WORDS to diagram and from diagram to WORDS, until the diagram is filled in.

Answer to *Double Crostic 156* appears on page 6.

CLUES

WORDS

- A. Deceive, trick
22 52 71 86 104 121 171 183
- B. Make more or less conversant
193 31 74 101 144 157 187 203
- C. Tree of the Pacific islands, with an irritant milky juice
4 10 57 83 63 91 110 134
- D. Most elevated or sublime
158 177 67 82 133 150 166 191
- E. Encouraged
14 151 195 39 69 95 115 30 47
62
- F. Aromatic tree of the Philippines having flowers that yield a volatile oil used in perfumery (comp.)
94 107 152 198 172 13 70 162 51
126
- G. Italian island west of Naples
170 194 97 124 202 2
- H. Small rattlesnake ranging from the Great Lakes to Mexico
1 15 28 49 60 81 88 106 200
26
- I. Shipshape condition (comp. and 1 wd.)
56 178 33 80 196 92 29 48 105
139 19 66 116
- J. Cad, bounder
168 181 42 85 112 16
- K. English author, critic, social reformer (1819-1900; *Sesame and Lilies*)
46 75 99 117 199 119
- L. Sturdy fabric used in men's clothing (2 wds.)
76 89 190 8 25 120 20 44 125
205
- M. Greek vowels
64 131 7 73

CLUES

WORDS

- N. Scrap, fracas, ruckus, rumpus
90 118 132 145 155 35
- O. American painter ("Christina's World"; full name)
96 201 24 54 79 11 6 37 135
141 149
- P. "When he is gone his way, then he ____" (Prov. 20:14)
55 127 84 114 136 159 167 38
- Q. One of the Graces
184 130 36 147 61 174 163 140 102
189
- R. Village near Stratford-on-Avon; birthplace of Anne Hathaway
175 98 12 156 185 5 77 59
- S. "A fortified residence 'gainst ____ of time" (2 wds., *Measure for Measure*)
161 100 87 45 186 17 128 192
- T. Scattered over with things set at intervals; decorated with nailheads, etc.
153 173 34 27 103 204 108
- U. Disengaged
21 3 148 113 50 182 9 138 197
41
- V. Dishcloth gourd; vegetable sponge
18 53 72 154 165
- W. Withholds employment from (employees) in order to gain concessions (2 wds.)
122 40 143 58 123 137 68 176
- X. Spanish dramatist and statesman (1832-1916; *Folly or Saintliness*; Nobel Prize 1904)
32 188 43 93 109 160 180 179 169
- Y. Defamatory falsehood published for political effect
65 129 142 78 111 23 146 164

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THE BACK DOOR

Letter to the New Pope

HOLY FATHER, Pardon my presumption, but I am concerned. The Roman Catholic Church is in trouble. For centuries the guarantor of social and emotional stability of millions, it is increasingly viewed as disputable, dispensable, anachronistic. Your predecessor's stand against birth control proved bewildering, even traumatizing, to those who took it seriously, and unconscionable to anyone concerned about the impoverished and overpopulated corners of our planet. Likewise, Pope Paul's insistence that wretched and contaminating marriages were preferable to divorce seemed unnecessarily hurtful to the lives of children as well as parents.

Decline is, of course, in the nature of things, for institutions no less than individuals. Perhaps the erosion of the Church's influence, membership, and endowment is simply an unalterable fact of life, God's will. But I don't believe it. Men built the Church; men can rebuild it—and should. For while gov-

ernments have made progress satisfying the physical needs of their citizenry, the Church is one of the rare institutions whose purpose is to minister to emotional needs. Without a powerful and persuasive Church, more and more souls will founder on the eternal questions: Why were we born? And, if there was a good reason to be born, why, then must we die? Psychiatry, with its relentless focus on the self, is not a sufficient substitute. Neither is community, in our increasingly unsettled world. Neither is hedonism, despite promoters' promises. The Church's answer to these eternal questions is one of the few that have proved satisfying to generations of both brilliant and ordinary souls. If Man did not have the Church, he would have to invent one, and no modern invention is likely to approach Christianity's moving and time-honed Gospel.

In previous, more hierarchically minded centuries, the Church was able to dominate the lives of its members. But today, the Church is a choice, one

of innumerable ways to spend one's time and money. As never before, the Church must compete for awareness and attention, must make its potential worshippers realize that the Church offers what they are seeking. Christ enjoined his disciples to seek converts. In America, the modern method of converting is marketing. The proof that one can successfully market religion is too plentiful to ignore. All manner of swamis and pop religionists parlay third-rate myths into millions. Slick preachers from instant sects infest the airwaves. While the Church should never sell itself with a jingle, like a bar of soap, neither can it afford to stand by while its potential members and their dollars are being captured by competitive creeds. Power lies in numbers—of members and dollars. Shocking as it may sound, I would recommend that your American representatives seek the counsel of a smart ad agency.

I would also recommend, Holy Father, that, where possible, you avoid committing the Church to losing battles. This may sound like a recommendation of pusillanimity; it is not. Where necessary—and you are the only judge—make a stand. But no reputation, including yours, is well served by repeated defeats. I hope your conscience will allow you to support birth control and test-tube pregnancies, for they belong to the future. I would also ask you to stop treating women as inferior beings, incapable of administering the Sacraments. In respect to the celibacy of priests, I would vote to continue it; their work deserves single-minded attention. Regarding the liturgy, I would say, don't alter it too much. One of the Roman Catholic Church's greatest assets is historical continuity; there is solace in hearing familiar phrases incanted year after year.

I wish you success, Holy Father. The more powerful the Church becomes, the greater will grow your opportunities to exert a humane and peaceable influence on these fractious times. The more souls your Church gathers under her wing, the fewer will be the anxiety-ridden and aimless souls haunting the streets. As you accept the pallium and the ring, perhaps no man alive stands a greater chance to do good in the world. Godspeed.

—CARLL TUCKER



Take me to Acapulco