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Table with columns: Name, W, L, Pct. Rows include St. Boniface, H. R. A. A., C. Y. M. A., St. Ambrose, St. Francis, K. of St. George, St. Andrew, St. Salome.

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"I know what Extension has meant for the Home Missions, especially those of the South-west. I have the record before me as I go from end to end of this Diocese of nearly seventy thousand square miles. It is written in the crosses over churches, chapels, schools and rectories. I hear it from my clergy and my people. I know that without Extension the Diocese of Oklahoma would be far from what it is today. May God continue to bless Extension and all its works."

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THE CATHOLIC CHURCH EXTENSION SOCIETY 360 N. MICHIGAN AVENUE CHICAGO, ILL.

Christmas Candle

By Katherine Edelman

SLOWLY, almost reverently, Nora Carney set the Christmas candle in the window, whispering a prayer as she looked out into the cold, still night. Bravely the little flame gleamed out into the darkness; a beckoning light to any wanderer that might be seeking shelter.

"Mother, won't you tell us the story of Christmas again?" little Michael asked. "Tell us about the coming of the Christ Child, and—the reason they light the Christmas candle in Ireland?"

Nora Carney had been born in Ireland. Now, her home was in the midst of a great western prairie; but, as her children gathered around her, she told them the story of the coming of the Christ Child and the reason for the lighting of the Christmas candle as her own mother used to tell it to her long ago, around a glowing peat fire in far-away Ireland.

"You know, children," she began, "when Jesus came there was no place for Him. Joseph and Mary were so tired and so weary after the long journey into Bethlehem, but every place they sought a shelter they got the same answer 'no room.' People



took little interest in them because they were poor; so they had to go out to that dark, cold cave, and there the little Christ Child was born. Angels were singing their songs of joy and welcome for Him over the hills of Judea, but in Bethlehem they sought a shelter in vain."

"I wish our house had been there, mother; we—we would have let them in," little Mary interrupted.

Mrs. Carney stopped to stroke the curly head with her work-worn hand, then went on: "In Ireland there is a beautiful legend that very often Mary, with the little Christ Child in her arms, comes back to earth on Christmas eve, and wanders around seeking a shelter for herself and Jesus. And lest she might seek a place in vain, a Christmas candle is placed in every home to guide her."

"Oh, children," she went on, her voice taking on a radiant note, "it is a beautiful sight to look out on Christmas eve and see every hill and valley in Ireland dotted with little golden lights; the whole country looks like one big Christmas tree."

She stopped a few moments as if memory carried her back over the years and she was looking on the scene once more; then, at the insistence of the children, went on:

"This was how the beautiful custom of lighting the Christmas candle



started, and it has been kept up through the years."

"But—but—" practical-minded Jimmie interrupted: "They—the mother and child don't really come back—do they?"

"I—I don't know for sure, Jimmie, but I do know that very often others that the Christ Child loves are needing aid or shelter. Sometimes it is only a kind word, or a bit of encouragement, maybe, but if we give it, and give it cheerfully at Christmas, we are really doing it for Him and—giving Him the shelter that they refused in Bethlehem long ago. You know the words He said when He was here: 'Inasmuch as ye do it unto the least of these, ye do it unto Me.'"

Silence fell upon the room after the story was finished. Even practical-minded Jimmie asked no other question. All the children seemed to be looking toward the little candle that was shining so bravely in the window. Now, after the story that they had listened to, it was no ordinary candle that they were looking at; it had grown to be something sacred, something inspiring.

And in the years to come, no matter where the Carney children might be scattered over the earth, always the lighting of the Christmas candle would bring back the memory of this hour, and for all of them it would always be a symbol of the love and desire to help others at Christmas for His sake. (© 1929 Western Newspaper Union.)

Christmas Greens

The custom of hanging evergreens in the house at Christmas time originally had a purpose beyond decoration. In olden times, each kind of evergreen was supposed to confer special blessings on those who passed beneath it. To pass under holly insured good fortune for the coming year.

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Rochester Priest Fleed to Mountains To Escape Red Soldiers

(Continued from Page One)

from the city chapel, as well as the vestments, and came out to the Seminary. On all sides, people could be seen carrying their effects to places of safety. There was great alarm in the city, and while the smaller shops remained open, the larger ones were partly barred.

The Storm Broke "On the twenty-fifth of October, the storm broke out of a clear sky, and no one knew what was going to happen next. The Communist army came down from Fukien Province, passed near our mission of St. Louis, and came on to Kaying, which city they took after over half an hour's fighting. Report has it that the 'Reds' were about three thousand strong, two thousand of whom had rifles. From the Seminary windows we could see people running across the rice fields in all directions, and especially away from the city, towards our mission. Soon hardly a person was to be seen, and the whole countryside was deserted, and as still as death."

"All along I did not like the idea of having to leave, but in view of the experience of the German Dominicans in Fukien with the 'Reds,' and keeping in mind the fact that the ten thousand dollar ransom had already been paid for the release of the priests and Sister held, I felt that it would be foolhardy to remain; so the three of us, Father O'Connell of St. Louis, Mo., Father Eckstein of Milwaukee, Wis., and myself, left hurriedly. We wrapped up a few articles of clothing in a towel and then, taking our Mass kits, mounted our horses, and were soon on the road, with a boy as a guide, as we were not quite sure of the route.

Conduct of Communists "The next day, some of the Christians went to town to learn what had really happened. They returned with the information that the first thing the Communists had done was to release all the prisoners in the jail; then they got fire to the Court House, and partly destroyed the yamen (the Governor's house). From each shop they demanded a certain amount of money, with the threat that, if it were not forthcoming by noon, they would burn the store. They issued a Soviet newspaper with the usual propaganda, which included about everything imaginable. They held meetings in the streets, and at one meeting they openly declared that at five that afternoon they would burn every mission in the city, mentioning all three by name.

"But God decreed otherwise, for, at four o'clock, the soldiers who had driven the Communists out of Fukien, and who were following them, arrived in the city, and the 'Red army' fled in disorder. Some were killed in the engagement, others were taken prisoners, and the rest retreated up the river towards Hing Ning.

"On the twenty-eighth, a courier came down from St. Louis, and greatly relieved our minds regarding the safety of Father Hilbert and the mission there. When the 'Reds' entered the city of Chin Phi, he went into the mountains, and when he learned that the soldiers were chasing the 'Reds,' he came back, to find that the mission had not been harmed in any way, and the 'Reds' were hurrying on towards Kaying. The St. Louis Christians consider their escape as miraculous, and an old lady here too said to me: 'God has performed a miracle. God certainly has been good to us, when we consider how the Vincentians and the Dominicans suffered.'

Soldiers Occupy Chapel "I have not been to the city of Kaying yet, but I am informed that regular soldiers are occupying our city chapel. Some Christians have just come out from the city, and tell me that the 'Reds' wrote all over the outside of our Chapel there: 'Down with the Church and with America,' as well as a lot of other things. But strangely enough, they did not attempt to enter, so we certainly have much for which to thank God.

"This is the story, then, of the past several days. It might have read much differently, but what God keeps is well kept. We hope the danger is past, but one never knows. "P. S.—Nov. 1. We had to flee again—still in the mountains—will write as soon as possible."

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