

Many Prelates Attend The 25th Annual Meeting Of Church Extension Society

Report Shows That Receipts in Past Year Exceeded One and One-Half Million Dollars—New Officers Are Added to Board.

Chicago, Dec. 19.—The 25th annual meeting of the Catholic Church Extension Society, held here this week, brought out the fact that the receipts of the society totaled more than a million and a half dollars in the last fiscal year. The meeting of the society was presided over by His Eminence George Cardinal Mundelein, archbishop of Chicago.

Some New Officers
The Most Rev. Samuel A. Stritch, Archbishop of Milwaukee, was elected to the office of vice-chancellor of the society, a position held for the first twenty-five years by the late Archbishop Messmer. The Most Rev. Francis J. Beckman, archbishop of Dubuque, was added to the board of officers. All officers and members of the various boards were re-elected.

Christi, John F. Noll of Fort Wayne, Christopher E. Byrne of Galveston, J. Henry Tihen of Denver, Daniel J. Gercke of Tucson, John B. MacIntyre of Monterey-Fresno, Edward F. Hoban of Rockford, Aloysius J. Willinger of Ponce, Porto Rico, John B. Morris of Little Rock, Joseph P. Busch of St. Cloud, James O'Reilly of Fargo, John M. Cannon of Erie, Emmet M. Walsh of Charleston and Theodore H. Reverman of Superior.

A summary of the receipts and disbursements presented to the board of governors by the Rev. William D. O'Brien, president of the board, in his annual report, follows:

Society's Receipts	
Annuitants funds	\$434,029.17
Endowment funds	215,966.32
Mass intentions	232,303.00
Designated gifts	311,727.93
Interest on funds	215,545.95
Missionary Dollar Club	65,000.00
General donations	114,613.06
Order of Martha	11,786.32
Total	\$1,500,971.95

Disbursements	
Annuitants fund	\$434,029.17
Endowment fund	215,966.32
Mass intentions	232,343.00
Supplies and church goods distributions	213,104.42
Reserve	72,079.26
Interest to annuitants	115,545.49
Education of missionary students	61,350.00
Expenses for missionary priests	65,000.00
Grants created from interest	50,000.00
Expenses	38,518.29
Total	\$1,500,971.95

Many Prelates Present
The following members of the hierarchy attended the session: Cardinal Mundelein, Archbishops Michael J. Curley of Baltimore, John W. Shaw of New Orleans, Albert R. Dwyer, O.S.A., of Santa Fe, and Edward D. Howard of Portland, Ore.

45 Missionaries Held Captive By Chinese Bandits

Seventeen Were Captured Within a Week—Number of Protestant Missionaries Are Also Captives.

Rome, Dec. 19.—With 17 more missionaries reported captured or missing within a week and no recent releases reported, the total number of priests and Sisters held captive by Chinese bandits, or missing, has mounted to 45.

A telegram from Shanghai reports the disappearance of the Spanish Bishop of Changteh—the Rt. Rev. Angelo Diego Carvajal, an Augustinian, together with two of his priests, Fathers Casado and Lopez, and seven Sisters. An Irish missionary of St. Columban stationed at Kienghang has been carried off.

Besides these, a toll of six is reported from a field heretofore unmolested, the Vicariate of Hanchung-fu, in southern Shensi province. Telegraphic dispatches state that Fathers Mazzoli and Filia, both of the Milan Foreign Mission Society, Father Chang, Chinese, and three Sisters were taken by retreating Reds passing through Kulupa, principal mission of the Milan Fathers in this area.

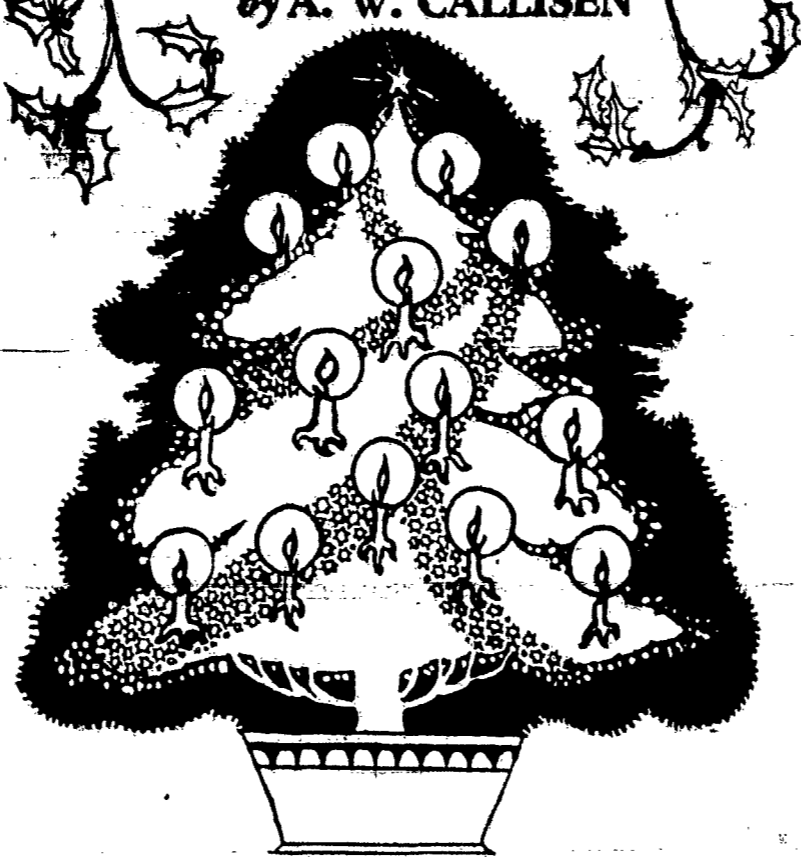
At the moment, if the meager reports from inland China may be trusted, one bishop, 24 priests and 20 Sisters are either in the hands of outlaws, or unaccounted for, the largest figure on record. A number of Protestant missionaries are likewise held. France, Italy, Great Britain and other powers have united in a new and strong protest to Nanking. The Chinese government is impressed with the fact that its reputation hangs upon putting down brigandage, and an offensive seems about to be launched in earnest.

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The TRUTH ABOUT SAINT NICHOLAS



FOR hundreds of years children everywhere have loved Santa Claus. And no wonder, for Santa Claus is a real person, as real as Captain John Smith, General Grant, or our beloved George Washington, only his real name was Saint Nicholas.

Agos ago the Germans called him Sankt Nicholas, which their children turned into Sankt Claus—the Santa Claus of today.

Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of children, was a Greek who lived in Asia Minor about sixteen hundred years ago, and his life was so spotless and his good works so enduring that he is even now beloved in all lands. Many churches have been named for him.

The parents of Saint Nicholas were rich and respected and lived in a city called Patara at the southwest corner of Asia Minor. Long they dwelt together, childless, but at length their prayers were answered and the little son Nicholas was sent to cheer their loneliness. It is said that from the very first he was the wonder of all friends and neighbors, so different was he from other children of his age.

At school he was one of the brightest and best scholars, and so great was his love for the church, and so anxious was he to serve Christ, his master in all things, that his father and mother willingly allowed him to study for the priesthood. Thus it came that he was sent to the home of his uncle, Bishop Nicholas of Patara, under whose loving care he was instructed in all the wisdom of the church as known in that day.

And now we come to the story of how Nicholas, from the kindness of his heart, first brought gifts to children while they lay asleep. It so happened that in the city there dwelt a very good and learned man with his three young daughters. This man had at one time been very rich, but by taking bad advice from one he thought his friend, lost all his wealth. Now he was bitterly poor, and as he was too proud to beg, the family had no longer a crust of bread to eat. Good Nicholas heard of this and his kind heart was greatly troubled. So he filled a purse with gold and went by night to the poor man's house though he had no idea how he should deliver his gift without being seen. The moon was shining brightly and by its light he saw a trellis which was built against the house for a grapevine to grow upon. This he climbed, and peeping through the window saw the three hungry children asleep on their bed, their cheeks still wet with tears. It made his heart ache to see their distress and tears came into his own eyes. Gently dropping the purse of gold on the floor he climbed again to the ground.

The next morning the poor man rejoiced greatly when his daughters brought him the purse of gold, and for a time the family's troubles were at an end.

When the money was at last spent, Nicholas again climbed the trellis by night and dropped a second purse, and later a third. You can fancy how astonished the poor man was at this unexpected help, and after the second purse he determined to watch for the generous giver. This he did and the third time caught Nicholas in the very act. The poor man fell upon his knees and thanked him with tears for his act of mercy, but Nicholas earnestly begged him never to tell who had befriended him. Through the children, however, the story became known in the town, and as the kind-hearted Nicholas continued to help the needy in secret, giving away the entire wealth he had inherited from his parents, people soon learned to say whenever a poor soul learned to say whenever a poor soul had been left during the night: "Saint Nicholas brought it!"

Nicholas continued as he had begun, and devoted his whole life to the good of his fellow men. He visited the sick and helped the needy both with money and good advice.

Six hundred years later when King Vladimir of Russia came all the way to Constantinople to be baptized he heard the splendid story of Saint Nicholas. And from the king and his Russian people the story spread to the Lapps in the far north. These simple folk believed that the good saint lived at the North pole amid the wonderful northern lights, and that he came to them with gifts in a sled drawn by reindeer, the common way of travel in their country. So has the story come down through the years to the children of today.

Yes, indeed, St. Nicholas, or Santa Claus, as he is better known, was a very real person! A very good and loving friend to all who needed him! (© 1930, Western Newspaper Union.)

The SIGN
By Abbie L. Rouse
in Michigan Farmer

WHEN Mother brings the ornaments
We've used year after year
Down from the attic, then we know
The Day at last is here!

The tinsel angels seem to sing
As on that Eve old,
And on the top twig, we hang
Again the shining star.

The tiny light of red and gold,
Of yellow, pink and green,
Replace the candles, and a chain
Is tinkling quite unseen.

The gifts grow more elaborate
With every passing year,
But still the same old-fashioned mirth,
The same distinctive cheer.

Oh Christmas is the heart's own time,
The day that wears the crown,
I know it's here when Mother brings
The star and angels down!

Nazareth College

THE students of Nazareth College had added to their Alma Mater with a Christmas program at the college Thursday, December 18. The program took the form of a pantomime, portraying the Christmas story given by the Dramatic Club. The Glee Club furnished some delightful musical selections. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The "Fremis Mission Unit" of Nazareth College held its monthly meeting Tuesday, December 18. Miss O'Brien, president of the unit, took charge of all proceedings. The Senior Class furnished a few selections in harmony with the event. Miss Anna Fennessey read some poems and Miss Anna Egan gave a few suggestions which were adopted by the unit. Miss Eleanor Craig urged the students to patronize the sale of Christmas cards and seals printed by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and asked the girls to remember the missions in their prayers, as well as by monetary offerings. The Misses Margaret Burke and Lillian Rosenbach also spoke. Singing of psalms closed the meeting.

Miss Louise Brown, a Senior at Nazareth College has been appointed chairman of the Inter-collegiate Press Committee of the Western New York Students' Spiritual Council. In view of her splendid co-operation and her noteworthy accomplishments in former years, she has been honored by this position.

The Press Committee will consist of two members of the four colleges in the W. N. Y. S. S. C., namely Canisius, Nazareth, D'Youville and St. Bonaventure. Miss Margaret Burke, of the Senior Class and a student from the Junior Class will represent Nazareth College.

I heard a voice at evening softly say:
"Bear not thy yesterday into tomorrow."
Nor load this week with last week's
load of sorrow;
Lift any burdens as they come,
nor try
To weigh the present with the by
and by;
One step and then another, take thy
way—
Live day by day.

—Julia Harris May.
Work without hope draws Hector
in a sleep and hope without an object
cannot live.—Shelley.

How Churches in Russia Exist Under Communism And Handicaps They Suffer

Freedom of Religion is a Farce—Priests Dare Not Talk Openly in Pulpits, and There is Violent Anti-Religious Propaganda

Dr. Thomas S. McWilliams, professor of religious education at Western Reserve University, Cleveland, O., returned to America a short time ago after making a tour of Russia and a study of the conditions in that land. The Elmira Star-Gazette has been publishing a series of interviews with Dr. McWilliams, written by Bruce Catton. A recent one deals with religious conditions in Russia, and what Dr. McWilliams, who is not a Catholic, says about the religious situation bears out in the strongest possible way what the Rev. Edmund A. Walsh, S.J., of Georgetown University, said in Rochester last Spring, when he spoke at the big mass meeting in Convention Hall. Part of the interview follows:

Critiques Orthodox Church
"To begin with," he says, "there is little question that the old Orthodox Russian church is getting just about what was coming to it. The old regime, favored on the one hand by great wealth and power, it acquiesced in tyranny, and it gave out a poor sort of religion. It was not greatly concerned with philanthropy, or with a better philosophy of life, or with ameliorating the condition of its people. It was a church of ritual, of ceremonial, and little else.

Fight All Religions Now
"Now the present rulers of Russia—the Communists—were brought up on Karl Marx, who was a militant atheist. Consequently, because of these Marxist teachings, and because of the old church before the revolution was what it was, they are making a bitter war on religion. They fight all religion. They fight the faith of Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Buddhists and Moslems impartially. In the schools and in many churches you will see great posters of anti-religious propaganda.

"I remember one such placard on a wall in Moscow. It showed Red soldiers kicking off the globe the Pope, the capitalists—and God Almighty. Lunacharsky, the commissar for education, recently remarked that the presence in some schools of 'belligerent' teachers was a disgrace. All such teachers, he said, should be replaced by atheists as soon as possible. That is, a sample of the government attitude.

All But Worship Barred
"Very few churches function as churches any more. The constitution of Russia, to be sure, guarantees freedom of religion; but that constitutional guarantee is very misleading. The government has cut the ground out from under the churches by forbidding any religious organization to take part in any educational, recreational or philanthropic work. Thus no church can have so much as a Sunday school picnic for its children. It can't have missionary societies or aid societies. It can't hold outings for its members. It can't even have Sunday school classes.

Church Work Crushed
"The Church work, in fact, is reduced to the bare church service itself. And even then the priest or preacher has to be very careful. If, in his sermon, he says anything that can be interpreted as a reflection on the present government, he is apt to find himself in serious trouble. I know of one Lutheran minister who is in Siberia because, in some sermon, he said something at which some government official took offense.

"I saw far more Russian churches devoted to secular purposes than were in use for church purposes. In an average town where, before the revolution, there was half a dozen churches there will today be one; and it will be attended by a handful of old women. Many of the former churches are being used as schools, museums and the like.

"From that example you can see what the situation is. There is persecution and there is public apathy. Anti-Religious Posters
"The violent anti-religious posters displayed everywhere by the Soviet government—showing priests bearing down on the masses—are all a part of the program of visual and auditory 'education' necessarily undertaken in a nation where millions cannot read or write. Consequently, they must see or hear; and in this

HIS FIRST CHRISTMAS



New York Calls Lindbergh

New York, Dec. 19.—The New York Herald Tribune has called Charles Lindbergh to the city to give a series of lectures on his flight to Europe. The lectures will be held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Lindbergh is expected to arrive in New York on Saturday.

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- Gift Sweaters - \$2.95 to \$10.50
- Gift Umbrellas - \$2.95 to \$16.50
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