

FREDERIC OZANAM BIRTHPLACE RAZED

Rome.—Improvements in the city of Milan have necessitated the razing of the birthplace of Frederic Ozanam, the great French writer who is even more famous because of his role in the founding of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The house was near the Cathedral at 16 via San Pietro all'Orto.

Catholic World Over

(Continued from Page One)

not by the officiating priest prevented the imminent disaster. As though nothing happened and without turning his head he continued saying Mass, although he was surrounded by clouds of dust. The crowd calmed and the service was brought to conclusion without any further incident.

Geneva.—A chapter of the great St. Bernard order, whose members are famed for gallant rescues of travelers lost amid Swiss snows, has decided to build a small hospice on the border of Tibet.

Vatican City.—The duty of Catholic men to protect the sanctity of the family and Christian education of children was emphasized in the course of exercises for the tenth anniversary of the foundation of the Italian Confederation of Catholic Men.

Vera Cruz, Mexico.—The State government, headed by Governor Adolfo de la Parra, has just published a decree providing new names for 200 towns, villages and ranches named after Christian saints or objects of religious veneration. The State and city of Vera Cruz means "true cross."

Vatican City.—Father Joseph Byrne, an American missionary of the Communion of the Holy Ghost, whose Provincial house is at Fordale, Conn., has been named Vicar Apostolic of Kilima-Njaro, East Africa, with the title of Bishop. Father Byrne was born in Waterford, Ireland, but is now an American citizen.

London.—When he invested W. S. Bishop, head of the Knights of St. Columba here, with the insignia of the Knighthood of St. Gregory, bestowed by the Holy Father, His Eminence Francis Cardinal Bourne, archbishop of Westminster, offered his own congratulations added to those of all the Bishops of England and Wales. The Cardinal commended the growth of the order of the Knights of St. Columba and said that it had been guided and controlled by men who had merited and had received the confidence of the Bishop and the clergy.

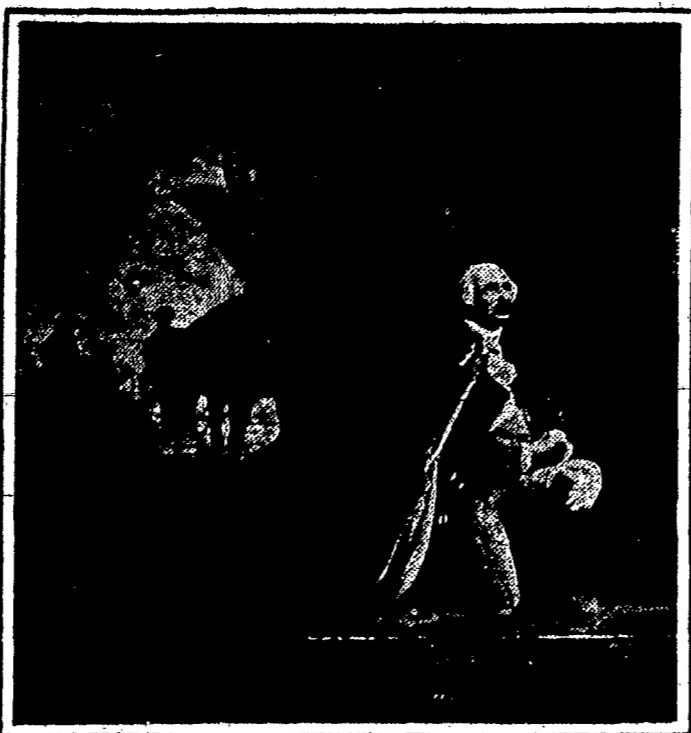
Jerusalem.—After three centuries of interruption, Catholic worship has been resumed at Kyrenia, Cyprus, through the opening of a chapel there by the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Places. The funds were contributed before the World War by Major T. Barker, district governor of the town, who was a convert from Protestantism.

Prague.—The German Catholics of Czechoslovakia have suffered a great loss in the death of the Rev. A. Seigle, professor at the Faculty of Theology of the German University of Prague. He was the champion of the priority of the rights of the German University of Prague over the Czech University and was twice elected its rector.

Fire Causes \$25,000 Damage to Convent

Cumberland, R. I.—Fire, said by officials to have been caused by the explosion of heating apparatus in the basement, damaged the convent of St. Patrick's Church in the Valley Falls district here Sunday. Fire officials estimated the loss at \$25,000. Eleven nuns were teaching Sunday school in a building a few feet away, but they managed to keep the children quiet. Three firemen were slightly injured.

At Valley Forge One Christmas



Reproduced above is the much-discussed painting depicting General George Washington in prayerful attitude at Valley Forge. Tradition has it that Washington knelt in the snow at his winter camp to pray for Divine guidance in those dark and trying times. The picture reproduced above is an engraving by John C. McRae, made from the painting by Henry Brueckner. It has been the center of particular discussion this year, which marks the bicentennial of Washington's birth. (Photo by courtesy of U. S. George Washington Bicentennial Commission.)

Washington and Christmas Day

SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY COMPELLED FIRST PRESIDENT TO SPEND MANY YULE HOLIDAYS AWAY FROM HOME AND FAMILY

By GEORGE W. MILLER (Written for N. C. W. C. Christmas Supplement) The bicentennial of the birth of George Washington, just concluded, has led many persons to wonder in what manner "the Father of his Country" observed Christmas. Research reveals that his service to his country permitted him to pass precious few of these holidays with his family at Mount Vernon. And yet, it is quite generally asserted, no man ever had a deeper love for his home or a keener desire to be there with his family. During his early boyhood, it is safe to assume, Washington experienced much the same Christmas joys as did any of his position and time. But the death of his father when he was but eleven years old left the boy Washington with responsibilities which early developed and matured him. Soon he was facing problems usually confronted by grown men, and it is thought that the simple pleasures of boyhood were forced aside by weighty considerations. When he was 9 years old, George Washington accompanied his brother, Lawrence, to the Barbadoes on the latter's futile quest of health. The Christmas of that year was passed aboard the ship "Industry" on the Atlantic Ocean, three days out from the Barbadoes. This marked the first and only time that Washington left this country, and an entry in his diary recounts the dinner on shipboard. Journey to Western Front Christmas of two years later found Washington on his way home from Fort Mifflin, whither he had gone as a messenger to the French from Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia. Washington's record of the journey places the party in the forests of Western Pennsylvania at Christmas. Christmas of 1758 found Washington absorbed in the preparation of his report of the expedition against Fort Duquesne, from which he had just returned. Washington also resigned from the army at this time, and made plans for his wedding, which took place on January 6, 1759. In the summer of 1758, Washington was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses, and took his seat the following February. He served in this assembly until the meeting of the Continental Congress, and must have spent some Christmas days at Williamsburg or at Fredericksburg with his mother. Washington's new diary recounts at least one Christmas when he and Mrs. Washington and the Custis children took Christmas dinner with the Colonel's brother-in-law and sister, Colonel Fielding Lewis and Betty Washington Lewis, at Fredericksburg. This was in 1769, when the Washington family was on its way to Mount Vernon from Williamsburg, where the House of Burgesses had been in session. During the period that followed, Washington enjoyed the pleasures of home life more fully than at any time in his entire career. His records are filled with notes which reveal his deep interest in his estate. In these entries, no doubt, Washington found his happiest Christmas holidays. Christmas Day itself seems to have been spent quietly at Mount Vernon, possibly because visitors at the estate were fewer during this season of the year. His diaries, referring to these days, contain such simple statements as "Went to Fobler's quarters and returned to dinner" and "At home all day."

Christmas During War Days

After that followed the memorable Christmas at Trenton when General Washington presented his country with a victory that saved the Revolution. Then came the unforgettable Christmas at Valley Forge—a dark day heavy with suffering and privation. Still other Christmas days were spent at his winter quarters at Morristown, New Windsor and Newburgh. Only twice during the eight

The Question Box

Questions and Answers Broadcast Sunday, Dec. 11

QUESTION NO. 1 If exception to natural laws be once admitted, can science ever be sure of its conclusions? To answer this question we must distinguish between science and scientists. Certain scientists have used science as a weapon in attempting to overthrow a belief in miracles, but they have never advanced beyond their first line of attack. They tell us that nature's laws are constant and uniform in their operation; that water quenches fire and stones fall to the ground by virtue of fixed and unchangeable laws; and that miracles are a contradiction of this principle. But an answer has long since been given to this objection, namely, that the laws in question are uniform and constant in their action so far as the purely natural order is concerned, but that we have no warrant for concluding that the natural order may not be subject to interference from a higher order. To this reply is made that if exceptions to natural laws be once admitted, science can never be sure of its conclusions. Certainly we answer, it can never be sure of its conclusions if there is no means of distinguishing exceptions from the rule; but a miracle, of its very nature, points to and emphasizes an exception, as such, to natural laws. Its very name, in fact, arises from the astonishment felt at a departure from the natural law. Here, prominently, the exception proves the rule, and the rule itself remains intact. Therefore, when God works a miracle, our scientific knowledge is just as true as it was before. The fact that iron is heavier than water remains generally true even if God once made an axe-head to float. This incident may be found in the fourth book of Kings, the sixth chapter. Again the knitting together of a broken bone will generally take a long time, even if God once instantaneously cured it, as He did in the case of Pterro de Rudder, of Oostacker, Belgium, in 1875. We may safely say then that the conclusions of science are not endangered by miracles.

"ADESTE FIDELIS" While the renowned Christmas hymn "Adeste Fideles" is said to have been written in the Seventeenth Century, some authorities believe that this and other airs, and even the words, must have existed long before they were put down in writing. KRIS KRINGLE Kris Kringle is regarded as a mere corrupted form of the beautiful German name for the Infant Saviour—Christkind.

Commandery Plans Christmas Social, Elects Officers

Plans for the annual Christmas tree and social were made and officers were elected at the annual meeting of St. Eustace Commandery 39, Knights of St. John, held Wednesday of last week.

The Christmas social is an annual institution conducted by the Commandery in conjunction with Auxiliary 43. Judge Advocate Anthony J. Helzlsouer was appointed chairman again. It is expected that "Santa Claus" will accept the Commandery's invitation to attend the social and greet the children of the members. Results of the election of officers was as follows: Spiritual Adviser, the Rev. Louis J. Volmer, C. S. R.; President, William J. McHale, First Vice President, Herbert J. Helzlsouer, Second Vice President, Clement Schlueter, Recording Secretary, Walter J. Bayer, Financial Secretary, Henry M. Bamann, Treasurer, Killian P. Eckert, Trustees, Frederick J. Wegman, William J. Bueckel, Bernard J. Smith, Edward Becker, and Arnold Eckert; Medical Examiner, Dr. F. H. Goddard; Captain, Emil Eckert; First Lieutenant, Paul Dittman; Second Lieutenant, Charles H. Mura.

IN OTHER LANGUAGES

The modern Dutch word "Kerst-messe" shows a similar meaning to the old English "Criste-messe." Christ's Mass. In France Christmas is called "Noel," coming from the Latin "Dies Natalis," natal day. The German word "Weihnachten" is taken from the preceding sacred vigil. In Italy the name is "Il Natale."

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Is your family ISOLATED in your own home?

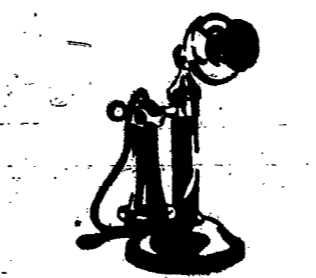


Your home may be surrounded by neighbors, yet—in an emergency—be as isolated without a telephone as though it were on a lonely island. Spotted here and there in the city's daily newspapers are items that—sadly—verify this statement.

Enfeebled, the sick, the crippled trapped in suffocating, fume-filled rooms; children's joyous play swiftly changed to terror when fire leaps out—uncontrolled; persons seriously injured in the home—and no way to get or call for help. How often the story concludes: "They were alone—at home—when it happened."

Shut-ins and those who must stay close to home to care for others in the family, will welcome the contacts the telephone affords, with the doctor, the druggist, the stores, and with friends.

Only when an emergency occurs do so many of us realize how much our homes are isolated, how much our wife, mother and children are alone. Make your home safe, secure for them, by ordering a telephone now.



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