

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions

THE MAGI
GIFTS OF



By REV. THOMAS F. O'CONNOR, C. S. S. R.
(This article has been written exclusively for the Catholic Courier, Rochester diocesan newspaper, by Father O'Connor, Redemptorist priest associated with the Rev. William A. Doherty, C. S. S. R., in conducting the Wednesday devotions in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at St. Joseph's Church.)

The octave of Epiphany is rich in the treasured memories of the Incarnation. It closes the saga of Bethlehem. It is the final chapter of the loveliest story that ever was told—the story of the Christ Child in the poverty and obscurity and loneliness of His stable home. The visit of the Magi was the one touch of earthly majesty to the picture. It was the only recognition by royalty of the royalty of the Son of God.

It must have thrilled the hearts of the Queen-Mother and of St. Joseph to behold the splendor and pageantry of the eastern caravan of kings come to adore the Divine Babe. And how it must have comforted the lonely Babe, but recently come from the spark and glitter of the mansion in His Father's House! The east has always been associated with the favored-wealth of royalty. All literature tends to draw a picture of lavish display and gorgeous pomp when speaking of oriental rulers. And we may assume that the Magi were no exception.

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Nursing Sisters Mark A Century of Service

New Orleans, La.—The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul have just marked a century of service by members of their Order at Charity Hospital, a state institution here. The anniversary occurred on the Feast of the Epiphany.

One hundred years ago the first Sisters of Charity to labor at the hospital came to this city from the motherhouse at Emmitsburg, Md. The hospital's Board of Administrators had requested the nuns.

For King of Heaven

In keeping with the eastern custom they offered Our Lord gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Fine gold of India for the royalty of Christ, because He is King of Heaven where He reigns at the right hand of the Father, King of earth, which He created; and King of souls where He dwells by His grace. The offering of incense, a tribute to the Divinity of the Babe, typifies prayer and devotion, which like a fragrant aroma ascends to the throne of God. Myrrh is symbolic of Our Lord's Humanity. At that time it was used to prepare the dead for burial. It also symbolizes penance or mortification because of its bitterness, thereby preserving the soul from the corruption of sin.

It is a very significant fact, as the Evangelist relates, that the Magi found the Child with Mary His Mother. The entire life of Christ from Bethlehem to Calvary is intimately associated with Our Lady. Our own quest of Christ through the desert of the world, led on by the flaming star of grace will lead us to the feet of the Babe of Bethlehem, and we too shall find Him with Mary, His Mother.

We cannot separate the Child from the Mother. Bethlehem without Mary is unthinkable, and Bethlehem without the Babe is to take Christ out of Christmas. Nor can we go empty-handed. Like the Wise Men our gifts to Him should be threefold. First the pure gold of charity, which means love of God, and because of Him love of our neighbor in and for God. Love means service, the observance of His holy law, the commandments, the precepts, and the obligations of our state in life. It means obedience to lawful authority, resignation to the Divine Will.

Love of neighbor is not maudlin sentimentality. It is something strong, virile, something that partakes of the spirit of God. It is manifested by helping others graciously and generously. By relieving the poor, by bending down to the fallen and unfortunate, and raising them up, and reclaiming them for God, because, even in the meanest and most depraved there still remains the image of God. Real charity reflects the very shadow of the Godhead. It is far removed from the cold, callous, heartless, unfeeling philanthropy of a godless generation that exploits the poor, grinds down the unfortunate, and that has lost the sweet fragrance of Bethlehem and the influence of the Christ Child.

We offer the frankincense of the Magi by prayer. By fidelity to prayer, especially in the morning and evening; by unswerving devotion to Holy Mass, never wilfully missing it on Sundays or holidays. The frequent and fervent reception of the Sacraments is a most pleasing aroma to send up to the throne of God. Another way to offer incense is by purity of intention; by directing our lives according to God's Will; by walking in His holy presence at all times; remembering that He is ever present, the witness of our every thought, word and deed; the secret guest at every gathering; the silent partner in our every deed.

The myrrh of mortification is a most pleasing gift to the Christ Child. The self-denial entailed by the obligations of our state in life; fidelity to the precepts of fast and abstinence; loyalty to the Church in the face of ridicule, scoffing and persecution; these are some of the means of offering the myrrh of the Magi.

To strengthen oneself
Then there is the voluntary denial of lawful pleasures and recreations, foregone to strengthen oneself for the time of temptation. The daily crosses, disappointments, annoyances, and contradictions that crop up in the lives of all of us, are so many chastening influences that will keep us humble and devoted to God and to the salvation of our souls, for like so much myrrh they will preserve the soul from the contamination and corruption of a world that has forgotten God and is bent alone on the gratification of the senses and the complete enjoyment of the natural man. These then are the offerings of the Wise Men. To us it is given to imitate them and become wise in the things of God and the soul, and to present to the Divine Babe an acceptable oblation. Moved by the spirit of Faith in Christ and of Love for Him, following the example of the Magi will lead us to the adorable Presence, where we shall find Him with Mary His Mother. She who received the Magi in long ago Bethlehem and presented them to her Son will do the same for us, if we seek Jesus through Mary; in the words of the early ecclesiastical writers "Ad Jesum per Mariam"—To Jesus through Mary.

The only way to have a friend is to be one.—Emerson.
Be sure you are right, then go ahead.—Crockett.

ORDINATIONS SURVEY SHOWS 1,011 IN 1932

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conferred. Thirty-seven of the seminarians confer degrees directly or through affiliation with one of the Catholic universities.

In the 93 seminaries the instruction staffs included 341 religious and 211 diocesan clergymen in the department of theology. Fifteen lay teachers were also included in this department. The department of philosophy included 287 religious and 27 lay teachers. Excluding duplicates the total number of instructors in the major seminaries in 1932 was as follows: Religious Order clergy 580, diocesan clergy 267 and lay teachers 36. The grand total of 883 instructors was practically the same as in 1931 when 886 instructors were reported.

Sixteen of the major seminaries are conducted by diocesan clergy, 1 by diocesan clergy and a religious Order and 76 by religious Orders. Thirty religious congregations and societies are represented in those seminaries conducted by religious Orders. Sixty-one of these seminaries were given over exclusively to the training of candidates of the various religious Orders, 23 to the training of students for both fields of religious work.

The 32 seminaries that prepare aspirants for the diocesan priesthood are located in 28 of the 105 archdioceses and dioceses of the United States. Dioceses that do not have their own seminaries send their candidates to seminaries in various parts of the country.

Reports on Courses Given
An examination of the reports from the seminaries shows that 62 have departments of philosophy and theology, 25 have only a department of theology and 16 have only a department of philosophy. Of those that have a theology department 67 give the full four-year course, 3 give a longer course, and 7 do not give the complete course. The entire course in some cases is not taken in any one seminary. In seminaries that have a department of philosophy 48 give a two-year course and 20 give a longer course.

The survey shows that the 93 major seminaries in the United States are distributed among the various States as follows: Alabama, 1; Arkansas, 2; California, 4; Colorado, 1; Connecticut, 1; District of Columbia, 1; Florida, 1; Illinois, 7; Indiana, 3; Iowa, 1; Mississippi, 1; Missouri, 3; Nebraska, 2; New Jersey, 3; New York, 12; North Carolina, 1; Ohio, 6; Oregon, 1; Pennsylvania, 7; Texas, 3; Washington, 1; and Wisconsin, 6.

The distribution according to archdioceses and dioceses is as follows: Archdioceses: Baltimore, 13; Boston, 4; Chicago, 5; Cincinnati, 2; Milwaukee, 3; New Orleans, 2; New York, 4; Philadelphia, 3; Portland in Oregon, 1; St. Louis, 3; St. Paul, 1; San Antonio, 1; and San Francisco, 2. Dioceses: Albany, 2; Altoona, 1; Brooklyn, 2; Buffalo, 2; Cleveland, 2; Columbus, 2; Concordia, 1; Corpus Christi, 1; Denver, 1; Des Moines, 1; Detroit, 2; Fort Wayne, 1; Galveston, 1; Green Bay, 2; Hartford, 1; Indianapolis, 2; La Crosse, 1; Leavenworth, 1; Lincoln, 1; Little Rock, 2; Los Angeles and San Diego, 2; Mobile, 1; Natchez, 1; Newark, 3; Ogdensburg, 1; Omaha, 1; Peoria, 1; Pittsburgh, 2; Rochester, 1; St. Augustine, 1; St. Cloud, 1; Scranton, 1; Spokane, 1; Springfield, 1; Wichita, 1; and Belmont Abbey, 1.

Judge Gitelman Named To Legal Aid Board By President MacSweeney

At the regular monthly meeting of the directors of the Legal Aid Society held Monday, January 8th, City Court Judge Jacob Gitelman was unanimously elected to membership on the Board. It was announced by Joseph P. MacSweeney, President of the Board of Directors, that Judge Gitelman will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. William B. Lee, Jr., who found that the pressure of her other activities made it impossible for her to continue. In passing upon her resignation, the Directors expressed regret at her inability to continue and their appreciation of her services to the Society during her tenure of office.

Emery A. Brownell, Executive Attorney, reported that during the month of December, 1933, the Society handled a total of 553 cases of which 283 had been carried over from the preceding month and 271 were disposed of during the month. The largest class of cases handled was for unpaid wages with foreclosure problems next and domestic relations third. It was possible to dispose of most cases without litigation but twenty-two cases were disposed of only after court action.

'ANTI-COMMUNISM WEEK'
Shanghai—(NOWC-Fides)—An Anti-Communism Week has been held here, in which representatives of various educational institutions met to discuss means of checking Soviet propaganda. There was an "Intelligence Match" in all the universities, at which prizes were given for the best lecture condemning Communism, its principles, methods and effects. During the week airplanes flying over the city dropped Anti-Communist literature.

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THANKS NAZARETH COLLEGE
Appreciation for the Christmas box sent by the Fremis Mission Unit to the Rev. A. A. Vissers, O. Praem. Nazareth Trail, West De Pere, Wis., has been received by the sisters of St. Joseph in charge of Nazareth College, where the Fremis Unit is located. Father Vissers in expressing his gratitude gives some idea of the discomforts with which one of our home missionaries has to contend. The letters in full states:

"I should have written you before but it was so cold here that it just took all my time trying to keep the home fire burning and the water pipes from freezing. In my little coop the best I could do was 60 degrees. However when I put the thermometer on the concrete floor it went down to ten—above zero. In spite of my getting up several times during the night to fire up the water in the bucket froze. Still that has its advantages. When I stick my face in a basin of ice water I usually wake up fast.

Now to business. That box of toys was the best Christmas present we had received because it was so timely. We had fixed up bundles of old clothing for the poor but we had little to give the kiddies. Your box of toys kept a little heart, Christmas was a real day of faith. On Sunday and Monday we had over 700 Communions. It kept both of us busy hearing confessions. Though it was 20 below zero the midnight Mass was overcrowded.

However, there is a little cloud of gloom just now. Two cases of small pox broke out, so Tuesday I got two doctors and with the help of the sisters and myself vaccinated all the children who came. The weather was extremely cold and stormy, so the doctors will come back next and finish the rest. We cannot afford to take chances.

Famed Liturgical Choirs of Pius X Comes for Concert

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we are greatly indebted to the priests and Sisters who have done so much preparatory work which has made possible any further advancement. "As far as I can observe, the great hope of liturgical church music, is in the rising generation. It is very difficult for adults who have not been trained in their youth, to sing Gregorian Chant. As a rule such people find it difficult to understand a type of music like the chant because it is so different from anything they had ever heard. But if there is enthusiasm, good results may be had and have been obtained from adult choirs. "Persons of cultivated taste, with a sense of religious understanding, who have heard the soul-stirring music of monastery choirs or the sweet clear chant of children's voices know that pious is fed by such means in a way possible to no other musical art. To Avoid Secular Spirit "Because so few realize the devotional beauty and helpfulness of plain chant for our liturgical services, it is necessary that we extend and intensify our efforts. Otherwise there is danger of the frivolous and secular spirit invading the choir and chancel. "To restore music to its true place in the field of Catholic Education is our earnest desire. To this end, it is necessary that our teachers have sufficient knowledge of Gregorian Chant and a sound foundation in the theory of music. In furtherance of this program we have invited Mother Stevens, director of Pius X School of Liturgical Music to come to Rochester for a series of lectures and demonstrations."

In Existence 19 Years
The Pius X School has been in existence thirteen years and while it offers a four year course of advanced music study it is primarily a liturgical school which strives to promote more widespread knowledge of the spirit and principles underlying the music of the Church. The Normal School of the Sisters of St. Joseph, East Avenue, is affiliated with the Pius X School. The music department of Nazareth Normal which trains Sisters in liturgical music is in charge of Sister Anna de Paul, Rochester, who was one of the first teacher students to attend the Pius X School.

STANLEY CHURCH MISSION
A mission will be conducted at St. Theresa's Church, Stanley, N. Y., the week of January 14 by the Rev. Thomas J. Fleming, O.M.I., an Oblate Father who recently gave a mission at St. Francis De Sales Church, Geneva. The Rev. Joseph F. Diaret is pastor of St. Theresa's Church in Stanley.

Mention the Courier to Advertisers

Weekly Calendar Of Feast Days

Sunday, January 14.—St. Hilary.
Monday, January 15.—St. Paul.
Tuesday, January 16.—St. Honoratus.
Wednesday, January 17.—St. Anthony.
Thursday, January 18.—St. Peter's Chair at Rome.
Friday, January 19.—St. Canutus.
Saturday, January 20.—St. Sebastian.

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