#### Second Catholic Courier Edition 111111 911 911 9 December 20, 1934 Official Newspaper of the Rochester Diocese The Season's Greetings to All for A Plessed Christian Custom of Three Christmas Masses Exact Date of Saviour's Nanyiev The Adoration of the Magi Said To Be Based On Tradition Uncertain Because of Automat Of Savior's Birth At Midnight By Francois Boucher Lack of Means on Meanding By DE AGRICATION TOWNS By DR. ALEXANDER MOMBELLI (Written for N.C.W.C. Christmas Supplement) Whence comes that outstanding characteristic of the Christmas liturgy-the celebration of three Masses, at midnight, at dawn and in the day? What is its meaning? Only in the East has the tradition of the Mass at night been maintained To Bethlehem without interruption. In Rome this practice was discontinued very early. By Way Of As a matter of fact, at the time of Pope Liberius (352-356) but one Mass Lourdes The Scene of was celebrated in Rome and that in the daytime. The same was true in The Eirst Milan at the time of St- Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (874-397). BY GEORGE BARNARD (Written for N.C.W.C. Christmas Christmas. With regard to Palestine, we are Supplement) told by Etheria, who visited the Holy Whenever I see a crib I shall, for the rest of my life think of that Places between 386 and 388, about weren't talking about the way that night. But whetever it was he post the the liturgy of the Orientals. However, night at Lourdes when for a fleeting night. But whatever is was he yet the Iron Ordes for it. Both these mean wors their metals. Also with us wat a very graphed Frenchman. He had associating to do with the war, for he displayed the Oreks de Guerre, and he had no theroughly forgesten he meantles that he was drinking German hence; ald a very file beer it wea. You know it is one thing to walk in a procession, man man with a growd of his own mathemality and to give the impression that because you have the same faith and worship in the same way you are protoned by some the same form 20 countries all worshipped God in the same with some against one another: IRIGHMAN BINGS It is quite another thing to yet the at this time, the Orientals observed moment I thought I was in the cave Christmas with the Feast of Epiat Bethlehem. The memory of it is phany on January 6. like a fragrant fragment of a dream "On the evening of January 5," which took me behind the curtain of writes the plous pilgrim, in her book time. Perceptinatio Silviae, "began the eve of the Nativity in the Basilica of Bethlehem. It ended with a Mass said at Midnight by the Bicken of Lowreales. Following this Bishop of Jerusalem. Following this the memory of living people Our Mass, they went at once to Jeru- Lady appeared to little Barnadette, salem, which they reached at about now canonized, and now Europe's daybreak. After a visit to the greatest center of gravity for de-Church of the Resurrection (called by votion to Our Lady. the Greeks Anastasis), the Bishop A hundred thousand men were and his retinue retired for a little there to pray for peace; I don't mean, rest, while the monks (monazontes) and they didn't mean, peace-at-anycontinued to sing psalms till the sun price. But for the pacification of had risen. At eight o'clock (hora men's minds, so that the chance of incipiete secunda), the Bishop cele-brated a second Mass on the Golgotha There were war clouds over (called Martyrium by the Latins). It Europe when we wont. So there was It is quite another thing to get be-gether, as we did that might and talk as friends about the things friends talk about and with me consciousness of what had goes before. I think that what followed weat really started by an Irishman. He wanted to since and as the feither 1 11.1.1.1 was the Mass of the Catechumens, a topical point to our going. From who were baptized during the cere- twenty nations men came; and they mony. The same Bishop said a third were all men who knew war, or sons Mass under the dome of the Anastasis of men who knew war. Many were toward Mid-day. The Feast had a men who had been shattered by it. solemn Octave in Bethlehem as well Some were the sons of men who wanted to sing and as the Irish sing never came back. as in Jerusalem. A STRENUOUS DAY CUSTOM IN ROME

The same custom was reproduced in the Roman liturgy, as we can see in the Ordines Romani, published with the Great. It the works of Gregory the Great. It sion. You would have begun, perhaps, with a Mass at the Grotto a night, the Pope celebrated Mass in 6; climbed the rocky Via Crucis after the Basilica of St. Mary, in the breakfast for the Stations; attended High Mass packed tightly in a dense crowd under sweltering sun (and of the Mass - Statio ad Sanctam listened to a 40-minute sermon in French); prayed with the sick at the Papal Carriage Once piscines; taken part in the proces-Saved by Respect For sion of the Blessed Sacrament; Anastasia, and sang a third Mass visited St. Bernadette's birthplace perhaps helped the sick a bit, or, if Later, the third Mass was also said you were a newspaperman, written a bit of a story. The return of the Christmas season wanted to sing and as the Irish sing very beautifully we were glid to been him and joined him in the chorus. He sang "Madelon." A. Tronehmas re-thrned the compliments and same the "Marseillaise" (which was rather Him a Frenchman), and we finished that

for him. Then a German (the one with the Iron Cross) obliged us with

"Pack Up Your Troubles," and if Our Lady didn't hear the thoras down as

AMONE LAS CITAL

were not Christia

Chapel of Praesepe Domini, the Cradle of the Lord. Hence the name Mariam Majorem, ad Praesepe. Then the Holv Father celebrated a second Mass at dawn at the Church of St. toward Mid-day in St. Peter's Church. in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major and not at St. Peter's, but at an altar different from that at which the Pope had said the first Mass.

It seems that the best explanation of the custom of celebrating three Masses at Christmas is that the liturgy of the Nativity is bound to the tradition according to which the Messiah was born at-Mid-night, and to the Christian sentiment which the Grotto. never separated the Cradle from Golgotha (Calvary) and the Resurrec-

several mystical meanings were ascribed to the three Masses. St. Thomas explained in his Summa Theologica that the three Masses at of the Son of God-the eternal one. which has its symbol in the Midnight the spiritual one, that of Jesus taking life in us tamquam lucifer in cordibus nostris, which is well symbolized by the Mass at dawn, and the temporal one according to the flesh, the only one visible, which is symbolized by the Mass at Mid-day. matter.

In the beginning, the Gloris in Excelsis Deo was introduced only at the Midnight Mass. Later, Pope Symmachus (498-514) extended it to (Continued on Page 10)

### **Candle in Window On Christmas Eve**

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here."

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(By N. C. W. C. News Service) The custom followed in many Catholic countries, and most especially in Ireland, of placing a Highted candle in the window from sunset of Christmas Eve until dawn of Christmas Day has had various interpreta-

tiona of its meaning. Probably the loveliest explanation, says one author, is that the light is intended to be a signal that "if this had been the first Christmas Eve in Bethlehem comes when, following when Our Lady was denied a roof a procession to the Grotto of the over her head, and was forced to Nativity from the Church of St. wander in weariness and faintness Catherine, where a solemn Pontifical is there to tell her that she would not of the Mass announces the Nativity be turned away from the door of this on the very spot where Our Lord was house but that she would be welcome born. to anything and everything there is

What I mean to say is that you life of Pope Pius IX, when an edifywould have been ready to call it a day and drift along to a cafe for recalls an interesting incident in the a rest and talk and refreshment. ing practice centering about a highly Personally I went to a little terraced venerated statue of the Infant Jesus place that every English-speaking in Rome saved from destruction the visitor knows and that looks down in Rome saved from destruction the upon the river Gave just before it Papal coach, which was a magnificent sweeps round the corner to run past work of art.

The statute of the Infant Jesus There, had you been there, you preserved in the Church of Ara Coeli would have listened to music cleverly preserved in the Church of Ara Coeli chosen by the band leader to soothe on the Capitol is an object of lively In the course of the Middle Ages and not to antagonize. Never by devotion, especially at Christmas any chance would you hear anything time. By the year 1848 there had that would offend your national in-, developed the practice of carrying stincts: that would awaken any sleep- the sattue to the houses of the sick, ing feeling against your neighbor. who, because of the gravity of their Christmas recall the three Nativities That is no easy task: for all the world illness, could not come to the church-Nobles vied with one another in holdgoes to Lourdes.

Infant Jesus Statue

house of some sick prson, would sur-

ronud it, acclaiming it and praying.

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

You wouldn't, for example, expect ing their handsome coaches always Mass because it is concealed from us; to hear, among French patrons as ready to transport "the Holy Child of well as English, a German marching Ara Coeli." song. It wouldn't do.

In 1848, violence breaking out in But in the cafe on the terrace that the City of Rome, where the Roman evening, there was a sight that had Republic was proclaimed, made it never been seen in France before, or necessary for Pope Pius IX to fiee to anywhere else in the world for that Gaeta where he was joined by many of his Cardinals. The carriages of

Sitting at a table with me was a the Cardinals were seized by those man whose name was fairly famous a who had taken control of the city, and few years ago. What had happened were either destroyed or assigned to was that he had gone out over what other fates. The state coach of the used to be called No Man's Land and Pope was about to be destroyd whn had captured a machine-gun post all Francsco Sturbinetti, one of the magby himself and marched about eight istrates of the Roman Republic, seek-Germans back to the British lines. ing to save this 25 treeasure, made Also there was a bit of killing. For the proposal that it be saved and rethat he was awarded the Victoria served to transport the staute of the

Cróss. Infant Jesus on its visis o he houses On the other side of me was a Gerof he sick. The proposal was at once man. I don't know what he had done adopted, and with great enthusiasm. in the war, because somehow we The people, seeing the apal coach on (Continued on Page 10) the street bearing the statu to the

# Christmas at Bethlehem

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) LARGEST CHRISTMAS PUDDING One of the most touching moments in the whole observance of Christmas The largest Christmas pudding on record is said to have been one prolooking for a place to rest-the light Mass is being celebrated, the Deacon 14 days, accounts say.

words of the day's Gospel.



## India Moslem Ruler **Composes Quatrain On Christ's Nativity**

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) A Persian quatrain entitled "Lines on the Nativity of Christ (on Whom be Peace)," was recently composed by His Higness the Nizam, religious head of the great majority of Moslems in India and Premier Feudatory Ruler in British India. An English translation of the

quatrain follows: "When for Pharoah God created Moses,

"He bestowed on him a miracle, and lo' the White Hand shone forth.

"The Child immaculately conceived bore testimony to Mary's purity.

"The like of Jesus, O Osman, was not born in the world." In a note attached to the guatrain, His Higness exhorts Moslems who have "faith in the Holy Personality of Christ to welcome the Day of His Birth with rejoicing." The note concludes with the announcement that December 25 has been declared a public holiday in the Nizam's dominions.

### **Foresees Christmas 100 Years From Now**

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) One imaginative writer, projecting Christ", and more holidaw music by himself into a Christmas season one the Chorister's and Mediaevalists. hundred years from now, foresees greatly accelerated travel making it nounced, will consist of carols of dif-

holidays in Bethlehem. He also foresees that through the development of television and radio persons in all parts of the world may be able to see and hear the magul-ficent services at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. He world the Officent centuries. Among these will be "Hodie Christus Natus Est," "Le Sommeil de l'Enfant", and "St. Jo-be caught in the act of devotion. It looks grilish, they feel. But that night we all went We sanna in Excelsis Deo", on December 30. Beth maguet will be the services at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

GOOD KING WENCESLAUS (By N. C. W. C. News Service) The beautiful Christmas carol

duced in England in 1718. It weighed "Good King Wenceslaus" records the

Holiday Programs Of

programs, which are to be presented in the nationwide "Catholic Hour" on December 23 and 30 have just been released in Washington by the National Council of Catholic Men, producer of the broadcast. The programs will be broadcast over a network of the National Broadcasting Company. Both programs will begin at 5:30 P. M., Eastern Standard Time, and will be continuouos on most of the stations which carry them until 6:30. However, a few stations, according to the N. C. C. M. announcement, will the N. C. C. M. announcement, will gians, each in their own tongue, what few others only the second half-hour. The announcement urges all listeners who cannot hear the whole program in the world war, really could mean who cannot hear the whole program in the work wat, really the would newspapers, since it will be possible in many localities to get half of the programs on one station and the rest

on another The program on December 23 will consist of a special Christmas ad-dress by the Very Rev. Magr. Fulton J. Sheen, entitled "Life Begins at Birth," and a selection of Christmas music presented by the Paulist Choristers and Mediaevalists, under the direction of Father Finn. The New Year program, on December 30, will feature another address by Monsignor Sheen, ---entitled "The Whole The musical programs, it is an-

possible for Christmas of all parts of ferent types, different nations, and the world to spend the Christmas different centuries. Among these will

Both programs will emanate from the Radio City studios of the National Broadcasting Company

OFFICIAL LAUDS C. B. WORK

Co., Inc., New York, N. T." Co., Inc., New York, N. T." Ioliday Programs Of 'Catholic Hour' Will Feature Old Carols (By N. C. W. C. News Service) Details of the two special holiday List and the maximum of wat had the best chances to help. to help, o help. That was all rather wonderful. I before His era Det to not be determined mere

That was all rather wonderful. I could not imagine it happening any-where but at Lourdes, among seen whe had prayed for peace and meant it. Short addresses were then given by a priest who spoke is four languages and still had a few up his sleeve. As a mattar of history, which has not been recorded elsewhere I should say that it was Father Ivor Daniel, who has a parish in Wales. He told the French and the Ger-mans and the British and the Bel-

mans and the British and the Bel-The Christian days which teleprated he Nach Lord on the o if the men who took part is it would carry its message throughout the Diphany on Jacobia world. Then the really marvellous thing happened. Someone whispered to on Departments and the 

Then the really marvellous thing happened. Someone whispered to someone else, "Let's, all go down to the Grotto before we go to bed." The word spread round the cafe-"To the irotto." Inside thirty seconds that cale was Grotto.

deserted and men of many nations were marching, near midnight, in the silence and the darkness, to the sacred spot which Our Lady's feet had touched.

PRAY FOR DEAD COMRADES It is not unusual for pious pilgrims

to go to the Gretto last think and night. They call it and think as as "saying good-night to Our Last But usually they do it furthery I Silutien 1 ( State

know not why except that men IBT N. C. W. C. T

the date of De

(Continue on Provid

and the second fors to our Dive 

Many per the are shown and



The Real Santa Class BYN C W. C Neve Berry