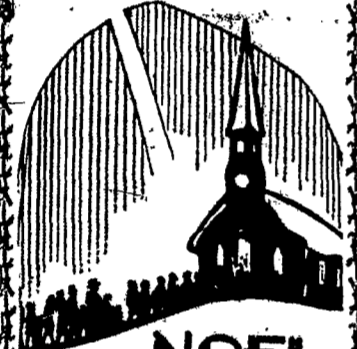




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Msgr. Shay Named 1st Vice President By Summer School

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles F. Shay, pastor of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rochester, has been elected first vice-president of the Catholic Summer School of America, Cliff Haven, an N.C.W.C. News Service dispatch states. Officers elected by the board of trustees of the Catholic Summer School meeting at the Center Club in New York are: Honorary President, the Most Rev. Joseph H. Conroy, Bishop of Ogdensburg; President, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Splaine, Brookline, Mass.; First Vice President, Monsignor Shay; Second Vice President, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William P. McNally, Philadelphia; secretary, Charles A. Webber, Brooklyn; treasurer, the Rev. John J. Donlon, Brooklyn, chairman, board of studies, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Lavelle, New York; Chairman, executive committee, George J. Gillespie, New York; Executive Secretary, the Rev. Thomas Graham. Eugene A. Colligan, president of Hunter College, was elected a trustee.

The Scene of The First Christmas

(Continued from Page 11)
 creation of His birthplace for reasons which cannot be fathomed by man, did not permit it to last forever. Hence, in time, He raised the great St. Helena, the English mother of Constantine the Great (who, after having razed the pagan temple and the grove in the year 327, discovered the Grotto, and above it built a sumptuous basilica, dedicated to the Nativity, with forty-eight columns, each column being two feet, six inches in diameter and twenty feet high, and five naves, rich in marble and gold, and whose facade was decorated with a precious mosaic representing the Adoration of the Magi)

In the year 414, the Persians destroyed the convent attached to it, which was rebuilt in the year 531 by the Emperor Justinian, but spared the basilica. Bethlehem, with other cities, had fallen in 614 into the power of the Persians, who, seeing the mosaic on the facade of the basilica and believing that they recognized the costume of their nation in the garments of the Magi, did not dare touch the magnificent monument. In the year 1010 Hakem sent messengers thither with orders to destroy the precious Sanctuary of the Nativity, but on their arrival a shining light appeared to them, that cast them to the ground, where they expired. Whatever it was, says M. de Vogue, the cause of the prodigy, the fact is that the basilica was saved from destruction. At the period of the Crusaders this church was richly embellished by the Latin princes.

The Grotto of the Nativity extends underneath the choir of the Basilica. It is a crypt of irregular form, nearly forty feet in length, twelve in breadth and nine in height. The walls of the rock are covered with precious marbles of various colors. Thirty-two lamps of massive silver, the gift of the Christian princes, perpetually illuminate this venerable Sanctuary. A silver Star, with the inscription, "HIC DE VIRGINE MARIÆ JESUS CHRISTUS NATUS EST — 1717." "Here of the Virgin Mary Jesus Christ was born," marks the spot where our Blessed Saviour was born. The manger was removed to Rome in the seventh century, where it is preserved in the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in a superb reliquary.

When in 1099 the army of Godfrey de Bouillon arrived at Emmaus, the great prince and crusader, Tierced, with a vanguard of one hundred crusaders, departed at night and advanced towards Bethlehem. Before daybreak the flag of the Crusaders was floating in the breeze from the top of the Basilica of the Nativity. Two years later, on Christmas night, Baldwin I. was crowned King of Jerusalem in the same basilica. In the year 1154, the celebrated Musliman El-Oherif-el-Edryssy also visited the Basilica of the Nativity, which he found to be grand and beautifully decorated. Here came John Phocas, who pronounced the wood-work inside the sacred building incorruptible. Here lastly came the children of St. Francis of Assisi, to whom the Guardianship of the Holy Places was entrusted by Pope Gregory IX in the year 1230, who, in the midst of numberless hardships and at the cost of great sacrifices, still remain to continue to sing the praises of God that first were sung here nineteen centuries ago by the angelic choir.

Poems and editorials attract many, but what interests us is attracting people to pay to read them. — W. W.

Sodality Urged To Aid Crime Check At Yuletide Fete

Elmira—Urging members of the Sodality of Our Lady of St. Patrick's Church to aid in the nation-wide movement to curb crime, the Rev. Frederick A. Gallagher, S. J., of Boston, guest speaker at the Sodality's first Yuletide Anniversary banquet, held at the Mark Twain Hotel, Dec. 11, spoke on the present crime investigation in Washington.

Two hundred and fifty women and girls attended the dinner. The Rev. Daniel C. Holland, spiritual director of the Sodality, gave the address of welcome to members and guests, outlining the aims of the Sodality program in general and urging members to continue co-operation with this important activity throughout the world. The Rev. William J. Brien, pastor, added a message of encouragement and congratulation, thanking the organization for the support and co-operation given the general parish program since its foundation. The Rev. Martin E. Tobin, assistant pastor, also spoke.

Highlight of the evening's program was the brilliant speech of Father Gallagher. He showed the practical relationship between a program of virtuous living on the part of women and girls with the proposed corrective means for elimination of crime just discussed by criminologists under the leadership of President Roosevelt and Attorney General Cummings. Father Gallagher declared that no country-wide organization is better equipped to demonstrate the right kind of support than the organized Sodalities of Our Lady.

Miss Carolyn Ruth Doran, president and toastmistress, paid tribute to all the officers and chairmen and many other Sodalities who labored for the organization. Attractive song folios were donated by a member, Miss Anna G. Murray, and Miss Doran presented the guests with an artistic Souvenir Program. Mrs. Joseph V. Cleary was chairman of the dinner; Mrs. Mortimer L. McInerney, decorations chairman. Vocal selections and entertainment concluded the evening's program.

Christmas In The Bad Lands

A Jesuit missionary among the Sioux gives us this side-light of Indian work in South Dakota

"My midnight Mass on Christmas was celebrated at No Water Camp, the rendezvous of the ghost dancers of 1890. It was snowing hard when I left headquarters at Holy Rosary Mission to travel those many miles through the Bad Lands of Pine Ridge Reservation in order to reach the first mission station. However, I finally arrived there and began hearing Confessions at about six o'clock, continuing almost without interruption until midnight.

For several hours the Indians, leaving their teepees, which were pitched around the church, were practicing hymns and praying in the old log meeting-house nearby. When the first bell tolled at eleven-thirty, all reverently gathered in the chapel. Many had to stand. While I was vesting, Talden Yellow Hawk, a recent convert, intoned Hanyeto Cokanyan Rin Le ("Angels We Have Heard on High"). One of the Indian girls played the little organ during the Mass.

"After this first Mass and three-quarters of an hour's strenuous work in taking the chains off the wheels of my car, I took our Blessed Lord to a sick man two miles away and then continued until I reached the Bad Lands' high plateau, which is known as Cuny Table. After hearing the Confessions of my people there, I brought Holy Communion to Mrs. Cuny, ninety-nine years old. It was only last Easter that I received her into the Church.

"Christmas afternoon, traveling over a mere wagon road which runs up and down between clay banks and cliffs, I covered a stretch of twenty-eight miles to Red Shirt Table, which is really only ten miles by air-line from Cuny Table. I was in time for the Christmas Tree celebration—and it presented a typical Indian scene. The women with their children sat on the floor, while the men sat on crude benches over against the wall. Old and young were gladdened by the little gifts we were able to give them, for on this occasion we try to make everyone happy with at least an inexpensive present."

—JMS Feature.

ADDRESSES ON STATE RADIO
 Kaunas — (NCWC) — A series of religious talks being broadcast from the State Radio Station at Kaunas, was opened by the vice-rector of the university, Monsignor Cosny. The topic of his address was "Recollection of the Dead." He was followed by Prof. Cassitis, who spoke on "Religion Its Necessity."

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