

Central N. Y. Club Of Notre Dame Men Set Christmas Party

AUBURN—William J. Byrne, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Joseph Byrne of South Hopes Avenue, has been named general chairman of the social to be conducted Christmas night by the Central New York Club of Notre Dame University in the Spanish and reception rooms of Hotel Osborne.

Assisting Chairman Byrne are the following members of the Central New York Club: Robert Rumpf, Henry Hickey, John Putnam, Robert Macauliff, Thomas McDonald, Paul Halbert and Aldo Canoleto. Attorney Herbert Anderson is chairman of the local alumni committee. He is being assisted by Louis Carr, James Mulvaney, George Shannon, Walter Sullivan, George Mayhall, Charles Long and Kenneth Whipple.

Officers of the club are: John J. Cahill, Syracuse, president; Robert Halbert, Weedsport, vice president; Robert Rumpf, Auburn, secretary and John Beer, Auburn, treasurer.

PEN INTIMATE CHATS WITH THE PALS CATHOLIC GIRL



by Susan Russell

A QUESTION OF MARRIAGE

My read Girls' Questions! Questions! Questions! It would take a Solomon to answer wisely all the questions coming to this desk. While I honestly try to do my best, still, after all, what I say is only an opinion, and it is offered as such of our readers.

"What do you think of a man who likes me, who likes to be in my company; but after one year tells me he is going to take care of his mother while she lives, says he will never go to confession, and has

a reason. That's a religious training; that's a religious mother, who spends her time in church. She is saving her soul. How about her? He is in the habit of saying the prayers heard, all through the years?"

Answering the first question first—I think it is the man's duty to take care of his mother if there is no one else to do it. The fact that she has other children makes no difference, if those others neglect their mother. This being the case, I'd tell him to stay with her, and do his duty, say thank you, lucky stars to see the last car man not for taking care of his mother but for other reasons.

Penance and Confession I cannot see how you could give a second thought to any man, if he claims to be a Catholic and refuses to go to confession. What reason could he have, except one that very plainly tells you that he is not a real Catholic? He evidently has not had "religious training" of the right sort, or he'd know the value of confession and contrition. What happiness could you expect with such a man? If he never intends to go to confession, how could you be married by a priest? I don't see how you could tell you there is something really wrong with any Catholic who makes such statements?—that unless he is living in sin and refuses to do otherwise he would not remain away from confession or having committed some grave wrong. How could he be right if he knows he would not be given absolution until he did.

The fact that he has a good mother, or rather that she has such a son, in no way reflects upon her, or her faith. Did you ever hear of St. Monica, who prayed so long and so fervently for her son, who at that time, was such a sinner, but later, through contrite repentance and atonement became a Bishop and later a saint? How could you say she is not trying to save his soul helping to save it for without his help and the grace of God it cannot be done, and who are you to judge that she is not saving her own?

You say, "Only for her I should have a husband." Did it ever dawn upon you that sometimes a woman is far better off without than with such a husband as he would probably make if I may judge "from your letter." You are rushing out for real misery. You do not know when you are well off. You ask, "Why aren't her prayers answered all through the years?" Do you know for what she prays? You did not say you surely know. God alone can answer prayer; you do not expect any mortal to answer that question.

The Right Start If you like the advice for which you asked, give the man a wide berth. Forget him. He isn't the only man on earth. Some day you'll thank God you did not marry him. If there is any one thing above all others that should be right with the man, it is his faith. No matter what misfortunes come, if husband and wife stand together in their faith, it is beautiful, age-old light will never flicker, nor go out, but sooner or later will enter their both in the harbor of home.

I want to say to this girl who did not sign her name her soul has feet of clay. She is building castles in the air that will crumble before they are completed. Like pictures in the pitre log fire, unsubstantial, they will all too soon become dead ashes among the embers. Marriage is a Sacrament. The right start means usually a right ending, and the best of marriages for the sake of offered when a man and wife those two turn from the low white gates of God's altar the entrance of the nuptial Mass around them, and the blessing of God upon their union. This is the sacred, the sacred man and woman should have, for it makes for a happy home.

I do not mean to say there are no good men but Catholic men nor no good women but Catholic women for the most part. But I do mean to say a Catholic should marry a Catholic if their marriage is to improve the best. There have been and will be exceptions, but the general rule is what we have to accept. We many marriages where the one is a Catholic and the other of the opposite faith, end in a travail of soul and body, mostly for the woman. A Gentile man that does not always end at the foot of the Cross.

And now, I'd like to ask a question. Did this man ever tell you he loved you and wanted you to be his wife? It seems to me that after all, this is the question that should be answered, for if he did not, then you have surely taken a lot for granted, something no woman can afford to do when it comes to love and marriage.

Our Pen Pals Greetings to our new Pals: Helen A. Driscoll, Mary Jean Donohue, Catherine Ann Hart, Welcome letters have come from: R. M., E. M., B. E. W., C. M., F. M. G., M. M., M. B.

For those who don't know: If you want to join the Pen Pals just send me the name and address of your pastor, a 3-cent stamp, and tell me something about yourself.

Dear Pals: We've added another part to our Pen Pal Work. Lillian writes of her work with and for the Catholic children in a non-Catholic Detention home every Sun-

THREE KINGS RULE OVER PUERTO RICO

(Continued from page 10) lo and Santa Cruz in California Spanish welcomes as given names every appellation of the Cardinal—virtues, Christmas, the Cross, the Trinity and even the Lord's name. But Santa Claus could hardly be a real Saint. If he was then was no one, continental or island born, christened "Claus" but with the genuine name, San Nicolas, the situation is quite different. For Nicholas is a common name in Puerto Rican history. It was Nicola de Ovando, the one who erected the Nicholas Church in Santo Domingo, now half in ruins, who appointed Ponce de Leon the first Governor of Puerto Rico. The sixth Bishop of this island was the Most Rev. Nicholas de Ramon y de Torres, O. F. M.

"POETIC JUSTICE" In the long run, Governor Roosevelt's recognition of the Epiphany, the Feast of the Three Kings, as a holiday was poetic justice. A card in Holland also states St. Nicholas as coming from Spain. Still, the generous Santa Claus would take a chance if shortly after midnight he attempted to sled in upon a Puerto Rican household, filling its stockings, making an undetected get-away. He might find the familia mother, father and children, and probably cousins, aunts and grandparents, too, all sitting about the table, eating and smiling with such happy unaffectedness as characterizes an uninterupted Catholic tradition. For as long ago as when Jamestown in Virginia was settled, nine Bishops had their residence on the Ponce de Leon Sea, 38 Governors had come and gone.

In Puerto Rico, on the night before Christmas all through the houses not a creature is stirring, that he is empty. The families stroll through the pueblos or put along the carteretas, taking foot-paths up into the hills or following caminos vecinales down into the farms. In the windows of the big residences or tiny little houses, lights gleaming, in a merry voices and laughter frequently the scraps of the guitarra and the taps of dancing feet tell the story. With the improved highways, the crowded roads, and cheap carfare, the vista is gradually fading-out. But perspective survives.

For the mis del gallo the church candles beyond description. Bells ring the air in a sort of perfume of music dating back to the first Christmas in the New World. That first Christmas Day was saved for us the word "open" for such good work. The natives did their part and regarded with delighted approval how the metal hatchets of the discoverers cut into the trees, it might have taken the primitive stone hatchets of the Indians twice as long to accomplish half as much. The little settlement of La Navidad (Christmas) began to rise. The gold frankincense and myrris of the New World's first gifts to the Old One. On the first Christmas they celebrated together with sympathy for the spirit of a carnival, loyalty and labor.

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS The spirit of the Christmas season begins to stir in the streets of Puerto Rico shortly after All Souls Day. It is in full swing by December 1 and day set aside by the Church to honor St. Nicholas. In years gone by, before Bahá'í came to Puerto Rico, in every home was supposed to have a nacimiento, a crib in a corner of the living room lay the little village of Bethlehem. Footpaths for the Shepherds, wooden animals in various places. In the background, the manger, manger not the fireplace with statues of Mary and Joseph (not Santa Claus) standing or kneeling by a bundle of straw on which rested the little Saviour. The Three Kings were free to come and go as they pleased, and from house to house they did so in a portable niche that served both as a manger and as an altar. Often an agninaldo (card) was sung and an agninaldo, which is a gift, even mas Eve they call Nochebuena, the "Night that is Good." And the Good Night it is, even if the climax comes upon the Twelfth Night after, rather than on the Night before, for the way not be Christmas pure and simple (Christmas without Santa Claus, Krisis Kringle, Sorocoo or Tiny Tim).

OTHER COMMEMORATIONS. All things together, it is significant that Puerto Rico should devote attention to the Epiphany, for this Feast is said to commemorate not only the visit of the Wise Men, but the Baptism of Jesus, the miracle of Cana and the feeding of the thousands as separate and distinct manifestations of God to man. These "manifestations" are not overlooked at this time of the year, when the New Year has embarked upon another experiment. \$42,000,000 for the Puerto Rico Recovery Administration. There is, therefore, should be, no question of the Church's interest in the economic reconstruction of Puerto Rico or, for that matter, of any other country in the world. Love is the highest principle.

Yet the resting of thousands in a miracle and a problem in Puerto Rico. As a problem it is rendered less intelligible by the recurring hubbub over overpopulation and much to be regretted. Puerto Rico's problems could be simplified by a return to first principles, to social doctrines of universal import—the resurrection of Puerto Rico through its moral reconstruction.

Then only would the spirit of Christmas and the showing forth of Christ on Twelfth Night, Epiphany, Three Kings Day, be a tangible reality in the tropical life where the parents of St. Rose of Lima were born.

GOD AND YOUR CHILD

By Marie O'Connell McGrath, Ph.D. Questions or comments concerning the religious and moral training of children will be answered by the writer. Address her care, The Catholic Courier.

WHAT IS CHRISTMAS JOY?

Children love Christmas! And the rest of us do too. If we have not permitted it to get too complex and mundane in the course of the year, it is a feast of joy. Joyously, homely joy of a mother and her babe. This is the chief reason why Christmas should be kept simple and "homely" and peaceful. The gifts of Christmas are full of the symbols of the Epiphany, Gift which the Eternal Father placed in the hands of Our Lady on that first Christmas Day, and which she in turn may give to the Shepherds, the Wise Men and us. When we give gifts, it is necessary that we do so—no are adding with Our Father in Heaven in His gift-giving. And when we receive gifts—and which one of us is so honored as not to love to get Christmas presents—we are actually receiving the reception of the Heavenly Gift.

These two ideas are the key of all Christmas giving. Without them there is danger of harshness and disappointment, of selfishness and ingratitude spoiling the Christmas spirit. Children love Christmas—especially for its gifts. Center their gifts around the Baby Jesus in such a way that they will associate them with Him. A picture of the infant, the baby Jesus, is the Christmas gift, in a necessary way. Tell them why they receive gifts, especially on Christmas, and let them know too the joy of giving gifts to each of the members of the family.

Nothing should be in a child's mind a part of the child's mind, really something which has been bought for him to give. Either he has made the gift, or it is a personal treasure with which he is parting for love of the infant Jesus whose birthday it is. He has received gifts bought for him, or he has bought it out of an allowance given him for Christmas gifts.

The point is that you cannot get the true spirit of Christmas giving in the child unless what he gives is in some way really his own. He must give of his own, that he may be able to imitate his heavenly Father, who gave the world His own Son, the sweet infant Jesus. Allowing the child to give Christmas gifts with his own money, or to participate in the full joy of Christmas—his two-fold joy—giving, and receiving. For after all, it is not one of the great truths of our holy faith, that we are to give as we are able to receive? Christmas is the love of our neighbor, the great treasure of our lives. And is it not true, too, that insofar as we are normal social beings, a treasure possessed is a treasure to be shared, especially with our loved ones?

Christmas begins in the love of our neighbor, the great treasure, Jesus. He comes to us as the lovely Babe in Mary's arms. The giving and receiving of gifts becomes a sort of sacramental, a channel, through which we share Him and His joy with others, and receive Him and His joy from them in turn. How far the commercialism of our bustling Christmas season has carried us from the simple, peaceful, loving giving of Christmas joy!

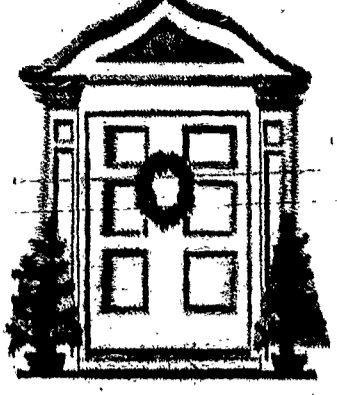
(N. W. C. FEATURES) Catholic Students Set Record in Scholarships

Colombia, Ceylon (N. C.) In seven years students of St. Joseph's College, this city, have won ten scholarships. They were offered by the British Government to enable students to complete their education at Cambridge University or at London.

to Rio's leaning toward the Feast of the Three Kings. Of course, there is no question but that the Islanders celebrate Christmas by the way of the "mas Eve" they call Nochebuena, the "Night that is Good." And the Good Night it is, even if the climax comes upon the Twelfth Night after, rather than on the Night before, for the way not be Christmas pure and simple (Christmas without Santa Claus, Krisis Kringle, Sorocoo or Tiny Tim).

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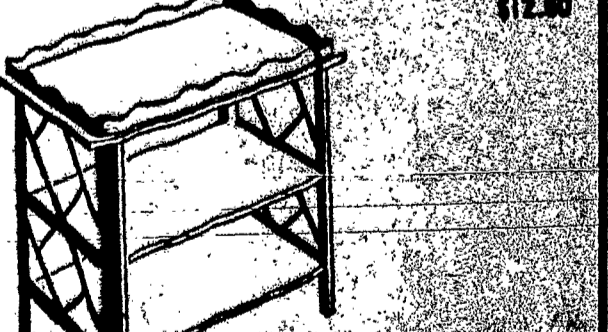
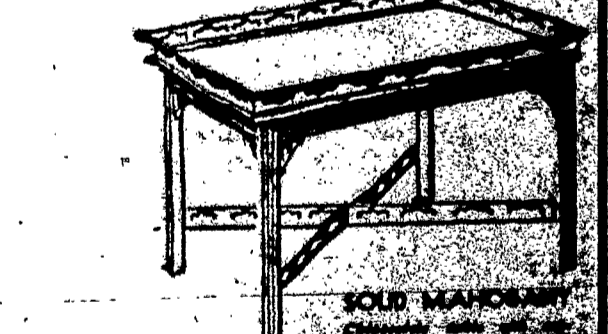
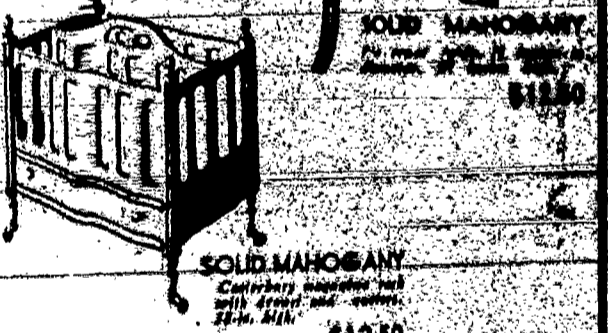
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