

OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS VARIES IN MANY LANDS

Santa Claus Of Their Own To Be Quintuplets' Treat; Dr. Defoe Will Play Role

By KATHLEEN POWERS
(Written for N. C. W. Christmas Supplement)

The Dionne Quintuplets, cloistered in their private hospital at Callender in cold Northern Ontario, are to have a Santa Claus of their own. He is to be Dr. A. R. Defoe, the genial physician who leaped into international fame by keeping the babies alive and who, although he is not a Catholic, baptized them on the day of their birth—May 28, 1934.

Dr. Defoe hasn't announced this himself, because the doctor never what one might call loquacious. He has refused steadfastly to date to discuss his plans. But the fact is that he did play Santa Claus to the internationally famous babies last year, and associates at the hospital say you can be certain he will do so again.

There will be a definitely Catholic note to the observance of Christmas at the Defoe Hospital, residence of the Dionne quintuplets. The babies will be only 18 months old on December 23, but as early as last November they were rolling down on their knees and making the Sign of the Cross each night before going to bed. It has already been decided that a Christmas crib, with a figure of the infant Jesus lying in a manger, will be set up in the hospital for the quintuplets. They will have ample opportunity to inspect the crib, for they will all be walking freely by that time, their nurses, Miss Cecile Lamoureux, the head nurse, and Miss Yvonne Lebus, an assistant, are Catholics.

But on the whole Christmas may not prove to be very much different from any other day in the lives of the five babies. There undoubtedly will be toys plenty from many parts of the world. There were last year. But then the little Dionne sisters have playthings galore every day of the year, thanks to the generosity of the people of Canada, the United States and other countries. But Dr. Defoe says definitely that the quintuplets will not leave the hospital for a long time yet to come.

In the little settlement of Corbett, where the parents and five brothers and sisters of the quintuplets live, there was a belief that perhaps the famous babies would soon be allowed to leave the hospital perhaps to be taken to the parish church where for a long time after their baptism, their spiritual priest, the Rev. Daniel Houther offered Mass daily for them and the villagers joined in special prayers after Mass each Sunday that the babies might live. At the parish church which is dedicated to the Sacred Heart and where the Rev. E. T. McFally is now pastor.

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Venite Adoremus



This picture, "The Angel Gabriel at the Grotto," by a Belgian artist, is reproduced with permission of the Benedictine Convent of Perpetual Adoration, Clyde, Pa.

DIARY OF NATIVE ITALIAN MISSIONARY TO ABYSSINIA TELLS OF BETHLEHEM VISIT

By MGR. ENRICO PUCCI
(Written for N. C. W. Christmas Supplement)

Some months ago, when the imminence of an Italian-Ethiopian conflict first attracted the attention of the whole world, the Sacred Congregation of Rites issued a decree announcing the sacred glory of Justin de Jacobis, Laurentian Missionary and first Apostolic Vicar of Abyssinia. In a discourse on this occasion, His Holiness Pope Pius XI invoked because of the seriousness of the moment the protection of this great Apostle—Italian by birth and Abyssinian by adoption.

They have had the greatest good fortune to read in the unpublished diary of this great Apostle's notes of Justin de Jacobis, written in his apostolate which he set down daily. The diary is now in possession of Father Bonaventura, Provincial of the Province of the Holy Spirit, and Pastor General of the Congregation of the Priests of the Mission. It has already been submitted to the Congregation of Rites for review in connection with the Apostle's cause. For details in this article, we will quote.

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He did that to think more intensely of you—
Think not that all was asleep and forlorn
The night that Christ our Saviour was born.
For the heavens looked down with a starry-eyed stare,
And the earth knelt listening in silent prayer.
And if kings of the earth were too proud to receive Him,
He could smile in the arms of the Queen of Heaven.

Father Urban Adelman, O. M. Cap.