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Do Your Christmas Shopping Early! The more Christmas shopping early is a familiar cry...

Christmas Bells II! The chiming of the bells has been over the ages united to the observance of Christmas.

Natural Mistake I was not surprised but pleased a few years ago when I found that "Mikha" was the family name of my secretary's mother.

Complete Modesty I rather imagine the story is a stock one in Hollywood, but I had never heard it before...

Irish Bulls My recent reference to Irish bulls brought this delightful definition from Mr. Scheibel...

Feast Days Sunday, Dec. 17—ST. OLYMPIA. Monday, Dec. 18—ST. GATHAN, BISHOP.

Feast Days Tuesday, Dec. 19—ST. NEMESIO, MARTYR. Wednesday, Dec. 20—ST. PHILADOPHUS, BISHOP.

Feast Days Thursday, Dec. 21—ST. THOMAS, APOSTLE. Friday, Dec. 22—ST. ISCHYRION, MARTYR.

Feast Days Saturday, Dec. 23—ST. SERVILIUS. Scotch scientist says we should study mental telepathy.

God's Roller Skates

'ALONG THE WAY' By Rev. Daniel A. Lord, S.J.

It's amazing the ways down which people come into the Church. But as far as I know this is the only convert that ever entered on roller skates.

Down the steep hill she coasted and then realized to her fright that she was going much too fast and couldn't quite control the momentum of her roll.

He laughed in mingled surprise and embarrassment, leaped down and helped the youngster get to her feet. But all the while she had only one thought: "I've run into a priest. God sent him. Dare I talk to him?"

And though the priest was far more surprised than he had been by the hurrying of the young sister, against him, he calmly took her under his wing and began instructions. She had roller skated herself into the Church, in which, new and senior in college, she recently celebrated her fifth anniversary.

Two weeks," replied the grandfather. The sister turned in utter amazement.

"Did you say... a date... a course... two weeks old?" "I really said the old gentleman, "And I want it a course that's exactly right. She'll never have a more important date than she has tomorrow. My little granddaughter is going to be baptized."

"The girl is the young lady?" he asked, sipping his flowers speculatively.

"I wanted to reach my secretary with a wire, but, though I knew she was visiting her relatives, I did not know their street number. So I handed the clerk the wire I had written out, and she read it slowly: "Miss Martin Fitzgerald, "Care of the Irish Family, "Despatch, Illinois."

"The clerk looked bewildered. "Care of the Irish Family," she read again, and then "Don't you think you're telling me that Irish family's name?"

"I rather imagine the story is a stock one in Hollywood, but I had never heard it before, so perhaps it will be new to you, too. The young lady star was with another young lady star. Thus far she had monopolized the conversation in the spiritous ways, and she was now being "led" away with a gesture and a nod.

"But, darling, we're talking much too much about the New York Times."

He gave him as Auxiliary Bishop Most Rev. John F. O'Hara, C.S.C., President of the University of Notre Dame.

"Episcopos Catechista" is the title under which Archbishop Spellman will have full spiritual control over the Catholic Chaplains and soldiers and sailors serving under the American flag.

Cardinal Hayes was the former Bishop Ordinary of the Army and Navy. With Bishop O'Hara to do much of the active work, Archbishop Spellman will exercise over Chaplains and men in the service of the United States Army and Navy the same power that a Bishop exercises over the members of his diocese.

It is well for us to realize that the United States is a country marked with a spirit of religion, that its tradition has been to foster the practice of religion by making it easy for its citizens to follow their individual conscience, that it has its Chaplain in the Congress, and that it provides Chaplains for its enlisted men and officers in order that they may have the freest access to religious teaching and support.

Great good shall come to the Catholic soldiers and sailors through their chaplains and through the influence of two such outstanding Prelates as Archbishop Spellman and Bishop O'Hara. May God's blessing be on them as they enter on their new field of service!

UNDERGRADUATES and PROPAGANDA

By REV. JAMES M. GILLIS, C.S.P., Editor, The Catholic World

Earl Browder will be mentioned in this piece, but the piece will not be about Earl Browder. That gentleman has received a superabundance of publicity of late, and my guess is that he delights in it.

Diocesan Recordings True Meaning of Christmas A salute to the commercial firm which is using the billboards to emphasize the spiritual significance of Christmas.

In the Mail—"Just a word to say 'thank you' for your write-up regarding our 'Patricio-Novena' at St. Joseph's. I think it has been a grand success."

A Good Fight Aiding in the warfare against tuberculosis by pure Christmas spirit is most commendable, in addition members of the Catholic lay can give their support to a movement, now spreading throughout the state for the elimination of the dread disease.

Done by Experts My answer was that if the students could go through the issue of a great metropolitan daily and separate the wheat from the tares, the truth from the lies, they knew more about journalism than I did, and that I should be interviewing them, not they interviewing me.

Veteran Versus Kids If you say "nonsense," "impossible," "ridiculous," you don't know undergraduates. Of course those kids have a good conceit of themselves.

Irish Bulls My recent reference to Irish bulls brought this delightful definition from Mr. Scheibel, Editor of the Southern Messenger: "If three cows are lying down in a pasture, the one standing up is an Irish bull."

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Feast Days Sunday, Dec. 24—ST. STEPHEN, MARTYR. Monday, Dec. 25—THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD.

Feast Days Tuesday, Dec. 26—ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST. Wednesday, Dec. 27—ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST.

Feast Days Thursday, Dec. 28—THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. Friday, Dec. 29—ST. THOMAS AQUINAS.

Feast Days Saturday, Dec. 30—ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE. Sunday, Dec. 31—THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD.

WHY?

What the Can Be Forgiven in Confession?

All sins committed after Baptism may be forgiven in the Sacrament of Penance. Sincere sorrow for the sins committed, faithful confession of the same, and a firm resolution not to fall into them again, are the three conditions necessary for absolution.

Given these three conditions, there is no sin, however great or grievous, that may not be pardoned in the Sacrament of Penance. All sins made known in Confession are buried there.

But one serious student outside the Church is beginning to see what a priceless treasure was thrown away when the reformers of the Sixteenth Century rejected the Catholic idea of Confession. Dr. Charles H. Sheldon, noted Congregationalist minister, has this to say: "The church is looked upon as a place to go to hear someone. But people want something more than preaching. They want comfort and courage and the help that does not come to them when it is handed out wholesale. The Confessional of the Roman Church is a recognition of human craving to deep and eternal that it is bewildering thing to see how it has been ignored by the Protestant Church, which has emphasized preaching above pity and the priest as a person." (Atlantic Monthly, Jan. 1922).

Defenders of the Faith, Conception, Mo.

NO INVASION HERE!



"Half of the people don't know how the other half live," said the philosopher, but that was before the other half began to live on the government. — South Bend Tribune.

Library Symposium Children Also Read

There was no room in last week's column for the youngsters we must make up for that in today's, or else we wouldn't be true to the spirit of Christmas. So here goes for a list of Christmas book-gifts for the younger folks from \$1.25 to \$16.50.

And what a list it is, for there is a plentiful harvest to select from. It's the who parent who can't find the time to read the dime and quarter that would otherwise go into the till of the local "movie" until there is enough to buy such a ticket to amuse and glamour the much abused word."

One of my clearest childhood memories is of the early Christmas morning when, in the quiet dark before dawn, my brother and I stole a march downstairs to see the gifts what they all were. I can't remember now, but there is a clear light as of something deeper than memory upon one of them a book an illustrated "Pilgrim's Progress" which still gives me a leap of pleasure to remember.

THE PRE-SCHOOL TOT: The Lord's Prayer, Inqri and Editor of Aulaire (Catholic Edition) (Doubleday, \$1.75).

THE CHRIST CHILD: Mikka and Maud Peterham (Catholic Edition) (Doubleday, \$2). Fine full page color pictures illustrating the Gospel of St. Luke UNDER TEN YEARS: Number Two Joy Street, Edited by G. K. Chesterton 10 years (Appleton, \$1.50). An omnibus book, as interesting as a grab-bag.

THE MEDAL STORIES: By the Sisters of Charity (Vol. 1 & 2) (Appleton, \$1.50). Taking down the Cross of Francis X. Downey, S.J. (17-19 years) (Hoffmann Press \$1).

UNCLE REMUS: His Songs and Sayings, Joel C. Harris (10 years) (Appleton, \$1.50). An old favorite younger than 10 year olds ought at least to have it read to them.

FINOCHIO: Carlo Lorenzini (Walk Disney Edition) This Italian classic will soon be known the world over in the feature cartoon from the Disney studios.

THE WELL OF THE WORLD'S END: Seumas MacManus (Macmillan, \$1). Eleven fine stories with titles like "The Haggy Nag," "The Three Golden Eggs," "The King of Greece's Daughter," "Feather o' My Wing."

MOTHER, READ US A POEM: Mary E. Woolworth (Queen's Work, \$1.50). SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADERS AND HIGH SCHOOL FROSH: Plays for My Children, Paul Vinogradoff, B.S.P. (Mentor, \$2). Superb and exquisite magic, the sheer stuff of beauty, woven into fascinating drama: "The King Who Could Not Laugh," "The Maker of Roads," "Beauty Is Fleeting." Although they need not be acted to be enjoyed, these one-act plays may be very simply staged.

GREY DAWNS and Red, Marie Fischer. (Sheed and Ward: \$1.25). Of this book Blanche Jennings Thompson says "Any child who sees the jacket of Grey Dawns and Red with its black-robed priest solemnly wielding a great quill pen as he sits cramped in a wooden cage before a background of rampant dragons and Chinese gamblers will most certainly want to read the story. It is about Father Theophane Venard of the French Foreign Missions, martyred in Tong-King on (Andreas Day 1861) (Mantle, \$1.50). Early days of the black-robes and the Tale of Troy Padraic Colum (Macmillan, \$2). Splendid retelling of the old classic with magical illustrations by Willy Pogany.

THE SILVER RUN, The Making of Peter Gray, Steve Merrill, Engineer. These are a few of the William Haysler stories which have been so popular with boys. They are published by Appleton at \$2 each. You can find nothing better to acquaint your growing boy with the social issues of today. Silly McGee, Marie Conway Oelmler, (Appleton \$2). In the Footprints of the Padres, Charles Warren Stoddard, (Robertson \$2.50). Saint Amant Savages, Francis X. Talbot, (H. Harpers \$3.50). Note Bene: If anyone gives me a thousand dollars for Christmas, I will spend it immediately for a children's library. The better Catholic magazines make good Christmas gifts for your friends. For instance: America at \$4 a year; The Commensal at \$3; The Catholic World at \$4; Action (a "new" photo mag) at \$1.50; The Catholic Digest at \$3; The Sign at \$2; The Catholic Woman's World at \$2.50 (And of course in the newspapers and magazines the CATHOLIC COURIER at \$2.50). For information on where to send for them, inquire at the Catholic Evidence Library, in the Columbus Civic Center, 60 Chestnut Street, at one of the Catholic book stores.

REV. BENEDICT EHMANN