

Novena of Masses For Peace Arranged By Women's Union

Members of the Catholic Women's Union, Rochester Branch, will hold their regular monthly meeting in St. Joseph's Hall, on Tuesday evening, Dec. 9, at 8 P. M. After the business session a Christmas party will be held. Gifts will be exchanged and distributed by Santa Claus in person. A grocery shower will also be held on the same evening for the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Refreshments will be served.

As a Christmas gift, in general, the members have provided funds for a novena of Masses to be offered for peace throughout the world. These Masses will be said at one of the parish churches in the city to be announced at the meeting to the members giving them an opportunity to attend. They will be offered for nine days in succession. The members have also been making scapulars for the boys in

Holy Hour Booklet

ST. LOUIS.—The ninth edition of "My Holy Hour Book," issued by the Convent of the Visitation here, has just come off the press. It is dedicated to "Our Lord Jesus Christ, King." A picture on the front cover is from a photograph of the marble crucifix over the main altar in the Visitation chapel.

camp and have provided rosaries and prayerbooks to be forwarded to them. A special Mass will also be offered up for all of the boys in service as a Christmas gift, beseeching Almighty God to protect them and for their safe return home very soon.

Photo Contest For Parish Sodalties

ST. LOUIS Mo.—A national photo contest, restricted to members or directors, of parish Sodalties or parish Sodality unions, is announced by The Queen's Work here national Sodality secretariate. Pictures must show Sodality or union activities or projects that have taken place after last Oct 1. No entries postmarked after next Feb 28 will be considered, it was explained. There will be first and second awards.

Christmas Practices Reflect Wales' Catholic Heritage

(Written for N.C.W. Christmas Supplement).

Christmas practices, one of which has lately enjoyed a revival, are tending to focus the attention of students upon the Catholic heritage of Wales. There are those who state that for a long time after the Reformation Wales was the most Catholic part of the British Isles.

The burning of the Christmas candle in the home from six o'clock Christmas Eve right through the night a practice not confined to Wales by any means is handed down to the Welsh from their old practice of the "Shepherds keeping watch." It is the tradition that if the Blessed Mother were to come again seeking shelter, she would find it in any home with a lighted candle in the window.

Students seem to find no memorial of the Midnight Mass in Wales, but a service substituted for the third Mass at daybreak on Christmas has always been maintained in some places and is presently enjoying a revival in others. The name of this service like all the old religious nomenclature in Welsh appears to have had a Latin origin. In different districts it is variously called playgan, polgan, or polgan (pull cantus). It is now a quiet and unceremonious affair, but formerly people used to go to playgan in procession sometimes carrying lighted torches.

Immediately following the Reformation Catholicism stood for the Welsh nationality and Protestantism was regarded as a plant of alien growth. Students of folklore are bringing to light numerous reminders of Wales' bright Catholic days. Children, says one observer, "are the trust of conservatives" and a great help in tracing the Catholic history of Wales. We must not be surprised, he adds, if, despite the intervening Puritanism, they yet make the Sign of the Cross to avert a bad omen or on taking upon themselves a hunting oath. Indeed, in some part of Montgomeryshire, the name of the Virgin Mary appears in a very old rhyme recited by the children in their games. Pictures and statues of the Infant Jesus and the Blessed Mother once occupied prominent places in chapels throughout the country and even today the prevalence of holy pictures in Welsh homes makes it difficult on this basis, to distinguish a family which is Catholic from one which is not.

Ancient mystery and miracle plays deriving from Catholic days in Wales were revived in the middle 150s under the title of "Lad-leuon" (Controversies or Dialogues) to which the public was admitted on payment of a small charge, which included tea. Writers have described two of the plays: "Dad Dafydd a Goliath" (David and Goliath) and "Jonah Nwm o Nant" (the Shakespeare of Wales, excelled in the production of mystery plays and it is highly probable that a few aged people are yet to be found who can and perhaps regularly do recite the "Breuddwyd Mari" (Mary's Dreams), an old poetic dialogue between the Divine Child and the Blessed Virgin. It would seem that in Catholic times all pious Welshmen recited this dialogue upon retiring, as a safeguard against what the hymn calls "vain dreams and phantoms of the night." Strangely enough, "Mari Lwyd" still cheers the nights in rural areas though few appreciate that it represents the mystery play of the Virgin Mary. Welsh mothers, singing their babies to sleep, have been known to employ an old Welsh hymn that is undoubtedly a translation of the second part of the Hail Mary.

SEMINARIANS TO SING POLISH CAROLS ON RADIO

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich. The Schola Cantorum of SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary will present its annual program of Polish Christmas carols, known as "Kolendy" over the network of the Columbia Broadcasting System from Station WJR, Detroit, at 3:30 P. M. Eastern Standard Time, Saturday, Dec. 20.

A description of Polish Christmas customs will form a background for the carols. The choristers are under the direction of the Rev. Henry A. Warakas, professor of Gregorian Chant.

The people who accuse the Church of intolerance are those people who ask nothing better than to close all Catholic schools and send away all religious teachers.

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