DIOCESAN NEWS

Catholic Courier

PARISH NEWS

Knights of Columbus Christmas Dance Committees Named

The annual Christmas dinner dance of Elmira Council Knights of Columbus will be held Saturday Dec 27 at the Mark Twain Hotel

John M French and Joseph H Fitzpatrick are co-chairmen assisted by Basil J Vaillancourt Joseph P Lynch Thomas V O'Leary Harold J DeLaney Nicholas J Gramaldi John K Diveny Anthony L Malone James L O'Ka James A Farrell Ivan F Cady Anthony B Ciers Dr. Gerald T Connelly J Earl Bateman William H Holleran John F Cusick Joseph M Kelly Edward F Lagonegro James E Kirby George N Moreau Thomas R Burns

Also Thomas J Flynn, Robert L Pautz Charles J Kromer William B Little James W McGill James L Kerwan Henry P Farrell George E Griffin Lewis A Lauffenweiser Marvin E Johnson William H Isbourne J William Mahoney Charles J Curtin Thomas J Stapleton Frederick E O'Hergan Edward J Blake Justin T Romasser Eugene F Agan Walter L Supple John F Kosmicki Thomas G Dean Robert F Woodhouse Richard A Hoy Ronald H Bacon Thomas P Donahue John Carpenter Edward J Miller Jr Lewis J Jacobson Laurence Webster George T Meade Edward L Martin George J McPherson Roderick V Prentis Paul H Reidy Dana Sheehan Jr William M Supple Jr

Reservations may be made with Mr Curtin at Columbus Centre

Ladies of Charity

(Continued from Page 1)

ship when a Lady of Charity is ill or bereaved They will send messages of cheer or notes of condolence to fellow members and will remind each member of the organization thru the chairman of their committee of the words of St Vincent de Paul in the original manual of the Ladies of Charity "The members will also be ready to bring aid and consolation to those members who they know to be in distress or afflicted"

The many admonitions of the Saint that a Lady of Charity should "Seek light and strength in prayer and in union with God" in all that concerns society and the members of it.

The fourth committee has the special sanction of Lady Armstrong President of the Ladies of Charity in New York City and Mrs. Antonio Gonzales, a member of the State Board of Prisons. The latter conferred with the Rev. Francis J. Lane. Chaplain of Elmira Reformatory during the past week on this proposed plan This committee of St John Bosco will work in cooperation with Fr Lane as the need arises for service to the Catholic inmates of the New York State Reformatory.

The first project of the committee will be the presentation through Father Lane, of a picture of our Blessed Lady to each Catholic inmate of the Reformatory

Cooperating with this committee Miss Teresa Cameron will supervise the mounting of 650 copies of Raphael's Sistene Madonna and Murillo's Immaculate Conception Attractively framed, these beautiful likenesses of the Mother of God will bring special messages and inspiration to many a lonely lad on the birthday of her Divine Son

The emblem of the Ladies of Charity has the inscription around the central figure of Our Divine Saviour "He sent me to evangelize the poor" and the Elmira Ladies of Charity have answered His call as today they heed the voice of the leaders of our country in the hour of our national crisis

Exempt Mothers

LONDON The States does not want to conscript the mothers of young children" members of the Union of Catholic Mothers were assured by Mrs. Kimball, presenting the public service report. She added that compulsory registration does not mean compulsory service

Christmas Windows

By Mary E. FitzGerald

Outside. It was a big store window packed with toys and Mrs. Brown just couldn't help stopping although there were no small hands pulling her toward it as there had been the previous Saturday afternoon She gazed longingly at the lovely doll in the center of the window and tears came to her eyes as she remembered Martha's pleading voice as she pointed her little finger to it and said "If Santa would bring me that doll I wouldn't want anything again ever" Martha's baby mind did not understand what had happened to the family during the past week. Losing his job would have been a serious matter to Mr Brown in 1939 as it would not have been easy to go out and find employment then but it was just as bad now because the last few days had brought him face to face with the fact that he was considered unemployable

Mr Brown worked for years in a small factory which had now closed or else the pressure of priority ruling He had been ill for a few days now and then but after twelve years of service employers seldom question incidents when an employee is momentarily disabled Applications to other sources of employment revealed a hardened condition which made it impossible for him to be accepted for any of the jobs for which he was qualified Of course Mrs Brown did tell the story to a Visitor from one of the local agencies but it takes time even in 1941 to find a position for a Mr Brown His wife realized this all too well as she stood in front of the store window trying to hold back the tears

Quite unconscious of other eager faces gazing into that same window not realizing that passersby pounded rudely against here Mrs Brown stood deep in thought remembering a Christmas in 1928 The Browns didn't live in Elmira then and the western village they called home did not boast a Christmas conscious agency Mr Brown was out of work that year too and their only child was a rosy cheeked boy of four Mr Brown expected to be called back to work and they could use their credit with the neighborhood grocer and an understanding landlord. So much for the necessities including fuel which had been stored during the summer months but there were no ways or means to bring Santa Claus to tiny wistful eyed Tommy

Tommy was very ill on Christmas Day so he didn't know that his playmates had been visited by Santa Cold icy fingers seemed to clutch at Mrs. Brown's heart as she thought of that Christmas morning Faltering little questions from her darling, "When will Santa come" and for several days she promised "Tomorrow" Just before the old year died Mrs. Brown saw a neighbor toss a Christmas tree still gay with shining tinsel into the yard Pride was pushed to the background and she returned to her home with the tree and next morning Tommy had a Christmas all his own

That was Tommy's last Christmas on earth Long before the bright days of spring he was in Heaven and a heartbroken mother and father thanked God that he had not waited in vain for Santa Claus. "He was so small we think he didn't know" became a daily whispered thought which was almost a pleading prayer from an anguished mother's heart that he might never know that Santa was so late

But this is 1941 and there are three other young Browns now besides baby Martha who wanted the big doll. "Maybe I can explain to the others that Santa can't come this year but Martha is so small like Tommy was" and Mrs Brown's tears did fall then. "I can't make her understand."

Inside. Mothers went from counter to counter, some caressing toys trying to make a choice others in a bored, hurried manner, selecting hurriedly beautiful Mama dolls or shining red fire trucks and still others counting coins, consulting lists, trying to make dimes cover dollar pleas from sons and daughters at home. Hesitation, fear or worry marked many of those faces but Mrs. Brown did not know that She saw only that they could buy, presumed they had jobs and money and turned away saying "I can't help matters by just standing here Guess I can only wish and that don't do no good"

Another Window. Sounds of gay laughter greeted Miss S, the Catholic Charities Visitor as she stepped on the porch of the Brown home on Christmas Day in 1941 She was just making a friendly call to make certain that all was well and that all the plans made for the Browns had resulted in a real Christmas for the children and their parents Shall I tell you Mrs Brown's story in her own words to Miss S that Christmas morning? "This is a Christmas Miss S and to think only ten days ago I was sure we wouldn't be able to do a thing for the children That dinner even turkey you sent to us will be the best meal we ever had and the two dollars for me to spend just for toys was better than the fifteen I had last year because I had just given up hope But all this from the Arctic League Give Mrs S I can't talk about that I want to cry

"I told you about our Tommy

(Continued on Page 18)

SEE'S LABOR INSTITUTE OPENS IN 31 PARISHES

DETROIT (NC) Thirty one units of the Archdiocesan Labor Institute are beginning their 1941 42 sessions this week under the sponsorship of the Most Rev. Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit Sessions will be held weekly at 24 Detroit parishes and at 7 parishes outside the city it is announced

Each parish holding meetings will serve its own parishioners and those of neighboring parishes, the Rev Raymond S Clancy, Archdiocesan Director of Social Action and Executive Secretary of the Labor Institute points out Weekly meetings will be divided into three 30-minute periods, devoted to "Economic Background," practical union problems and policies and a study of parliamentary law

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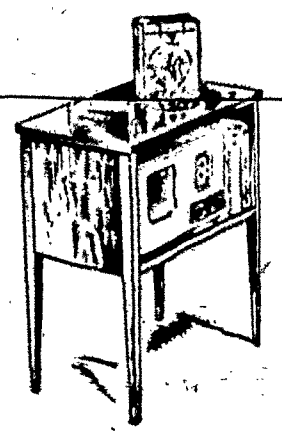
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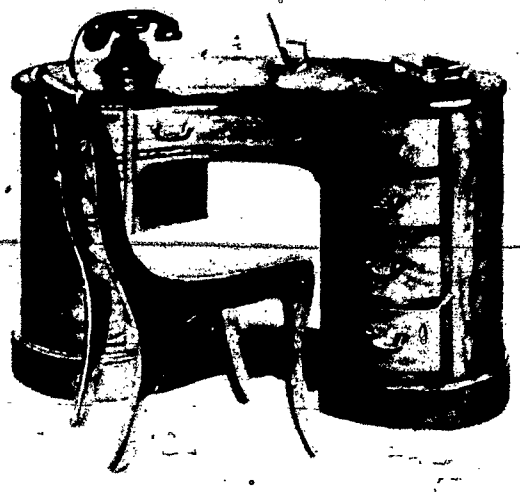
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