

### Feasts Reenact Life-Cycle Of Christ, Actionists Told

AUBURN—The Catholic Action League of St. Alphonsus Church held their November Meeting on Tuesday evening at West High School. Miss Jane Fontaine was chairman of the

supper meeting and she was assisted by Agnes Farden, Genevieve Vail Jean Schreck, Ruth Kasaley, Emily Leach, Veronica Toobey, Josephine Lynch, Louise Simon and Marion Barry.

Miss Athaleen Reid, president of the League presided at the business meeting and thanked the committee for their untiring efforts to make the affair a success. Formation of a Study Club was announced and the first meeting of the Club will be held on next Sunday afternoon at the Parish House on East Geneva St. The Rev. John M. Merklinger, moderator of the League, will be in charge of the Study Club. Miss Reid appointed Miss Marjorie Lewis and Mrs. Clarence McDonald co-chairmen of the December Meeting.

Father Merklinger gave an inspiring talk on the Feasts of the Church during December and following the talk the Girl Scouts of Troop 8 with Mrs. E. Conley and Miss Marilyn Barry directing, presented a pageant in song and verse, describing the Liturgical Symbols of the deep significance of the Church Year.

#### Speaks on Feasts

Father Merklinger said in part: "It is of great interest to us that the voice of the Omnipotent God of Heaven has been heard only three times in the gospels. Twice He spoke the self same words. This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye Him! All the Father asks of us is that we contemplate Jesus His Son. He would have us study and observe Him in order that we might love and imitate Him, because Jesus being His Son, is equally God. Because our Divine Lord is truly God, the least features of his mysteries, the least circumstances of His life are worthy of our attention. We ought to contemplate Him in all the actions of His life and in all the states of His glory. Never must we forget the striking truth: the eternal Father accepts us and is pleased with us inasmuch as He sees in us a resemblance of His Son. He must truly be able to say of all of us: 'These are My adopted children in whom I am also well pleased.'"

"We must be then, children who are born again of water and the Holy Ghost. Having come forth from a mother's womb, we possessed human life, received from a human parent. The good health of that strong human life showed in the radiance of our tiny infant countenance. With good food and care our human life increased and grew strong and showed itself in all our daily acts."

"Then the day of our baptism, the greatest day in the life of any one of us dawned bright and clear. Carried by a God-parent to the church by the priest we were asked what we sought of the Church of God. The sponsor answered that we came seeking the gift of faith for the child. The priest persisted in his questioning asking why the gift of faith. Again the sponsor makes answer with the starting words: 'We seek faith for this child in order that He may have everlasting life.' The priest then promises: 'his greatest of all gifts if the child will love God and neighbor.'"

#### Receives New Life

"With impressive words and ceremonies the child is baptized, is born again a second time and now born of God the Father. Immediately the child received a new life, he begins to share the very life of God Himself. He is adopted into the family life of the Most Blessed Trinity, has the Father as a parent, the Son as an elder brother, and the Holy Ghost as a sanctifier. Truly there is no moment comparable to this moment. There never could be a greater day in the life of any human person."

"An almost superhuman responsibility now falls upon the parents and sponsors of the child. It is up to them to see that this tiny infant, possessing the life of a man and sharing the life of His God, grow up worthily and show the strength and vigor of both his human life and his Divine life. The human life must begin to show itself in good habit. Simply the child must be God-like or Christ-like, because adopted by the Fa-

ther, he shares the very life of God.

"The art of engrafting as employed in nurseries is a good illustration. The cheap common 5-cent plant is given the life of a rare expensive bush through engrafting of the new plant into the other. If done properly and with great care, the cheap ordinary bush disappears and there grows up the shape and bark and foliage and flower of the high type bush. The Holy Ghost as the Divine Gardener engrafts in our ordinary common human life the very life of God. Like the plant, we must change. We must put off the habits of a selfish human, and put on the habits of Christ Himself, so that the Father may be able to say of us in all truth: 'These are My Beloved adopted Children, in whom I am well pleased. Hear them. See My own Divine Son in them in their words and deeds.' As other Christs, they go about doing good, considerate of their God and their neighbor. Often we hear it said by the people of the 20th century that they wished they had lived in the days of Christ. It would be so much easier to know Him and love Him and imitate Him. The power of His voice, the countenance of His face, His daily presence would be such a great impetus, such a moving force to help us be Christ-like."

"The Catholic church immediately hastens to teach us that Christ loved us so much He too wished to be among us. He makes Himself truly present to us in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, not only as our High Priest but also as the Divine Food of our immortal souls. We may even dare to say that in the Eucharistic Banquet, Jesus is nearer to us than He was to the people of Palestine."

"It is a fact which few Catholics try to appreciate that Christ lives and carries on His work (of praising the Father and sanctifying souls of men) in the Church through the Liturgy, the public worship of the church. He re-lives, re-presents (Makes present again) His entire life-cycle, from the time He left the bosom of His Heavenly Father to become a man, throughout His life, suffering, death, resurrection, ascension into Heaven, down to His second coming in glory to judge all mankind at the end of the world. He does this in every Mass. He is present there each morning of the week.

Glves Church Year  
"But our feeble minds are too human and too weak to be able to grasp this great mystery; we cannot comprehend how Christ represents His entire life-cycle in every Mass. So, Holy Mother the church comes to our rescue; She gives us the Church Year. In it Sunday after Sunday, week after week, feast after feast, She takes the entire life-cycle of Christ, and enlarges and emphasizes the various incidents. For example, in the Christmas Masses it is as if a spotlight were turned upon the birth of our Divine Lord in Bethlehem and we are made to see the Divine Son made flesh as a little child."

"The Church Year becomes then the re-enactment of Christ's life in the church and in our souls."

(Continued on Page 11)

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### College Alumnae Conduct Meeting

The November meeting of the Auburn Chapter of the Neareth College Alumnae Association was held at the home of Mrs. Andrew McLane of 121 Lewis St. Mrs. William Simons was co-hostess with Mrs. McLane.

### Cited in New Zealand

WATERLOO, N. Y.—Lieut. Charles F. Franklin, a graduate of Catholic Central High School, Troy, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Franklin of this city, has been cited to news dispatches from New Guinea as one of the aviators engaged in flying hundreds of American troops from Australia to the New Guinea battlefield.

### Soldiers Appreciate Mass

BRISBANE, Australia.—Writing from New Guinea to the Catholic Leader, official organ of the Archdiocese of Brisbane, a soldier who is a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and who before he went away was a daily Mass-giver, tells of the way in which the Mass is appreciated on the battle front.

"I have served Mass in some strange places since I have been away," he writes. "You would hardly believe some of the situations unless you were actually present. Our chaplains are equipped by the Catholic United Services Auxiliary with a tiny but little portable altar, which can be set up practically anywhere. On occasions we have set it up on the

top of a hill, on the back of an engine, the back of trucks and various other such places.

"Yesterday we were in a spot so muddy that the priest nearly got bogged on several occasions during the Mass. However, for all the difficulties, I guess the benefits received are just as great. Anyway, I think the Mass is appreciated much more here than at home. It is the same with many things—we don't appreciate them fully until we have some difficulty in obtaining them."

Another soldier, a South Australian, has written home telling how members of his unit walk four miles through rough terrain to Mass, which is celebrated for them once a month.

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