

Charity Groups Assure Merry Christmas For Needy

By Mary E. Fitzgerald

Works of mercy may be either spiritual or corporal—it is so that we are taught—but when busy mothers and office workers push aside personal obligations to bring Christmas

to the poor, the sick and the lonely—what then? Dare we not conclude that corporal becomes spiritual with a wider halo? We, at least, from our observations, during the past few weeks have come to such a conclusion.
"The poor" in these days, you "they are always with you," but so also are the poor in spirit, in whom a Christmas message may bring a new ray of hope. There, too, there are the lonely and the sick, whom their own have forgotten. There are those, who are struggling with some inner problem within their families or themselves, with whom, the stranger in His Name, can leave a remembrance of the star in the East on that First Christmas Eve.

ALL REMEMBERED
And so Charity looks to Christmas and to all those made to the image and likeness of that dear Christ child. Every person, who was known to Catholic Charities, during the past year, who may have needed some material help at this holiday season or who should have had some small evidence of the Christ-like friendship of the Catholic social worker was remembered on Christmas Eve. Thanks to the generosity of some who cannot forget that "Charity may begin at home, but real gratitude has its birth in the human heart," Catholic Charities workers were able to do many of the "little extra things" this Christmas. A lonely old man spent the day with his only sister in another city, the mother of a large family bought gifts for her children in spite of the serious illness of the husband and father and many such a Christmas was possible, which does not come within the scope of the usual agency budget.

And what of the Ladies of Charity? That is too long a story—except for a few brief details. Let us start with Sunday of last week when you perhaps were so busy with your own plans for December 28th that you chose a late Mass which would be "short" and not take too much time out of your day. Ladies of Charity were busy too—some of them are mothers of families, others should have used the whole day which will be their only one away from the office or store, but it was not so.

HAPPY IN GIVING
At two o'clock a happy cavalcade of several cars loaded with the "material gifts" and crowded with gifts, to save other drivers and precious gas and rubber started for the County Farm in Broomport. These Ladies were members of the Personal Service Committee on their way to bring Christmas to each and every member of the County Farm family. They came bringing "gifts gaily wrapped for each old man and woman, and ice cream and cakes for the happy party" which followed the Christmas carols and entertainment. Four Catholic High School students passing at doorways and visiting the Infirmary, sang of a Holy Night an Infant Saviour until eyes dimmed and throats filled with lumps, one who stood by, couldn't swallow.

Only those who have participated in such plans and in the happy termination of them can ever describe such an afternoon for you. The smiles, the laughter and the tears of those who gave and of somebody's father or mother, or brother or sister, who are looking back on life and, may we say after such an afternoon more hopefully into eternity do not lend themselves to mere words.

And from age to youth, we turn and find a different scene on the Children's floor at St. Joseph's Hospital. There are the bright shining trees, the daintily wrapped packages for every child, the Santa Claus visiting each room and finally the ice cream and cookies for everyone. And this was all the result of many hours of preparation by the members of the Committee of the Infant of Prague.

Earlier that Sunday, trees were placed in both the women's wards by the Ladies, who are on the St. Anne de Beaupre Committee. Under these trees, resplendent with multi-colored lights and glistening tinsel, are packages for each and every patient to be distributed on Christmas morning.

JOY IN REFORMATORY
Journeying now in another direction behind stone walls we hear

from the Rev. Francis J. Lane, Chaplain at the Women Reformatory. "We gave each boy two cards and it was the first time that everyone of them had at least a couple of 'Christmas' cards to send home. Many thanks to the St. John Bosco Committee of the Ladies of Charity. If you could have seen how much this meant to them, I am sure you would have felt amply repaid."

We must not overlook the visit to the Cheverus County Tuberculosis Sanatorium also by members of the Personal Service Committee. Even those patients, who have families and friends, welcome the extra visit in these days of transportation complications, and gratefully accept the "personal touch" of little intimate remembrances from these Ladies.

But since every Committee can not have an institution party or (some such special project), other groups meet each other fields of endeavor and so the members of each committee of the Ladies of Charity have made Christmas for at least one individual or family. New pajamas for boys and girls were distributed where they were needed by Charities visitors. These were made by the Sewing Committee but they also found time to "take care" of two families. This is also true of the Associated, Big Sisters, Campership, Employment, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Red Cross, Rooms Registry, Secretarial and Friendly Visiting groups.

Even the Recreation Committee are sufficiently recovered from Friday, Dec. 18 to do their bit. That was a memorable date when almost three hundred boys and girls, Catholic Youth Organization members and their friends enjoyed the annual Christmas party at Columbus Center.

Is it all corporal with or without a halo—not when Charity looks to Christmas? Spiritual remembrances walk in hand with those other works of mercy on Christmas Day. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was offered for those deceased members of the immediate families of the Ladies of Charity, who have gone from this earth during the past few months. Then too, each Lady of Charity fulfilled her part of the Spiritual Bouquets, the Christmas gifts of the organization to His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, their Reverend Moderator, the Reverend Leo G. Schwab and their faithful president, Mrs. Joseph R. Spiegel.

"Peace on earth to men of good will"—May we who wear the silver crucifix faithfully, dare to hope that the Infant Jesus will bestow His Benediction on "all Ladies of Charity and Catholic Charities workers, who have brought Christmas to His people in His Name."

Elmira Weddings

Baker - Caporiccio
Miss Mary Caporiccio, daughter of James Caporiccio, 715 Pearl Pl., became the bride of Paul D. Baker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baker, 1019 1/2 Lake St., on Tuesday, Dec. 29, at 9 A. M. at St. Anthony's Church, with the Rev. Albert Simonetti officiating.

Martha Rutski and James Caporiccio, brother of the bride, attended the couple. Following the ceremony a reception was held at the home of the bride's father.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Baker attended Elmira schools and are employed at the Eclipse plant.

Nuns Auto Victims

Baton Rouge, La.—Sister Adolphine of the Little Sisters of the Poor suffered chest injuries when an automobile truck in which she was one of five passengers overturned about 12 miles outside Baton Rouge. The truck was loaded with 1,000 pounds of potatoes being taken to the Home for the Aged the Sisters conducted in New Orleans. Sister Jane and Sister Stephanie received minor bruises.

Catechism on Radio

Conception, Mo.—New Radio series dramatizing the Catechism in 50 one-act plays for children is now a regular feature on 50 stations, the Rev. Richard Felix, O.S.B., Director, Defenders of the Faith, announces.

A LIBERTY SHIP IS BLESSED



Another Liberty Ship, the S. S. Archbishop Lamy, named in honor of the first Bishop of Santa Fe, leaves the yards of the California Shipbuilding Corporation, Terminal Island, Cal., as Archbishop John J. Cantwell, of Los Angeles, gives the blessing and Little Yole Jo Youkum, 12, of Monument, N. M., State scrap drive winner, gives the traditional christening. School children of the State named the ship. Los Angeles Times photo. (N.C.W.G.)

Chaplain Hanna Celebrates First Midnight Mass At Army College Christmas Eve

WASHINGTON (NC)—Midnight Mass, for the first time, was celebrated early today at the historic Army War College here in the Nation's Capital by the first member of the Army Corps of Chaplains ever assigned to that military institution.

A feature of the solemn service was the singing of a group of Franciscan students for the priesthood from the Holy Name College. The group, for half an hour prior to the Mass, sang a special program, dealing with the life of St. Francis, which embraced all the familiar Catholic Christmas carols.

The Mass was celebrated in one of the temporary buildings on the spacious college grounds and more than 600 officers and soldiers attended. Celebrant of the Mass was the Rev. Austin E. Hanna, who holds the rank of captain in the Army Corps of Chaplains. Father Hanna is from the Diocese of Rochester, and was assigned to the Army War College post last May. The Franciscan choir also sang the Gregorian chants of the Mass.

Catechist Training School Launched By India Bishop

COCHIN, India.—A training school for catechists has been established by Bishop Alvarnes of Cochin. The course extends over three months, after which (30 successful) trainees receive certificates. The Bishop also intends to establish a course in Catholic Action training.

NATIONAL EMBLEM

New York.—The Catholic War Veterans of the United States have undertaken a campaign under the direction of their National Chaplain, the Rev. Matthew J. Toohy, and their National Commander, Charles H. A. Brophy, requesting all the governing bodies of States, cities and towns to adopt resolutions calling upon the business men and home owners to place our National Emblem upon all flag poles throughout the country.

Red Oak Priest Joins

Red Oak, Iowa.—The Rev. Milo Tennosson, pastor of St. Mary's Church, has been commissioned a Navy chaplain, and is now acting chaplain at the Seabee Training Station near Norfolk, Va.

Killed in Blackout

London.—In the blackout a man stumbled down and killed the Rev. Walter McKelvie, chaplain of the Earl's Palace, in the Park at Earl's Palace, Westminster. He was 44 years of age.

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