

### Former Winant Estate To be a Retreat House

Pittsford, N. Y. — (NC) — An announcement has been made of the purchase of the 130-acre Winant estate here by the Franciscan Fathers of Bladeford, Me.,

for use as a retreat house. Once owned by John G. Winant, U. S. Ambassador to Great Britain, and used later as a Y.M.C.A. summer camp, the property includes a 12-room main house and 14-room ell, a six-room cottage, various other buildings, a 27-acre lake and a large apple orchard.

## Near East Missions

Most Rev. Francis J. Spillman, D.D., President  
Very Rev. Thomas J. McMahon, S.T.D., National Secretary  
Rev. Andrew M. Rogosh, S.T.A., Assistant Secretary

### Prince Of Peace!

On this first peaceful Christmas in years, there will go from the full hearts of zealous missionaries and Christ's poor prayerful thanks to the Prince of Peace—far you, devoted friends of the Near East missions. A joyous Christmas to all!

#### GOLD STARS AT

##### CHRISTMAS TIME

This Christmas the gold stars in the heavens are the forget-me-nots of the supreme sacrifices of our fallen fighting men, but the brightest of them must ever be Bethlehem's star. For the Babe in the Crib became the Victim on the Cross.

This year faithful pilgrims to our beloved Near East will stand in the Grotto of the Nativity at Bethlehem and, like the shepherds in the awestruck audience of that blessed First Night, they will gaze at the gold star on the floor. Here of the Virgin Mary, Jesus Christ was born.

Some of our own American boys will attend Midnight Mass at the relics of the Crib in the great Church of St. Mary, Rome. Nearby stands the statue of the Queen of Peace, Our sorrowful Mother, holding the dead Body of her Baby Boy. The Crib melts into the Cross.

So we shall all of us, gold star mothers, who witness these happenings on the return of loved ones, these lonely for men still away, crowd to Bethlehem's Mass with heartfelt gratitude. For brightest of all heaven's golden forget-me-nots is the Star of the Prince of Peace, Whose thorn-wreathed head smiled from the Cross upon a conquered world.

##### STURDY MANGER

Your sturdy little manger for His coming on Christmas morn will be your Mass. If you cannot build a sturdy Near East mission chapel, which costs a thousand dollars, why not have a little part in the Memorial Chapel of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, which we hope to build on the island of Corfu, in memory of our beloved war dead?

##### HANDS LIFTED UP

Chubby hands of a Baby God fondled a Mother's face. Thirty-three years later, those hands held the Chalice of the First Mass. Can you help bring a Near East boy to that great day? Six hundred dollars, one hundred yearly, will do this. A dollar monthly to THE CHRYSOSTOMAS, Student Support Club, helps much.

#### STRAW

Visits to the Crib will be straw for His manger. A crib unvisited is like a chapel unreturned. Bishop Joseph Chalhoub of Iran, whence come the Wise Men, sets one hundred and fifty dollars for chapel furnishings. Can you help?

##### SINGULAR VESSEL

The Immaculate Heart of Mary was a singular vessel of devotion on that First Night. An altar, given to a Near East chapel for fifty dollars, will be your singular vessel of devotion.

##### STAR

The leading string of a floating star brought the Magi, with stringless gifts. And a Baby God smiled up at them, which was reward enough! Please do not forget our STRINGLESS GIFT FUND, used for neediest cases.

##### SKIES

The Baby has no skies but Mother's eyes, nor God above but Mother's love. Remember at Christmas the Madonnas of the Near East, our devoted missionary sisters, by making a deposit in "MARY'S BANK," from which we help them.

##### HOUSE OF BREAD

Bethlehem means House of Bread. Your membership in the BASILIAN, our School Club, for a dollar monthly, or ten dollars to give a month's shelter to a homeless Near East child will be bread broken for the poor.

##### BLANKETS

Affectionate prayers warm His little Body. Thirty dollars, or a dollar monthly membership in the MONICA GUILD, Near East Altar Sodality, will assure ill-clad missionaries of fitting vestments at Mass.

##### SWADDLING CLOTHES

We enfold Jesus in the crib of our hearts by a fervent Holy Communion. Christmas gifts to our DAMIAN LEPER FUND warm the hearts of these poor sinners.

## Christmas in U. S. New Experience For 2 at Nazareth

While the Christmas spirit and idea is the same all over the world, there is a great difference in the ways in which this universal feast is celebrated in various countries.

This year Nazareth College has two students who are looking forward to a Christmas, "American style," to compare with their native holiday. They are Milla Thorsteinsen whose home is in Reykjavik, Iceland and Sylvia Fernandez who comes from Puerto Rico.

According to Milla, Christmas celebration is not limited to one day in her native land. Festivities begin December 24 with a banquet and later church services and Midnight Mass much like our own.

On Christmas Day, families visit their relatives and friends and exchange gifts. Larders are well stocked with holiday delicacies because neighborly visits continue for the next two days. In Iceland, Milla says there is not one Santa Claus, but eight.

Each represents a particular feature of the celebration. And, she adds, that back home people don't have to wonder whether it's going to be a "White Christmas."

The situation is just the opposite in Puerto Rico, according to Sylvia. There is never any snow and Christmas trees are not used. Actually Christmas is not celebrated on the day of Christ's birth, but on January 5, the day the Kings reached the stable.

The religious celebration of the feast is considered most significant, with Midnight Mass once again the highlight for Catholics. There are no stockings hung on the mantel, but the young people put grass in a small box and place this under their beds.

During the night, according to tradition, the Kings arrive and their camels eat the grass gathered for them. Then the Kings refill the boxes with gifts, and when you awake in the morning, Sylvia says there is a scramble to get the boxes from under the beds.

Christmas is not so commercialized in Sylvia's homeland, and gifts are given with deeper insight as to their meaning.

But with one Santa Claus or eight, or with a box of grass or a stocking by the fireplace, Christmas seems to be universally regarded as the happiest and holiest season of the year.

### Catholic News School Need Cited

Dublin — (NC) — Singling out as the greatest need of present-day Irish journalism the infusion of a Christian philosophy of life, a series of lectures on the press has just been concluded at the Central Catholic Library here.

These lectures, undertaken to give impetus to the establishment of a Catholic journalism school in Ireland, were initiated by the Dublin publisher, Basil Clancy, and had the patronage of Msgr. Edward Kinsane, president of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, and Rev. P. McKeivitt, also of St. Patrick's College.

### Manchester Priest Named NCWC Aide

Washington — (NC) — The Rev. Philip J. Kenney, Assistant Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire, and a member of staff of St. Joseph's Cathedral in Manchester, has been named Assistant to the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Howard J. Carroll, General Secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

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## NOEL!

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a very Merry Christmas  
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