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RECEPTIONS

Priest Details Blueprint On 'Christ In Christmas'

Cincinnati — (NC) — A broad plan for restoring Christmas to Christ was described by the Rev. George Berwanger of St. Gregory's Seminary before the Cincinnati Catholic Women's Association here.

His outline, called "Blueprint for a Better Christmas," was filled in by exhibits of Christian and secular gifts, greetings, songs, meal tables, and Christmas trees. They were arranged by Mrs. Florence Berger of Delhi, O., an official of the association and author of "Cooking for Christ," widely publicized cook book.

"THERE ARE TWO forms of the name of the place where

Christ was born," Father Berwanger pointed out, "Bethlehem and Beldam. And all too often what is done in celebration of the one looks very much like what goes on in the other. Let's see if we can't remedy that!"

As far as Christmas cards are concerned, Beldam has scored notable victories over Bethlehem, he said. "A Christmas card is a kind of little John the Baptist," Father Berwanger observed. "It is the forerunner of Christmas, as the Baptist was the forerunner of Christ, and like him it should point to heaven. But some of them look rather like the advance billing for a circus."

"THERE THEY are — three little birds on a bough, three little bells on a rope, and uncouth poinsettias and Santa Claus," he continued. "Now the good Bishop of Myra, St. Nicholas, has been made, God knows, the patron of many things: of Russia, of seafaring men, of virgins, of thieves, of children. But it was left to our age to dress him up like a clown, make his venerable physiognomy resemble a blend of Falstaff and W. C. Fields, and give him the place of honor at a birthday feast that takes place 19 days after his own birthday feast."

Speaking of gifts, Father Berwanger explained that Christmas is "essentially God's gift to us perpetuated in the Mass — Christ's mass — and our greatest giving should be thanksgiving, which is again the Mass, or, as it was called in the early Church, the 'Thank offering.'"

Christmas Decked Baked Ham



It's a merry Christmas when ham is featured. To add to the holiday touch, red maraschino cherries dot the ham surface.

Trim Ham With Cherries, Parsley For Holiday Treat

With young people home from school and with out-of-town guests in the home the yule season becomes a popular time for entertaining. Another trend of the season is serving a perfectly baked ham brightly garnished with Christmas colors.

A baked ham always makes a grand appearance on the serving table; however, for a small group a half ham may be preferred. Both the shank and the butt half of ham may be decorated with a Christmas air.

For example, red and green maraschino cherries may be alternated over the surface of the ham and the platter brightened with green parsley. Or for a different serving, the ham may be carved in the kitchen, then the attractively arranged slices are placed on a platter or tray garnished with cranberry nut salads in lettuce cups.

WHAT'S DOING AT THE DALY'S

Guide for Christ In Christmas

By MARY TINLEY DALY

Days from Thanksgiving to Christmas rushing by like a jet plane . . . So much to do and so little time . . . fruit cakes to make . . . gift lists to prepare . . . and ponder: strapping dull-eyed through to ver hested, overcrowded stores . . . standing, to a fling and bundle . . . laden . . . On a bus amidst other weary, irritable shoppers . . . opening the day's purchases and discontentedly wondering why you bought that . . .

St. Christopher medals. The Cana Club that Dan and I belong to helped us get up a list of shopping suggestions."

THEN Marguerite showed me the list—practical gifts that bring the spirit of Christ. Each item had the price beside it. The list covers three typewritten pages and the suggestions are for things usable and varied with prices ranging from 10 cents to \$14.

Luckily, there is still more shopping to be done at our house and with Marguerite's guide a lot of the silly frumpery will be abandoned. Gifts chosen from this list will bear the spirit of Christmas with Christ.

Nuns Will Operate County Hospital

Wichita, Kans. — (NC) — The Sisters of St. Joseph, here, have agreed with the Grant County commissioners and hospital board to operate the new Bob Wilson Memorial Grant County Hospital in Ulysses, Kans. It has been announced by Mother Mary Ann, superior general. The new \$500,000, 24-bed hospital will be ready for occupancy early in January. The Rev. Alexander Leiker, C.P.P.S., pastor of Mary, Queen of Peace Church, Ulysses, will serve as hospital chaplain.

Lemon Baked Apples

Just core the apples, fill each one with two tablespoons of mincemeat of raisins and the same of chopped oranges; then pour over the sauce and let them bake. When done, the sauce is ready to be served with the apples. No extra sauce to make at the last minute! It's an extra special family dessert for cool fall evenings. Serve with hot chocolate or coffee.

Lemon Sauce
Cream one-half cup butter, gradually add one-half cup sugar and one beaten egg. Pour in three tablespoons water, three tablespoons fresh lemon juice, and one tablespoon grated lemon peel. Pour over apples and bake at 350° F for about forty minutes or until apples are done. Garnish with slices and wedges of lemons.

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Develop A Little Basic Charity

By MARY LENNON SNYDER

Monsignor Ronald Knox in "The Creed in Slow Motion," speaks of the reception of Holy Communion in these words: "It isn't as if you had received one part of Christ, and a he (meaning your fellow creature) had received another. Each of you received the whole of Christ, each became part of him, in making him part of herself—that is what Transubstantiation means. Each of you has been united, sacramentally with one Person; all of you, then, have become one Person in Jesus Christ."

"Thinking along these lines with Msgr. Knox, we find ourselves wondering at the paradoxical coldness of most Catholics toward fellow Catholics. Probably the most telling way of pointing out this lack of basic charity

is given by Mrs. Lucille Hanley when she contrasts the reception which a newcomer receives in the average Protestant Church with that of the average Catholic.

MANY OF us who have lived in different communities can corroborate her testimony. In my own case we had lived in one city less than a month when the pastor of one of the largest Presbyterian Churches called on us and invited us to join his flock.

He was followed a few days later by an Episcopalian minister who, being less evangelical in manner, simply welcomed us as Christians to the community and pointed out that his magnificent church was only a block or so away from our new home.

After I had — tactfully, I hope — explained to each that my husband and I were signed up for life in the one true Church, we chatted easily and finally each retreated in a glow

of interdenominational good will.

I MENTION all this to contrast with a very sad tale for the telling of which I am indebted to a Catholic priest in this diocese. At a church gathering of a women's society, he took a new member of the group over to two of the local leaders both daily Communicants and outstanding Catholic women to whom he thought he could entrust the introductions and general reception of the new member.

He is still shocked by the subsequent events. The women, chatting between themselves, gradually accepted the introduction, spent a few minutes in general conversation with Father. Then as Father turned to go, leaving his new member in what he thought were Christian hands, he discovered that the two women had resumed their interrupted conversation and were completely excluding the newcomer.

Surely, as Father points out, this was not amableness, nor common bad manners — it was just that those two women priding themselves no doubt on their membership in God's Church, had not grasped a basic principle of Catholic teaching — the oneness of all in Christ.

We all talk about our hopes and plans for "better meetings"; perhaps we need better Christians to attend our well planned meetings.

Yule Garnish
A ham slice may be given a Christmas touch too. When removed from the broiler immediately surround it with green parsley and apple wedges which have been cooked in a cinnamon candy tinted syrup.

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