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AMONG WOMEN

Give Christ Christmas

By MARY LENNON SNYDER

"How can I in my own home help to restore all things to Christ?" is answered in a very readable and practical set of leaflets assembled and distributed by the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers of Pittsburgh. Bearing the imprimatur of their Bishop, the Most Rev. Hugh C. Boyle, these little essays deal with many current problems.

Today I should like to quote from one entitled "Santa Claus or Christ?"

"IT WAS STARTLING! One of those discoveries that almost knocks you over. Thirty-two Catholic first-graders were asked: 'How many of you boys and girls were taken by mother or some other member of the family to see Christ in the Crib?' Only three had been given that privilege. The same thirty-two children were asked: 'How many of you boys and girls were taken to see Santa Claus?' All thirty-two had been given that treat.

"It makes you think, doesn't it? The mothers of those children desire to have ideal families. They want their little ones to be good and enter heaven, but thoughtlessness is their fault. They are forgetting that without Christ there can be no true Christmas nor any Santa Claus.

Miss McSweeney To Retire After 40 Years In Charities

Retiring after almost 40 years of Catholic Charities service, Miss Elizabeth M. McSweeney, treasurer and senior case worker of Rochester Catholic Family Center will be honored at a tea in the Rochester Club, Tuesday, Dec. 4.

Her associates and friends will gather at the club from 4 to 6 p.m. to honor the oldest lay person in point of service in charity work in the city and one who represents the link between the volunteer and the professionally trained worker in the field of social work.

"BECAUSE OF people like Miss McSweeney, it has been possible to blend the spirit of true Christian Charity with the skill of professional training," the Rev. Magr. Gerald C. Lambert, diocesan director of Rochester Catholic Charities said today.

Miss McSweeney's service in the Charity field goes back to 1912 in February of that year, the Most Rev. Thomas F. Hickey, Bishop of Rochester saw the necessity for helping needy Catholics and suggested formation of a Catholic Charity Guild. Miss McSweeney, who had already given volunteer service to St. Ann's Home as a member of the Victoria Circle for several years, was among the first to volunteer.

A charter member of the guild and its first (and only) treasurer, she was active as a volunteer until November, 1914.

DURING THIS PERIOD, large numbers of Catholic immigrants were coming to Rochester. The various parishes were no longer able to provide material assistance to the large numbers of needy looking to the Church for help. Under the "poor laws" of the time, the public agencies were unable to provide the kind of assistance many needed. The Catholic Charity Guild offered assistance on a city-wide scale rather than on a parish basis.

As the work grew, the need for a central office was realized. On Nov. 3, 1914, the first office was opened in the Duke Building. Miss McSweeney was asked to assume charge of the office, working with the Rev. Jacob Staub, who pioneered in the formation of the city-wide organization.

With nearly 40 years of continuous service in the casework field, "Miss Mac" is probably the dean of caseworkers in the community.

Until 1928 "Miss Mac" served as Intake Worker for Catholic Charities. "Of course, in the early days we didn't use the title Intake Worker," but it was part of my job to see everyone who came to our office. Our staff was small, and there was much to be done. With the arrival of thousands of Catholic immigrants in this area, the need for our work grew steadily.

"AT FIRST, our work was largely giving material assistance to the needy. As the people of our community looked to us for other kinds of service, we made every effort to meet their needs.

As early as 1916 a letter from the Bishop to all the churches strongly urged the use of foster homes for small children. By 1922, we were placing all young children referred to us in foster homes. Our work with unmarried mothers began early, as people looked to us for help of this kind."

Miss McSweeney went on to assist with the National Council of Catholic Men in their work with immigrants. We met all Catholic immigrants arriving in this area, and assisted them in their initial adjustment to this country. This service was continued when immigration was virtually eliminated. Now that we have need for this type of service, we are again working with new arrivals from Europe.

"MISS MAC" recalls with a smile that her beginning salary was thirty five dollars per month. Of this, thirty dollars was provided by the Men's Charity League, and five dollars by



MISS E. M. MCSWEENEY

WHAT'S DOING AT THE DALYS'

A Statue Talks To Billy

By MARY TIMLEY DALY

A neighbor phoned early this morning. "Do me a favor," she asked. "My daughter-in-law was taken to the hospital and I'm keeping the children for a while. I have to stay home with the baby—but would you take Billy to school when you take your Ginny? And could you stay with him till lunch time?"

We assured her that we'd be only too glad to do what we could.

"Billy goes to a Catholic school," Mrs. Taylor explained, "but he has a lay teacher and he may feel strange with a Sister. I have a surprise for him, though," she went on, "I got out a suit his father wore when he was eight. Billy always looked such a little gentleman in it. Well, Billy'll be ready when you call."

Billy was ready, in the "gentlemanly" suit his father had worn in the late twenties: Eton jacket and blue flannel shorts. But he was game. "Bye, Grandma," he said. "See you at noon. And... thanks for the suit."

AS WE WALKED across the playground, Billy's contemporaries, all clad in baggy corduroys, spotted him. "Hi, knees!" one of them shouted. "Look, kids!"

The kids looked—and laughed, as we hurried into the classroom with Billy dragging dutifully at the short pants. "That was Joe that hollered," Ginny whispered. "Big wheel!"

Sister told "William" how pleased she was to have him and hoped that he would be happy. The bell rang, class fled in all eyes on Billy, the bare knees now more carefully hidden by the desk.

"Will you read for us, William?" Sister asked.

"Yes, Ma'am," Billy answered. The class giggled. "I mean, yes, Sister. At our school we have a teacher that's a lady."

"This set the little girls into hysterics. Sister had to rap for order."

Came the recess bell. "Girls, rise," Sister directed. And Billy stood up then sank back in his seat, crimson to the roots of his red hair.

Amidst the suppressed giggles Sister said: "Perhaps in William's school the boys rose first?"

"Yes, Ma'am," Billy nodded, and blushed again. "I mean yes, Sister, rise."

Sister rose. Sister said. The boys stood up, all except Billy and first out.

"AREN'T YOU going out to play, William?"

"No, Ma'am. No, Sister," Billy gulped. Tears were very close to

World's Hope

Notre Dame, Ind. (N.C.)—The Rev. John J.avanaugh, C.S.C., president of the University of Notre Dame, said a radio audience that the Christian who will deal with all men in need as if they were Christ is the hope of today's troubled world.

that once—but I only had to wear it when she came to visit."

"Want to come over to my house after school?" Billy asked. "Grandma always has cookies—and I got a swell new football."

The line had now reached the playground. "Hey, kids," Joe yelled. "We're going for lunch, will ya, Bill? We'll split the lunches."

The last we saw of Billy, he was munching a sandwich and deep in a game of touch football.

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Write or phone—Catholic Family Service, 312 Lake Street, Elmira, New York or Dial 3-1297.

Timely Problems

Washington, D.C. A new book, entitled "The Lawyer Looks Beyond the Law" and dealing with the timely subject of the breakdown of morals in American life has been published by the Catholic University Press. It was announced by university officials.

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11th Seton Unit Slates Bridge

The Eleventh Seton Branch of St. Mary's Hospital will hold a dessert bridge party Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 12:30 p.m. in the nurses home. Chairman of the affair is Mrs. Charles E. Howe.

Assisting are the Mesdames George Bryant, John Cullen, George Conway, John Callahan, Herbert Erb, John Fischer, Leo Frayer, A. J. Griffin, Philip Harter, Edward Haulbauer, Simon Haas, George Henry, Joseph Hager, M. J. Hebe, Robert S. Smith, Emmett Moore, David H. Hayes, M. K. Palmer, J. Emmett O'Brien, George A. Conway, John Leque, Leo Haas, A. J. Holler, Jim Joseph Kelly, George Martin, Emmett Moore, Louis McManus, Charles Malton.

Also the Mesdames Frank O'Grady, William Saxon, George Spillane, Robert Scott, Paul Smith, Donald Wooster, John Zimmerman, Josephine Years, and the Mesdames Katherine Senent, and Sara Conroy.

Educator Dies

Dayton, O. (N.C.)—The Rev. Charles E. Brown, S.M., president of the University of Dayton from 1896 to 1902, when the school was known as St. Mary's, died Nov. 21 at St. John the provincial house of the Society of Mary near here.

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