

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR JESUS

By MARY E. FITZGERALD

Executive Director—Catholic Family Service

Against the background of a lovely crib and an exquisite Christmas tree, the High School Choir from St. Peter and Paul's Church, Elmira sang this greeting to the Infant Jesus.

"Happy Birthday, dear Jesus" and many eyes were misty as those sweet voices rang through the corridors of the Children's Floor at St. Joseph's Hospital.

The occasion was the Annual Christmas Party, planned with loving care by the Infant of Prague Committee of the Ladies of Charity—the guests were the young patients, their parents and many of the Hospital Staff.

Yes, Santa Claus had come and gone—refreshments, ice cream and cookies had been served—and the grand finale was a fitting climax. Parents standing beside tiny sons and daughters, smiled wistfully—perhaps in the thought that on His Birthday, their little ones might be tucked under the home roof.

"Happy Birthday, dear Jesus"—Jimmy, aged seven—smiled happily. Last year he was a patient at the time of the party so he coaxed his doctor to let him stay until Sunday afternoon this year instead of leaving in the morning as scheduled.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY—yes, dear Jesus—that is your greeting from the Lady of Good Counsel Committee. There are generous gifts. A dinner including

turkey 'n everything—clothing for all the children—and toys, each gift wrapped, so Mother and Dad won't have to explain the source of the gifts.

From every Committee in Elmira's year around charitable organization, the Ladies of Charity, has come a huge pile of gifts for Your Nat Day. They are doing so much to put you back into Christmas, dear Jesus—they want you to have Your best Birthday ever.

"Happy Birthday, dear Jesus" on this Christmas in 1951, when tidings of Peace and Good Will ring out over a troubled world. A Birthday when puzzled men are trying to find in human spheres, the answers to world wide conundrums, which are threatening the happiness and security of those we love. A Day when you are not given a place at the Conference table—a night, when again, doors are closed in your tiny Sacred Face.

Will you use this? The most welcome words—ever spoken—as they fall on our ears—during these days—when every budget dollar must do the work of two. If you, who are the friends of His Families, only know how happy we are when you do ask us to buy a Birthday Gift for the Divine Infant.

Happy Birthday, dear Jesus—we really should put a huge Birthday Card over the gifts that are piled high in our office. And if we did—in conscience, to complete that greeting, we would add the name of each one of our friends, who have made it possible for us to bring Christmas to so many homes in Elmira.

What will your gift be to the Divine Infant on His Birthday? Only you have that answer—looked deep in the corners of your own heart and soul. Only you may find the way in which to say Happy Birthday to Him.

Maybe from your sick bed, you may find consolation in the glorious offering of your pain—a Birthday Gift for the God who suffered so much for you. Perhaps your Happy Birthday may come from your worldly riches—a present to Him, who gave you success and much of the coin of the realm.

Happy Birthday, dear Jesus—from the young Mother, who places her new born in His care and promises to teach her child to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him with all his heart. "Dear Jesus may I wish you a Happy Birthday" from a father and mother who are among His poor. You have so little of this world's goods to lay in the Christmas Crib—but you can serve Him with all your heart because you know Him as one of His own.

Ancient



This miraculous painting in the Basilica of St. Martin, Trier, Germany, is one of a number attributed to St. Luke. Records of their existence date from the sixth century. (NCWO)

Uses Fortune To Aid Poor

Boston—(NC)—A former count, who renounced his aristocratic title, took the vow of poverty, and since 1946 has used his own personal fortune in the service of the aged poor in his native Paris, is visiting the United States.

He is Armond Marquiset, organizer of the Little Brothers of the Poor, which offers young business and professional men an opportunity to lead lives of service to the poor. Thus far eight young men joined M. Marquiset in the vow of poverty, and a number of others help as auxiliaries on a part time basis. They live in Paris' poorest section.

The Brothers bring hot meals three times a week to the aged poor in their homes. When necessary, they make minor repairs, chop firewood, furnish clothes or coal, and perform such errands as cashing government allotment checks.

Irish Records Dublin (NC) As part of the project of the National Library to micro-film Irish manuscripts in foreign lands, Irish friar historians are combing the Vatican and other Italian archives for documents relating to Ireland.

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Elmira Catholic Highlights

By ANN MOFFATT

Great news this week! Elmira Catholic High School basketball team won their first game this season last Sunday. This, their third game, was played at St. Peter and Paul's gym against St. Agnes of Towanda.

The American Legion oratorical contest for Elmira Catholic High, sponsored by the Allen Grogan Mahoney Post was held Wednesday, Dec. 12.

EDWARD CASEY, whose topic was "The Constitution, What is It?" won first place, with Bill Herrick and Mary Watts making second and third places respectively.

John Watts and Dorothea Wolzick also competed. Judging were Sister Mary Lourdes, Sister Mary Stephen, and Sister Mary Amadeus, William Murphy and Stephen Holleran represented the American Legion.

"Full speed ahead" seems to be the motto for the Christmas

St. John Fisher College's First Formal Success

Festive holiday decorations of red, green and gold gave a colorful and gay spirit to the first social event of the students of St. John Fisher College last evening at the Country Club of Rochester.

Patrons for the first Formal Christmas Dance were Mr. and Mrs. Frederick R. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Finucane, Mr. and Mrs. F. William Gregory, Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah G. Hekey, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. William T. Howe, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Keenan, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Daniel G. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Francis McConville, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Menihan, Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Odenbach.

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German Daily Hails U. S. Catholic Role

Frankfurt (NC)—"The Church in America, a country often represented as basically materialistic and dominated by industry, technology and capitalism, is the most powerful branch of international Catholicism," according to "Deutsche Tagespost," Germany's only Catholic daily published in Augsburg, Bavaria.

The article points out that American Catholics support a school system of their own such as exists nowhere else in the world, and that the National Catholic Welfare Conference with its headquarters in Washington is "a unique institution."

Since the Declaration of Independence the number of Catholics in the United States has increased a thousand times while the country's population as a whole has increased but sixty times, it adds.

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Holiday Reunions Scheduled For Stella Maris Campers

Highlighting the Christmas holidays for all the campers of Camp Stella Maris, diocesan summer camp, will be two large reunions to be held in the Columbus Civic Center during Christmas week.

Invitations were issued this week to all the boys from last summer's session to meet their counselors and other friends at a gala party on Thursday afternoon, Dec. 27, from 2 until 4 in the Ballroom of Columbus Civic Center.

All girls from Stella Maris will have their reunion on Friday afternoon, Dec. 28, from 3 until 5 at the Civic Center.

The Rev. Donald J. Mulcahy, director of Camp Stella Maris, announced that Miss Mary Hannick is in charge of the Girls' Reunion and that John Hempel of

N. Y. Rabbis Oppose Prayer in Schools

New York—(RNS)—A recent recommendation of the State Board of Regents that public school sessions be opened with a prayer was opposed here by the Association of Reform Rabbis of the City of New York.

Rabbi David J. Seligson, president, announced that the association had adopted a resolution viewing the recommendation with "serious apprehension."

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DIAL 2-1986

Brother Offers Leo Tobin Mass

Funeral of Leo M. Tobin, 533 Franklin St., Elmira, brother of the Rev. William F. Tobin, pastor of St. Bernard Church, Seipio Center and St. Hilary's, Genoa, was held Dec. 13.

After services at the family home, Solemn High Mass of Requiem was celebrated by Father Tobin assisted by the Rev. John S. Whalen, deacon and the Rev. Guy J. Wertz, subdeacon.

Also in the Sanctuaries were the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William J. Brien, V.F., the Reverend Fathers Daniel J. Sullivan, Leo G. Schwab, Thomas J. Toole, Vincent P. Collins, L. Emmett Davis, Hubert A. Bisky and Nicholas P. Alletto, all of Elmira; the Reverend Fathers Earl Tobin of Corning, Joseph P. Haffey and James Collins of Auburn.

Bearers were John Hallinan, William O'Donnell, George Tallman, Karl Dollinger, Dennis McCarthy and Jeremiah Bergan. Fathers Toole, Whalen, Tobin and Wertz conducted the committal service in St. Peter and Paul's Cemetery.

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