

Benedictines Mark First Christmas At Newly Founded Elmira Monastery

Their first Christmas at Mount Saviour Monastery at Big Flats near Elmira was marked by the Benedictines with some of the solemn ceremonial traditional to the order on the feast of Christ's birth.

In less than a year the community has grown from two to twelve, including four priests, one novice, five postulants and two oblates. They took part in the Nativity feast ceremonies assisted by applicants and volunteer workers who reside at the monastery and as many guests as St. John's Guest House would hold.

The preparations began on Dec. 2, the First Sunday of Advent. Those of a penitential character imposed more frequent kneeling at the services, abstinence from meat throughout Advent except on Sundays, and fasting twice a week. The joyful preparations began on Monday, Dec. 17, when at Vespers, the superior, Very Rev. Father Damasus Winzen intoned the first of the "Great Antiphons."

"Oh Wisdom, that proceeded from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end, disposing all things with strength and sweetness: Come and teach us the way of prudence."

At each Vespers till the 24th, the priests took it in turn to sing the other "O Antiphons," and in each case this was followed by the solemn chanting of the chanting of the Blessed Virgin Mary's canticle, "Magnificat": "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour."

On Christmas Eve, at the Office of Prime, the feast of the Nativity was proclaimed as one of the most moving ceremonies of the entire year. The lector sang to a special chant of the principal events of history from the creation of man through God's dealings with His Chosen People to the age of peace in the Gentile world, climaxing the recital by announcing Christ's birth as the center of human history.

"In the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus, the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, the eternal God and Son of the Eternal Father, wishing to consecrate this world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Ghost, in Bethlehem of Judea to born of the Virgin Mary, being made man. The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

As these words were sung, the entire community prostrates on the floor of the chapel. From then on, an increasing part of the day and night was spent by the monks in chanting the Christmas Liturgy. The First Vespers of Christmas were sung Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock and began with the antiphon "The King of Peace whom the whole earth desires to see has shown His greatness."

The celebration of the Holy Night began at half past ten. "Christ is born unto us O come let us adore" the monks sang as the service began. Some of the chants used at this Office are not heard at any other time of the year. Midnight Mass followed these Vigils and the Office of Lauds or "Praises" was sung. Then private Masses were celebrated. It was about two-thirty when the services were over.

On Christmas Day the beautiful "Mass of the Dawn" was sung at 8:30 after Prime, beginning with the entrance chant: "A light shall shine upon us this day, because the Lord is born for us."

Select Gifts For Hospital Party



GIFTS FOR THE 400 employees of St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, entertained at a Christmas party by the Sisters of St. Joseph, were selected by the above: (from left) Miss Madeline Haines, supervisor, Dietary Department; Miss Mary Ann Spain, staff nurse; Miss Rita Aug, student nurse; Mrs. Mildred Stewart, nurse's aid and Roman Hamula, Dietary Department.

Death Claims 5 In Corning Area

Corning—James E. Poland Sr., 76, prominent former Corning business man and public official, died Friday, Dec. 14, 1951, at Bath Memorial Hospital. He was born in Corning, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Poland and had spent his entire life in this community. He was united in marriage with Helen B. O'Neill of Honeyoye at St. Mary's Church in that place in October, 1896. Mrs. Poland died several years ago.

In addition to his business activities, Mr. Poland served as Steuben County supervisor for several terms, as well as a member of the first city board of water commissioners and the first civil service commission. He also held the office of tax and assessment commissioner under former Mayor Daniel Stinson. Mr. Poland was active in the affairs of St. Patrick's Church of which he was a member.

Survivors include a daughter, Miss Catherine Poland of Corning; three sons, T. Elroy Poland of St. Petersburg, Fla., James E. Poland Jr. of Wayne and Walter L. Poland of Corning; five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held from the home of his son, Walter L. Poland, at 216 E. First St., Monday at 8:30 a. m. and at 9 o'clock in St. Patrick's Church. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Corning—Angelo Leso, 47, 321 W. Erie Ave., died unexpectedly Monday, Dec. 10, 1951, at his home following a heart attack. He was born at Blackwell Pa. the son of Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore Leso and had been a resident of Corning for many years. Besides his wife, the former Miss Anna Cavalier of Corning he is survived by one daughter, Miss Rachael Leso and four brothers, Nicholas, Charles, Joseph of Corning and John of Endicott, three sisters, Miss Grace Leso of Hartford Conn., Mrs. Jane Blodgett and Mrs. Mary Heck, both of Corning and an uncle, James Leso of Corning several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held from the family home Thursday at 8:30 a. m. and at 9 o'clock in St. Mary's Church. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Corning—Donald Mullin, 48, died Friday, Dec. 14, 1951 at his home, 211 W. First St. He was born at Rosal, N. Y. the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Mullin and had been a resident of Corning for the past 20 years.

In addition to his wife the former Miss Sarah McGannon of Corning, and his parents, he is survived by one sister, Mrs. Carl Bowen of Rochester; one brother, Willis of Gouverneur.

Funeral services were held from the home Monday at 9:30 a. m. and at 10 o'clock in St. Mary's Church. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Fr. J. G. Getell At Fort Slocum Chaplain School

Chaplain (Captain) Joseph G. Getell of Rochester is now in training at The Chaplain School, Fort Slocum, N. Y. before returning to active duty. The school is in charge of Chaplain (Colonel) Joseph R. Koch, also a native of Rochester.

Father Getell is the twin of Chaplain Gerard J. Getell also with the rank of Captain. Both are sons of Mr. and Mrs. August E. Getell, 42 Lilli St., Rochester. Father Joseph Getell returned to active duty March 28, 1951. He had served as assistant pastor of St. Theodore's Church after being separated from the service in 1947.

ON HIS FIRST tour of duty he was sent to the Chaplain School at Fort Devens, Mass. in 1945 then to LeGarde General Hospital, New Orleans before going to Japan. He served in Japan from August 1945 to January, 1947.

The Chaplain School, which is the only training center for chaplains of the Army and Air Force, helps men of all faiths to make the transition from the ministry of the civilian clergyman to that of the military chaplain.

Students are all ordained clergymen. The Chaplain School deals only with such subjects as will enable them to apply their professional skills already mastered to the requirements of their military service.

Created to furnish mobilization type training for clergymen in World War I, The Chaplain School has carried out its mission preparing chaplains for a ministry to troops since 1918.

Polish Catholic University Unique Behind Iron Curtain
London—(NC)—Five Bishops headed by Archbishop Stefan Wyszyński, the Polish Primate took part in the opening of the school year at the Catholic University of Lublin according to reports received here.

Nuns Fete 400 Employees Of St. Joseph's Hospital

More than 400 employees of St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, including nursing personnel and student nurses were entertained at a Christmas party given last week by the Sisters of St. Joseph at the hospital.

A supper was served in the nurses cafeteria and was followed by a program of distribution of gifts, games, entertainment and a Community sing with Dr. Hobart A. Burch, hospital radiologist, as piano accompanist. A Christmas Cantata, "The Child Jesus," was given by the student nurses.

MEMBERS OF THE Nativity pageant cast were Misses Mary Ann Lee, Beverly Brennan, Catherine Sullivan, Eileen Sullivan, Jean Sullivan, Joan Lacey, Mary Lou Doyle, Jean McCarrick, Ann Killebrew, Jean Milliken, Kathryn Pointelle, Ann McLaughlin, Patricia Murphy and Rita Reagan.

The Freshman Glee Club sang the Cantata under the direction of Sister Mary Austin, music instructor of St. Patrick's parish. Solos were given by Miss Rita Clark and Patricia Wallin. Miss Florence Healy of the clinical teaching staff was director of pantomime.

Auburn Hibernians On Holy Year Visits
Auburn—The Auburn chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians conducted their Holy Year Pilgrimage Sunday afternoon Dec. 16. The Rev. Edward Tolster, chaplain led the group prayers at each of the four churches prescribed for the visitations.

Arrangements were in charge of John McDermodt, president of the local group and Miss Loretta Donahue, president of the Auxiliary. There was a large turnout including many non members.

THE MORTGAGE was given by the Basilian Fathers of the State of New York, operators of the new Catholic college of arts and sciences, which opened Sept. 19 with 110 freshmen and 12 faculty members in the college's uncompleted administration building. The Very Rev. John F. Murphy, C.S.B., president of the college, said the building is to be finished in two months.

In a 30-day campaign in February, 1948 a total of \$1,235,057 was pledged for the college project. The land was acquired at a cost of nearly \$200,000. Long range plans call for additional buildings on the site.

\$450,000 Loan To Finance Building Of Men's College

To complete the financing of the \$1.5 million dollar initial construction of St. John Fisher College at East Ave. and Fairport Rd., Pittsford, a \$450,000 loan has been secured from the Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank of New York.

The loan, based on a \$450,000, 15-year mortgage on the 70-acre campus of the new college, was approved by Supreme Court Justice Carroll M. Roberts.

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Courier-Journal Columnist Reveals Secrets Of Devils

Milwaukee—(NC)—"The Devil You Say!" by Joseph A. Breig, a Catholic Journalist's "disclosure of secret reports from hell based on the accounting made by the devils assigned to create evil in the world" will be the January selection of the Catholic Literary Foundation here.

Mr. Breig's syndicated column is a weekly feature of the Courier-Journal editorial page. A NEWSPAPERMAN for over 24 years, with an earlier book and many magazine pieces to his credit as well, Mr. Breig has been called "the most widely published Catholic Journalist writing today." His book, "God in Our House," telling about the Breig children and his wife Mary, won wide popularity several years ago.

Mr. Breig's main working stint is put in at the Catholic Universe Bulletin, Cleveland's diocesan newspaper, which he joined in 1941 as associate editor. Born in Vandergrift, Pa., he first broke into the writing field when his older sister—now a Sister of Charity—insisted on submitting some of his stories to his high school magazine. They were published, and he was off on a writing career.

IN HIGH SCHOOL he edited the school magazine and at the same time took a series of jobs which included serving as a pool room assistant, electrician's helper, steel mill laborer, shoe salesman, delivery boy, clerk, and eventually rewrite man, reporter, columnist and feature writer for the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph. He attended the University of Notre Dame.

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