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Frances McWilliams Weds Joseph Neary

Frances McWilliams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George McWilliams of Canandaigua, and Joseph Neary of Post Ave., Rochester, were married on November 27 in St. Theresa's Church, Stanley.

The Rev. Leo Hastings, pastor of St. Theresa's performed the nuptial ceremony.

The bride is a graduate of DeSales High School, Geneva.

Mr. Neary, a veteran of World War II, is employed by the Rochester Gas and Electric Corp.

Visit To Korea

London — (NC) — Bishop John Heenan of Leeds has asked the British War Office for permission to visit the Korean war area. He hopes to visit British and Commonwealth troops fighting with the United Nations forces.

Job Agency

Sydney, Australia — (NC) — An employment service to find positions for former displaced persons now resident in Australia has commenced operations here under the auspices of the Federal Catholic Migration Office.

AMONG WOMEN

Touchstone For Christmas

By Mary L. Snyder

Tomorrow, December 6, will be the feast day of St. Nicholas who is best remembered particularly in modern America as the prototype of "Old St. Nick" or Santa Claus.

Mrs. Snyder

While it is true that St. St. Nicholas was probably the original of the familiar red coated and white-whiskered old gentleman, it is regrettable that he is known to most of us for just this.

St. Nicholas was, as a matter of fact, a great saint who died on December 6 sometime during the middle of the fourth century. Because of a remarkable and saintly childhood he was long held as an example for children and was sometimes referred to as a patron of childhood.

AS AN ADULT St. Nicholas was Archbishop of Myra in Asia Minor. Outstanding for his charity, the saint has been remembered down through the centuries for the help he gave three dowerless young women.

By his gift of three bags of gold he enabled them to make honorable marriages according to the custom of the time.

HIS LIFE story—his own wonderful childhood, coupled with the devout care he gave the young throughout his whole life, combined with his generosity to the moneyless young women, has down through the years become corrupted into the legend of Santa Claus.

The idea of giving gifts on St. Nicholas Day is prevalent in some parts of Europe, notably Germany; and today Americans of German descent rarely let the day pass without a quiet family celebration, perhaps just something "extra special" on the dinner menu.

ALTHOUGH WE may not celebrate St. Nicholas Day with gifts to the childen or with family festivity, we can gain a thought from the day.

As most of us are now deeply engrossed in pre-Christmas gift shopping, we might pause to think of the admonition given us by the Monks of St. Mary's Abbey in their "My Everyday Missal and Heritage."

COMMENTING on their condensed story of the life of St. Nicholas, they conclude with "May our gifts always inspire and aid our neighbor".

That, to borrow a phrase from literary criticism, would be a fine touchstone with which to judge the gold and dross of our Christmas buying.

It is a great misfortune not to have enough wit to speak well or not enough judgment to keep silent.

WHAT'S DOING AT THE DALYS'

Ginny'd Rather Be Wanted

By Mary Tinley Daly

A casual picture in the evening paper caught our eye.

"Look, Ginny," we said, "here are triplets — three baby boys born yesterday. First triplets ever born in this ninety-one-year-old hospital."

Mary Daly

The statistics were lost on Ginny. She was studying the picture intently.

"Poor babies," she sighed. "Their Mommy looks like she did not want 'em."

"She's just surprised," we explained. "Of course she wants the babies and she's just 'putting on' —the way you do when Johnny takes your picture."

QUITE obviously the picture had been posed by a clever news photographer: a good looking young mother with a "Heavens, what's this!" expression on her face as she surveyed the triple blessings lying on the bed beside her. We adults all had a good chuckle over the picture.

Painstakingly Ginny read the news story, but her eyes kept turning back to the picture. "Huh-uh," she said seriously. "She still looks like she's sorry."

"Nonsense," we answered. "It's just a funny picture."

"I don't think it's funny," Ginny said and cut the picture out with kindergarten scissors.

Thus the incident was closed — seemingly. But while Ginny was having her bath, she came back on the subject. "If she doesn't, could we?"

"If who doesn't what?"

"THEIR MOMMY," Ginny said, scrubbing grimy knees. "Could we take the babies? You've always said you wanted twin boys and these'd be better'n twins — one better."

* * *

On the face of it, the whole thing seemed ridiculous—getting all steamed up over a trick newspaper photograph—but to Ginny it was deadly serious and her prayers included one for the triplet boys.

After Ginny was in bed she put her arms around my neck in a particularly tight hug. "I'm so glad you want me," she whispered. "I'd rather be wanted than a two-wheeled bike."

(Translation of this is possible only by knowing that a two-wheeled bike is Ginny's supreme desideratum.)

The return hug was particularly tight too—for if ever anybody was "wanted," it's Ginny — and she knows it. I realized then, all over again, how vitally important this sense of being loved and wanted is to a child—nothing can take its place and it can't be faked . . .

"Don't worry about the little boys," I whispered, pinching Ginny's cheek as I pulled the sheet and blanket up around her. "Their Mommy wants them and loves them—you'll see." How she would see I had no idea . . .

NEXT morning's paper solved that, all right — for this was a news story worthy of all the papers. Sure enough, there was a picture of the lovely young mother and her triplet sons — and this picture left no doubt as to the babies being loved and wanted.

"Br-rother!" Ginny beamed when she saw it. "That's better'n two two-wheeled bikes."

* * *

The incident flashed back to mind when we read the Bishops' statement about man's need for religion and spiritual values — for to little children, their parents represent God's plan of care for them. No "two-wheeled bike" or any other material prosperity can take the place of that inner sense of security.

As the Bishops said: "Our national spiritual needs must be greater than the national material needs . . . . In the wake of such unprecedented (as we now enjoy) not...or'awt prosperity (as we now enjoy) a deep sense of security, a national optimism might have been expected. In its stead the temper of the country would seem to be one of restless foreboding and deep insecurity."

Perhaps it's silly to interpret the Hierarchy's profoundly moving plea for a return to religion in the light of a little girl's concern — her balancing of material against spiritual treasure.

And yet—we all interpret in the language we know best . . .

SEEK ITEMS FOR BAZAAR

ARRANGING for a Christmas Bazaar and Christmas play to be staged by Aquinas Mothers Club are these club leaders looking for items for the bazaar. They are: (from left) Mrs. William Bertsch, general chairman; Mrs. Paul Rombaut, refreshments chairman and Mrs. Edwin T. Heisinger, club vice president. (Courier Staff Photo)

Christmas Bazaar, Play Set At Aquinas By Mothers Club

A christmas Bazaar and Christmas play will lend a gay holiday note to the December meeting of the Aquinas Mothers Club slated Tuesday, Dec. 9 at the school, 1127 Dewey Ave.

Home-made "goodies", novelties and hand-made articles will be on sale in the decorated booths. The Spotlight Club directed by the Rev. Leonard Cullen, C.S.B. will present a Christmas play.

AN INVITATION is extended to all alumni mothers.

Mrs. William McGee, Mrs. Ray Englert, Mrs. Irene Kujawa and Mrs. Margaret McHale are in charge of the booths and will welcome any donations.

Mrs Paul Rombaut is refreshments chairman and will be assisted by mothers from St. Monica's, Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Lucy, SS. Peter and Paul and St. Helen parishes.

Writer Returns To Church Before Death

Tours, France—(NC)—Charles Maurras, ultranationalist author and politician once placed under personal interdict by the Pope, returned to the Church before his death here at the age of 84.

While still fully conscious he asked to receive the Sacraments and several hours before he died he called for a rosary.

CHARLES MAURRAS formerly headed Action Francaise, a political group of the extreme right that advocated overthrowing the republic and restoring the monarchy. To appeal to Catholics, it paid lip service to the Church. Actually it tried to use the Church rather than serve it.

In 1926, Pope Pius XI found it necessary to place the party and its leader under interdict. "Christ is a stranger to him," the interdict said of Maurras. "He sees the Church from the outside, not from within. In his eyes it is not politics which protects religion, but religion which protects politics."

THE INTERDICT was removed by Pope Pius XII in 1939 after Maurras and other Action Francaise Leaders had written to the Holy See to express their "sincere regret" for the harm and injustice they had done to the Church.

After World War II Maurras was tried for his support of the Vichy regime and sentenced to life imprisonment.

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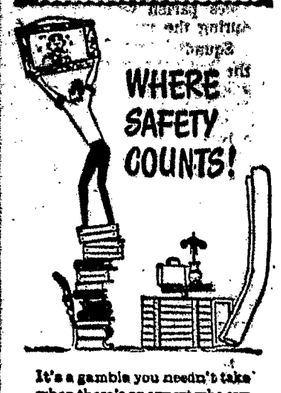

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CHRIST IN RAGS?

Here is a little orphan just brought to the home of the Christian brothers at Cheren, Eritrea. Brother Adrian, who has to worry about many such boys, has been begging us for $000 during December. He needs $10 to support one of these homeless kiddies for a whole month. What can you do? We must see Our Blessed Lord in all these ragged children. They do bear His swaddling clothes, and you do help Our Lady to wrap Jesus in the "royal rags" of His Crib when you give to our foundlings. Here is a chance to enthrone Christ among His beloved poor. It is not the only chance, for we have so many poor children in 12 countries of the Middle East. Won't you help?

HAVE YOU WRITTEN for our beautiful Gift Card? There is still time before Christmas. You may send it to a friend or loved one. It will say that a Near East missionary is offering Mass at Christmas or that you have given a sacred article to a Near East chapel in their honor. With the three-color card we enclose another one, bearing pressed flowers from Bethlehem itself.

WORTH STARS

"The most abandoned of men is worth more than the stars." Father Joseph Thomas and the Austrian Sisters of Mary Immaculate beg your own Christmas offering for the DAMIEN LEPER FUND. So many of these outcasts are now waiting for admission to Green Gardens, their beacon light of mercy in India. Thirty thousand patients are now being cared for there! Give them Christmas joy.

BROUMMANA, BETHLEHEM

Among our neediest cases at Christmas are the dear little foundlings in our many orphanages stretching from Broumanna up in Lebanon to Bethlehem down in holy Palestine and on to India. Even the smallest gift for ORPHANS' BREAD will rejoice their childish hearts at Christmas. We know you will help them. They are in the Bethlehems of this world today. They are the closest to the Little Babe of Bethlehem.

PERHAPS YOU WILL WANT to see our sound 16 MM. film on the Holy Land during this blessed season. We shall be glad to send information.

DAVID A KING?

Our David has just begun the first of his six years of training in the Seminary of the Carmelite Fathers at Tripoli, Lebanon. Like King David in the Psalms he shall some day, God willing, say in the Mass: "I shall take the chalice of salvation. I shall call on the name of the Lord." Can you adopt David, giving the $600 needed for his six years' training in any installments?

SISTER HILARIE

"Hilarious" now has the meaning of being overjoyed even to dissipation. But its Latin meaning was to be joyful in the true sense. Our own Sister Hilarie, a novice with the Salvatorian Sisters at Saida, Lebanon, has the joy of a Bride of Christ. She asks a Near East friend to adopt her. Her two years of training will cost $300. Can you give her this great joy? Our Sisters are our jewels.

THOSE CHRISTMAS CLUBS: We call them "the Mystic Seven," our Mission Clubs for all our works. A dollar monthly to any one of them performs miracles of charity.

GOD'S WANT AD

In our St. John's Mission Seminary at Kounchara, Lebanon, we are anxious to complete the chapel furnishings. We need the altar, costing $100; vestments, $50; a special chalice, $100; the crucifix, $50, and the ciborium for Holy Communion, $40. In that Seminary chapel, which you may wish to help, our young men will be trained to bring Christ to others.

Near East Missions

Francis Cardinal Spellman, President

Msgr. Thomas J. McMahon, Staff Secretary Very Rev. Andrew Regush Rev. Peter P. Tohey Rev. Wm. Keller Dunn

Send all communications to: Catholic Near East Welfare Association 480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York 17, N. Y.