

NEW AND NOW

By ROBERT SMETT

Solemn High Mass will be televised over WHAM-TV on Christmas morning from the beautiful chapel at Mercy Motherhouse.

This is the first time in Rochester history that a Christmas morning Mass has been locally televised over TV.

The Very Rev. John F. Murphy, C.S.B., president of St. John Fisher College, will be celebrant. Rev. Richard Torney will be in charge of the production, which will be viewed from 9 to 10:15 on Christmas morning.

ACCORDING TO Father Torney, the program is especially designed for the sick and shut-ins not able to attend Mass at their own parish churches.

Midnight Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York will also be seen this year over WHAM-TV, while the radio stations will bring the ceremony locally from Old St. Mary's over WHEC and from Sacred Heart Cathedral over WHAM, where the Bishop will be celebrant.

JOHN BRAHEM, one of Hollywood's top directors, is currently working on Father Patrick Peyton's new motion picture "A Star Shall Rise" for Christmas television release throughout the country.

The film will tell the Christmas story from an unusual standpoint, that of the three wise men—Melchior, Balthasar and Gaspar.

It shows through a parallel between the Magi and the shepherds, how some men find God through science and learning, some through simple faith—none without humility.

DAVE GARROWAY'S TV show last Saturday evening was tremendous. He did his "dentist's office" routine, which is always hilarious, and ended the program with a shortened version of Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore" that was tops.

T. S. Eliot's Comedy Given Memorable Performance

by ROBERT SMETT

Rochester theater-goers owe a vote of thanks to the Arena Theatre for their current production of T. S. Eliot's "The Cocktail Party."

Miss Dorothy Chernuck, the director, the cast and technical staff left little to be asked.

We cannot pay them any higher tribute than to say that they approached and produced perhaps one of the most beautiful poetic dramas of our times with a humility and professional talent worthy of the work, its author and their own indisputable talents.

It is not very often that we have a chance to hear the English language put to its best use. Hence, it has been the rule with playwrights and directors of late years to sacrifice all for action or movement on stage.

But once in a hundred years there comes a man like Eliot who has something to say—and knows how to say it. We aren't used to it yet. We have to be trained.

Eliot's play is a study of modern man and the application of truth to lives fallen into the "wasteland" of confused thinking. It deals with big problems, but human and fundamental ones.

FOR THOSE unable to conclude what the religious "cult" in which seems to permeate "The Cocktail Party," I would suggest truth or Catholicity, whichever you prefer.

There have been some printed indications in the past few weeks in regard to the play which should be dismissed, source-considered.

That theater people should have to be subjected to these Sweeney's is an embarrassing state of affairs. Equally sad is the fact that theater goes have to be exposed to paid-by-the-inch rural humor, the calibre of which is so distilled as to be practically medicinal.



T. S. ELIOT

Director



Rev. Adelle L. Houde, C.S.B., of St. John Fisher College, who directed the student presentation of "The Importance of Being Earnest," currently playing at the men's college.

Oratorio Group Plans Concert

The Rochester Oratorio Society of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and Civic Music Association will present its Eighth Annual Christmas Concert on Sunday evening, Dec. 28, at the Eastman Theatre.

Under the direction of J. Theodore Hollenbach, the 200-voice chorus, accompanied by a 38-piece symphony orchestra, will perform two Christmas cantatas: "The Christmas Story" by the well-known contemporary composer and Eastman School graduate, Peter Mennin, and Bach's "Magnificat" to be sung in its original Latin.

In addition to the cantatas, the chorus will sing a capella Greeting Song, "Hail, Thou Gladdening Light," a number for double chorus.

This was performed by the Oratorio Society last spring at the Annual Winter Music Festival in Utica, N. Y., for which they were awarded the \$1000 first prize.

A fourth feature on the program will be a soprano solo by Miss Dolores Harvie. Accompanied by the orchestra, Miss Harvie will sing the beautiful and excellent "Exultate Jubilate" by Mozart.

Deviating slightly from their usual procedure of presenting one or two choruses, the Oratorio Society promises a most enjoyable evening of music in keeping with the Christmas season.

"Everynun" Now In Novel Form

"Everynun," a full-length play by the Reverend Daniel A. Lord, S.J., which was produced in Canada, has been rewritten by Father Lord "to be read as a novel," and has been published by the Eucharistic Crusade, 3115 South Grand Boulevard, S. Louis 18, Missouri.

Written for the one hundredth anniversary of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada, Father Lord's latest book takes you by dramatic incident, dialogue, narrative, some pathos and much comedy into the convent cloister and out with the sisters into the vineyard of the Saviour.

In discussing the rewriting of a dramatic production into a book "to be read like a novel," Father Lord said, "The nicest part of a novel is the conversation," and the drama of Everynun was developed largely by dialogue.

The production of his newest book was a natural step, the writer said. He has also written "Our Nuns" and "Letters to a Nun."

The book includes complete production notes with suggestions for casting, scenery, costuming, and lighting. Selections for the musical background are also listed.

Fr. Torney To Speak On TV Religion Panel

The Court of Public Opinion, viewed at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday over WHAM-TV, will deal with the question "How Can Organized Religion Improve American Life?" on the Dec. 13th program.

Rev. Richard Torney, chaplain at Our Lady of Mercy Mother House, Rev. George L. Caddigan of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Rabbi Stuart E. Rosenberg of Congregation Temple Beth-El make up the discussion panel.

Non-Catholics Pose Odd Questions For Quizmaster

Charlotte, N. C. — "Do Catholics stay up all night beating a person to drive the devil out of him? I've heard they call this exercising. What about it?"

This was the first, and still is the strangest, of hundreds of questions asked the conductor of an unusual Catholic quiz program which seems to keep all Charlotte agog each Sunday morning.

The inquirer in this particular case was set straight on both points, including the fact that the word he was trying to use is "exorcism," not "exercising."

THE PROGRAM conductor is Dale Francis, who is director of publications at the University of Notre Dame, before he came here to open an experimental Catholic information center. The program is carried by Charlotte's 50,000-watt station, WBT which operates on 1110 kilocycles, and is called "The Edifice of Catholics."

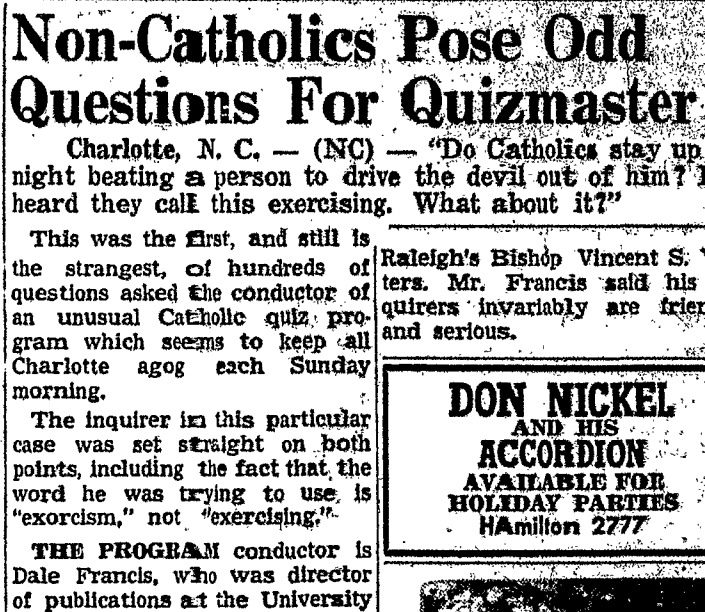
During the 25-minute program, non-Catholics are asked to phone in the questions about the Catholic faith to Mr. Francis.

He answers the questions by phone and the answer is carried over the air.

The program has built up to a point where one call every 35 seconds is received by the station switchboard operator during a broadcast — and that's the limit the switchboard can handle.

Some 15 questions can be answered during the 25-minute program, but a backlog of questions numbering at times as many as 30 is built up when the program ends.

STATION OFFICIALS frankly admit they are amazed by the non-Catholic reaction. The officials worried at first whether a sufficient number of questions would be received to keep the program going.



Raleigh's Bishop Vincent S. Waters. Mr. Francis said his inquirers invariably are friendly and serious.

He answers the questions by phone and the answer is carried over the air.

Now, in addition to the questions which swamp the station switchboard, dozens of others are received by mail from listeners in states as distant as Florida and New York.

The program is sponsored by The Sign Of The Cross, the information center which Mr. Francis opened at the suggestion of

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Movie Guide

Rochester RKO PALACE

Montana Belle B

FABAMOUNT

The Turning Point A-2

Blazing Forest A-1

LOEWS ROCHESTER

THE GRAPVINE has it that the next production at Holy Family Theatre will be a dramatization of Lloyd Douglas' novel "The Robe." No small undertaking for any group.

A tape-recording of the Major Elliott-Frank Cliney debate, which was recently held by the Thomas More Lecture Forum under the sponsorship of the Courier-Journal, will be heard Saturday, Dec. 13, at 2:30 p.m. over WHAM.

THE AWARDS

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Card Spellman Sponsors TV Play Contest For Students

New York — (NC) — The Cardinal Spellman TV Play Award Contest involving prizes of \$1,600 in savings bonds has been instituted to encourage writings talent for television among students of Catholic universities and colleges in the New York archdiocese.

THE AWARD headquarters is located at 453 Madison Avenue, New York 22, N. Y., and the deadline for the contest has been fixed for January 15.

His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, will personally present the award on March 24, Feast of St. Gabriel, patron of television.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT stated there will be three prizes — a \$1000 bond first prize, \$500 bond, second, and \$100 bond, third.

UNDER THE contest rules any 1952-53 winter semester student registered in a Catholic college or university in the archdiocese may enter the contest.

Any subject theme of general interest may be chosen providing

It is Catholic in spirit. Entries must be original and either half-hour or an hour in length. All royalties and other rights of entries will remain with the student-author.

A board of four judges whose decision will be final will select the winners. The judges are Worthington T. Miner, producer of National Broadcasting Company-TV; James L. Caddigan, program director of Dumont television; Daniel T. O'Shea, vice president of the Columbia Broadcasting System, and Gene Lockhart, well known actor.

Geneva, Switzerland — (NC) — Priests and lay of the Diocese of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg must not attend performances of the play "Le Diable et le bon Dieu" (The Devil and the Good God) by the French existentialist writer Jean Paul Sartre.

In issuing this prohibition, Bishop Francois Charriere declared that this play has been one of the main reasons for the Holy Office decree of October 29, 1948, which placed all the works of Sartre on the Index of Forbidden Books. Similar warnings to Catholics against attending the play had previously been issued by the Bishops of Liege (Belgium) and Metz (France).

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1952 GRAND PRIZE WINNERS in the \$5,135.00 Louis A. Wehle FISHING CONTEST

HERE'S the news you have been waiting for! The Grand Prize Winners for 1952. These are the thirty-eight anglers, out of the 195 monthly prize winners, who caught the three largest fish in each classification.

1952 GRAND PRIZE WINNERS BROWN TROUT James Panosco Champlain 9 lb. 8 oz.

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