

Candle Light Rite Held in Tokyo
Tokyo — (NC) — Solemn Pontifical Benediction and a candle-light procession at the cathedral marked the liturgical opening of the Marian Year in the Japanese capital. Archbishop Peter Tatsuo Doi of Tokyo presided at the Benediction and led the procession to Our Lady's grotto within the cathedral grounds.

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Monday, Dec. 21 — John Nadig, St. Rita, W. Webster;
Tuesday, Dec. 22 — Stephen Carado, accompanied by members of the St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Club of St. Peter and Paul;
Wednesday, Dec. 23 — James Batz, accompanied by members of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Post No. 1156, C.W.V.;
Thursday, Dec. 24 — Edward J. Deving, accompanied by members of Holy Rosary Band, Nocturnal Adoration Society;
Friday, Dec. 25 — Michael Triasari, accompanied by children of St. Francis Assisi parish.

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WHAT'S DOING AT THE DALYS'
Take-It-Easy Christmas

By Mary Tinley Daly

"Tis the week before Christmas... And if your house is like ours, a lot of the things you'd have out of the way by now haven't been done — and probably won't be — like a thorough wax job on all the floors, laundering every curtain, getting a new permanent.

Guests will be as warmly welcomed on slightly scuffy floors. Christmas greenery will hide a slight limpness of curtains — and probably a new permanent would be too fuzzy anyway.

By taking many a shortcut through elaborate preparations of the past, there has been time for once to realize the true meaning of Christmas.

There was the family fun of making a Christmas crib out of an old bushel basket, staining it dark brown, putting a string of golden lights across the front, putting "good deed" straws in the manger to welcome the Infant Saviour.

BUDGET-DESTROYING gifts have been done away with by mutual consent with relatives, leaving more for a REAL Christmas. And what a thrill participation in giving provides for the children.

GINNEY, for instance, decided that this year she would rather give a doll than get one, so she bought a duplicate of her own beloved Patsy and took it to the Christ Child Center to be given to some little girl who has no doll.

It was an inspiration just to watch those Christ Child workers — Margaret Carolan, Jo de Araujo, Mary Quiner, Dottie Monaghan and all the rest. It's the week before Christmas for them too, yet they give freely of their time and energies. And, in spite of the hard work, their faces show a tranquility that comes from sharing.

They're not worried about "making a more glamorous YOU for the holidays" as the ads urge. It's the same with the young people at our house. The happiest part of their Christmas is in helping, joining with classmates to fix boxes of food and clothing.

THE THOUGHT comes — why not bake an extra five or ten pounds of fruit cake to go into those boxes. Baked in small coffee cans, they would add a luxury touch.

Out comes the recipe that Dorothy Shippe and I have used for

HNS Protests Red Persecution

Chicago — (NC) — Representatives of Chicago's 200,000 men of the Holy Name Society have forwarded to government officials resolutions protesting Soviet persecution of Catholic Church leaders behind the Iron Curtain.

At a meeting attended by Samuel Cardinal Stritch of Chicago, the delegates resolved "that we perpetuate the memory of the names of Stepanic and Mindzenny and Wyszynski, of Beran, of Chile, of Fekal and of Byrne, along with the heroes of the faith in new posts; that the entire world may understand how great it is to be a Catholic.

"And be it further resolved that we raise our voices, in a unison of protest, a protest that will penetrate into the consciences of all decent men, into all the chambers of the world, against this new scourge of God and man."

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Clothing Drive Seen Breaking All Records

New York — (NC) — The 1953 Thanksgiving Clothing Campaign will probably top all records, says Edward E. Swanstrom, executive director of War Relief Services - National Catholic Welfare Conference said here.

"Our warehouses in Seattle, San Francisco, and New York are already bulging with usable clothing contributed by Catholics throughout the nation," he stated, "and thousands of volunteers are engaged in processing them for immediate delivery to Korea, Europe and the Near East.

"The instant response to the Bishops' appeal has been most gratifying inasmuch as it will alleviate the terrible suffering of people actually living in the streets in those war-torn countries.

Recently returned from a tour of devastated areas overseas, Msgr. Swanstrom said that "it is by no means an exaggeration to say that thousands will suffer to the point of dying as winter sets in if something very drastic is not done to meet the situation. And this we are doing."

The clothing drive was conducted on Thanksgiving Day under the auspices of the Bishops of the United States in 119 dioceses.

Magazine Names Year's Best Films

Union City, N.J. — (NC) — "Little Boy Lost" and "Julius Caesar" were named as winners of a dual award for outstanding motion picture of 1953 by Sign magazine.

The Bing Crosby film and the Joseph Mankiewicz production of the Shakespearean tragedy were selected by Jerry Cotter, the magazine's motion picture editor, on the basis of "moral value, artistic achievement and entertainment worth for the Catholic audience."

Students Urged To Sign Legion Of Decency Cards

New York — (NC) — Two special recommendations for the control of objectionable motion pictures have been adopted by the Episcopal Committee on Motion Pictures.

The committee of Bishops urged that school children sign pledge cards similar to the oral Legion of Decency pledge recited in churches. It also suggested that Legion of Decency ratings of films be publicized by posting in church vestibules, schools and other places where our Catholic people convene.

THE TWO recommendations were revealed here as Catholics in dioceses from coast to coast took the annual Legion of Decency pledge at Sunday Masses. In the pledge, Catholics promise to refrain from attending films that have been judged unfit by the Legion of Decency and to remain away from theaters which show such films as a matter of policy.

In an annual report to the Bishops of the United States in November, the Episcopal Committee on Motion Pictures noted with concern that many theaters, including some owned by large circuits, have been exhibiting films condemned by the Legion of Decency.

"The managements of these theaters are reminded," the Bishops said, "to refrain from exhibiting such films."

Central On Tv
Cologne — (NC) — The North West German television network will present a Christmas Eve address, lasting 15 minutes, of His Eminence Josef Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne.

Apostleship of Prayer

By THOMAS H. MOORE, S.J., National Secretary

JOHN THE BAPTIST
The Gospels of Advent ring aloud with the voice of John the Baptist. Like Advent itself, his life was short. What, really, did he accomplish?

A quick report on his work reveals it as something strict economy would call expendable. He rallied the people, made them Messias-minded and penitent. But Christ could have done this Himself. Why then did God take the mission of John so seriously and fill the pages of Holy Writ with accounts of his birth and all that he did? Why did Christ praise him so extravagantly? We wonder at his importance.

But if we remember the words of the other John, we understand. He told us that God is love. God created men, not because He needed them, but out of love. Creation was a kind of love affair between the divine and the human.

When sin came into the world, it defiled this love and made out of the human race an adulterous thing. "Thou wast naked and full of confusion, and I passed by thee and saw thee, and thou becamest mine. And I clothed thee with embroidery and I girded thee about with fine linen and I put a beautiful crown upon thy head; and thou didst eat fine honey and oil. But, strutting in thy beauty, thou didst play the harlot and thou hast prostituted thyself to every passer-by."

Because of this defilement and before there could be a reconciliation between God and his human bride, the human race had to make an effort to clean itself of its foulness. Men could not do this by putting on the finery of Pharisaism. There had to be a purging.

IT WAS FITTING that the race go through the fires of penance in an effort to regain its chastity. Christ could redeem his bride on the Cross, but she had to purify herself.

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U. S. Cheese Given German Refugees

Frankfurt, Germany — (NC) — Nine hundred thousand pounds of American cheddar cheese provided by the U. S. Department of Agriculture were reported being distributed by War Relief Services — National Catholic Welfare Conference through-out refugee camps in Western Germany and West Berlin.

The cheese is part of a shipment of 2,750,000 pounds valued at \$970,824. The remainder was scheduled to arrive in Bremerhaven shortly. According to Father Alfred A. Schneider, director of NCWC's Germany mission, the entire supply will be distributed before Christmas.

Meanwhile, the first shipment of used clothing from the nationwide Thanksgiving Collection conducted in the United States by NC.W.C. arrived here. The clothing shipment, totalling 78,000 pounds and valued at \$109,000, was consigned to West Berlin.

TO OUR NEEDIEST FAMILIES

Recently Monsignor McMahon was at the distribution center in Lebanon and helped 82 FOOD PACKAGES for our REFUGEE FAMILIES. At Christmas we hope to send one in Jesus' name to our NEEDIEST FAMILIES. They are all children driven from their homes in the land of the birth. Won't you help us send one (\$10)? The Babe will consider it a precious gift for HIS BIRTHDAY. For each gift of \$10 or more we offer a ROSEARY made from OLIVE SEEDS grown in the GARDEN at Mt. Olivet. Our refugees make them.

SISTER MARY of the Assumption is offering a heart full of love and gratitude and her lifetime of prayer and dedication to a noble soul who "adopts" her by helping her with the cost (\$150) of each year of her two year training with the Sisters of St. Joseph at Detroit-Hart. You may send her this year's sum in any installments—weekly \$3, monthly \$12.50, or all now.

TOYS FOR HIS CRIB
We may still have time to send your little to the good priest in Gaza so that he can give toys and picture books to the thirty little tots at the Tubercular Hospital. Msgr. McMahon saw these pitiful cases last month. Surely the Babe of Bethlehem will bless your kindness to these dear children. The hospital is in the area traveled by the Babe on His flight to Egypt.

LAST MINUTE GIFTS
Why bother rushing out and fighting the late crowd for them? Use our GIFT CARD. We'll gladly send it direct for you and will return a complete set of PRESERVED FLOWERS FROM THE HOLY LAND. The card will say that a missionary will offer Mass for your friend or loved one. OR that you gave in their name a sacred article to one of our mission chapels, such as Mass bell, \$5; altar vase, \$18; incense, \$11; picture, \$11; tabernacle, \$25; statue, \$30; chalice, \$40, or altar, \$78.

CHRIST'S MASS
That is what the word "Christmas" means. Our missionaries will be offering the Mass at Bethlehem's Crèche on Christmas Day for all our benefactors. It is their thanks to you for sending them your Mass offerings. These poor priests have no other means of support.

GOD'S CHRISTMAS CLUBS
You will be much happier and richer (spiritually) next Christmas if you join one or more of our SEVEN MISSION SUPPORT CLUBS now. Members give A-DOLLAR-A-MONTH to help us with our chapel, school, leper hospital, orphan, students and more. Won't you join TODAY, or ask a friend if you are now a member? The dividends are recorded in the Book of Life.

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