

Putting Christ Back Into Christmas

By MARY ANN CATLIN

LAST YEAR was indeed a year of Christ, proclaimed by the Roman Catholic Committee of the Holy Name Society for "Putting Christ Back Into Christmas." The office for the year was a Catholic High School Junior. Also participating were more than 200 students of Elmira Free Academy and Southern High School.

After the sin of Adam and Eve, God promised the world that His only Son, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, would come down to earth and redeem mankind. From that moment every one awaited a glorious king. In the year Our Lord was born, the whole known world was being oppressed by the Romans.

Almost every creature had forgotten that the Messiah to come was going to be a spiritual governor, not one that would free the Jews, the chosen people, from Roman control.

So Christ was born into a universe where very few people were ready to receive Him. Just some poor shepherds who were tending their sheep on a nearby hill, heard the majestic choir of the holy angels singing the praise of the new born Babe and went to investigate what was in that tiny stable, as well as the three Magi who followed the star that guided them from the east to Bethlehem.

THE MAGI BROUGHT the Christ Child beautiful presents of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. These were the first gifts given on Christmas, and it started a custom which is used even to this day. Christmas presents were also followed by Saint Nicholas on the poorer inhabitants of Holland. This was real charity, something which Christ truly loves.

But it has become so commercialized in recent years that when Christmas time rolls around people completely forget whose birthday they are celebrating. If you stop to think about it, you would realize that when it is your birthday, you receive the present, not someone else. Now don't think that exchanging gifts is wrong, but all human beings have made this the only meaning of Christmas. They don't consider that the one whose birthday we are commemorating, would appreciate a present.

All God wants is that we obey His commandments and the laws of the Church and receive the sacraments as frequently as possible. These are very simple tasks and people should perform them because they are expected to, not out of love of the God who created, redeemed and gave them everything they own. They should be thankful that they have the privilege of looking upon their Creator.

So many dominated countries please want anything to be allowed to attend the Church of their choice. Everyday Saboteurs and the lady are being martyred and martyred for re-

lusing to deny their faith. But here in this democratic nation of ours, where religious freedom is guaranteed, people are not willing to act aside even one day in his birthday for Christ.

THOUSANDS have made Santa Claus their God. Children are taught not about the first Christmas, how cold it was in that humble stable where the king of heaven and earth was born and how the animals warmed the new born Child with their breath, not how the shepherds came and adored the Christ-child, or even about the magnificent presents of the three Magi, but about Santa Claus who will bring them presents, his helpers in their workshops and his reindeer, even red nosed ones, who fly over the house tops leaving presents beneath each tree. Christmas in any child's life, is a very wonderful time with all the joy and wonderment of gay people, dreams of presents and bountiful meals preside beneath each tree which twinkles with various colors and lights reflecting strings of silver tinsel.

It has become customary to leave morsels of food for both Santa and his reindeer. This is a generous gesture on the part of the little ones, but are they instructed to donate money to the "poor" and less fortunate than they are? I wouldn't like to see the belief in Santa Claus rejected, but youngsters should be taught that they are celebrating Christ's birthday, the King who took on a human nature, lived in this world for thirty-three years and then suffered and died to redeem mankind.

They should think of the happiness of His Divine Mother when she first beheld her baby and of His Holy Father, Joseph, who adored and protected this beautiful Babe.

Now the question to consider is how to "Put Christ Back Into Christmas." This is a tremendous task to accomplish because the commercialized has been going on for many years and with each succeeding year Christmas is forgotten more and more. I imagine there are some people who couldn't tell how Christmas originated. Our own City, through the efforts of the Catholic Charities organization, has started a campaign to "Put Christ Back Into Christmas."

Last year a large Nativity scene was erected in a downtown public park. It has been made in the same park again for this holiday season.

Not to mention the all important Christmas card in connection with this subject, would be negligent. The origin of it really began in England about one hundred years ago and was taken up in this country when relatives and friends miles apart over the holidays sent cheery greetings to one another. Soon it became customary to mail cards to all, whether they lived next door or were separated by many miles. However, people rarely send cards representing the birth of Christ. They fear that the ones receiving the cards would ridicule or insult them. Instead they send cards depicting ridiculous scenes such as dogs, cats, reindeer, Santa Claus and pictures of various toys and gifts. The religious cards which are available are far more appropriate and better to mind the events connected with the Nativity. These we should try to make use of and encourage others to do likewise.

At this time of year a certain feeling of sublime peace, contentment and harmony should prevail. But if you do not enter into this true spirit, there will be no room for that pleasant sentiment. Ask the soldiers who have just returned from duty in Korea or any foreign country.

To them the best part of Christmas is just having their family together and attending church services to worship as one and honor our Christ, the Divine Master.

But there are two roads, you choose but one. Either start "Putting Christ Back Into Christmas" or follow the trend of the times, join the crowd and forget that it is truly the birthday of a King. But the minority of Americans attempting to make people realize the true significance of this holy season may eventually succeed.

This would please Our Lord immensely, so much that He might permit peace to reign in all the troubled areas of the world. We should pray that this true

Men Plan Communion Attendance



GENERAL COMMITTEE of St. Anthony Holy Name Society of Elmira arrange for attendance at Mass in the church and Communion Breakfast at Mark Twain Hotel on Jan. 3. In photo seated: (from left) Carmen J. Rosal, Rev. William A. Burns, pastor; Anthony L. Fabrizio and Frank W. Mofce; standing, Anthony J. Mason, Albert J. Fonti, Thomas L. Maycumber, Joseph J. Damico, Daniel A. Fanzo, Nicholas J. Tarantino and Anthony A. D'Andrea. Absent when picture was made: Edward Rose Sr., Francis Moretti and Alie Quatrano.

Carmen Basilio Listed By Holy Name Society

St. Anthony's Holy Name Society of Elmira will sponsor a Communion breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 3 at 10 a. m. in the Mark Twain Hotel, following reception of Holy Communion by the men of the parish at the 9:30 Mass. The breakfast speaker will be Carmen Basilio, a member of St. Patrick Parish, Chittenango, N.Y., who has been a popular speaker at church gatherings in Central and Western New York. Carmen is the leading contender for the world's welterweight title in professional boxing.

Class Ring Presented By Bishop



HONORARY PRESIDENT of Good Samaritan College, Elmira, New York Chapter, the Bishop of Elmira, presented a class ring to a young man at the college with the class ring, gift of the Bishop, at the college. (Left) in photo, Bishop, and a young man, St. Anthony's Academy, Elmira, 1844 graduate of Good Samaritan College, Elmira, N.Y. Presenting Mrs. E. Robert McEwen, newly elected president, Miss Frohman, a graduate of St. Anthony's Academy and former publisher of Our Lady of Good Council Parish, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Delbert A. Frohman of Henrietta and niece of Rev. George V. Freeman.

Rites Conducted For Mrs. Hanss

Funeral services for Marion C. Hanss, who died Dec. 22, 1954, were held Dec. 27 at St. Salome Church. Solemn Mass of Requiem was celebrated by Rev. Edward J. Eichel assisted by Rev. Vincent E. LeFrois as deacon and Rev. Francis Vogt as sub-deacon. Present in the Sanctuary were Rev. Rev. Msgr. Louis W. Edmundo, the Reverend Fathers Richard Torney, Bernard C. Newcomb, Paul G. Wolfrath, Joseph E. Reinhart, Conrad Sundholm, Joseph A. O'Reilly, C.S.B., James Callan, John F. Duffy and Joseph O'Connell.

Mrs. Hanss was past president of the Mercy Guild and past president of St. Salome's Mission Society and an active member of Nurse's Aid Group at St. Mary Hospital.

She is survived by her husband, Clement F. Hanss, a daughter, Sister Marietta of the Sisters of Mercy; a son, Robert J. Hanss; a sister, Mrs. Archibald (Margaret) Little; two brothers, Joseph P. and Sylvester Cunningham; several nieces and nephews.

Bearers were Edwin Comors, Frank Commerford, Walter Morton, William Fox, Donald Eckes and Seymour Ney.

Blessing at the grave was given by Father Le Frois. Interment was made in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Day Of Recollection Set At Annunciation

The Rev. Albert H. Schickel will be guest speaker at the Day of Recollection planned by the Holy Name Society of Annunciation Church, 1754 Norton St. on Sunday, Jan. 9.

Henry Mart and Domitile Diodato are co-chairmen. The day will start with Mass and Communion at 8:30 a. m. followed by breakfast. A series of conferences will be held from 2 to 5 p. m. A buffet supper and entertainment will be held at 5:30 p. m.

Hospital Guild Furnishes Gift Cart For Patients

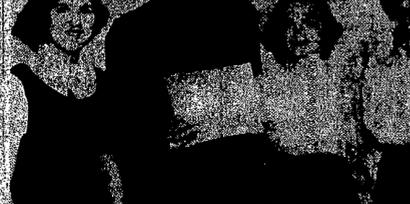
Auburn—Annual Christmas party of the Mercy Hospital Flower Guild took place in the Pompeian Room of the Osborne Hotel with Mrs. Lynn-G. Swift as general chairman, assisted by Mrs. Paul J. Carpenter, Mrs. Charles F. Dowd and Miss Mildred M. Donovan.

At the business meeting it was decided that the guild would purchase a gift cart for their annual gift to Mercy Hospital. This cart will be filled with various articles which may be used by hospital patients and will be circulated through the hospital.

The entertainment arranged by Miss Gertrude M. Kennedy included: solos, Adrianna Amelias, Carol Hoffman, and Molly Gilmore; tap and the dance routines, Linda Newkirk, Linda Ferry, Joyce Miller, Carol Hoffman and Molly Gilmore; accompanists, Mrs. Clarence Maywalt, Mrs. Michael J. Cervo, and Mrs. Leonard Hoffman.

Serving on the Guild's Christmas projects were Mrs. Clarence E. Hayden, Mrs. John Madden, Mrs. Rosalie M. Weide, Mrs. Frederick J. Welch, Miss Anne E. Hennessy and Miss Mildred Bluffin.

CAMPERS GET TOGETHER



CAMP STRELLA MARIS girls at reunion and Christmas party held Monday, Dec. 27 at Columbia Civic Center. Miss Madeline Bester, new camp counselor (right) greeted by the Rev. Eugene H. McFarland, camp director and Susan Klett (left) and Mary Lou Richardson, campers. Girls who were camp managers in the 1954 season are pictured.

Holy Name Party Attended By 300 Parish Children

By HELEN A. BROSNAN

Owego—More than 300 children of St. Patrick parish attended the annual Christmas party sponsored by the Holy Name Society of the parish. The affair was held Tuesday evening, Dec. 21, in the Elk's auditorium, Church St.

Robert Hager was chairman of the committee completing arrangements for the affair. V. Robert Simpson is president of the Society.

Movies, a Magician and singing were provided. Santa Claus was present to distribute gifts to each child attending and refreshments of ice-cream and cake were served.

The affair was attended by the Rev. William J. O'Brien, pastor of St. Patrick's, the Rev. Bruce A. Ammering, assistant pastor; Sister Mary Pierre, principal of St. Patrick School; Sister Mary Finn Bar; Sister Mary Dominica; Sister Mary Lambert and Sister Mary John Edward, teachers in the school.

Owego—Mrs. Margaret Quinn, acting president of the Rosary and Altar Society, has appointed a nominating committee to present a slate of officers at the annual meeting of the Society to be held in January.

The present officers, appointed by the Rev. Bruce A. Ammering, chaplain of the society will serve only until the January meeting.

The committee named to prepare the new slate are Mrs. Mary Thomas, Mrs. Mary Slary and Miss Gertrude Donnelly. Serving the society under appointment are president, Mrs. Quinn; Vice president, Mrs. Mary Mulhern; secretary, Miss Elizabeth Munroe; and treasurer, Miss Cecelia Brogan.

Owego—The Girls' choir of St. Patrick School visited the River View Nursing Home on Monday, Dec. 21 where they sang a number of Christmas carols. The choir, composed of 27 voices had been directed by Sister Mary Finn Bar, director of music in the school.

They presented each resident of the Home with a small gift which the girls prepared themselves. Following the visit to the Nursing Home, the girls visited several homes of residents of the parish where they also sang. When the tour had been completed.

ZIPPER
HEADQUARTERS
JOHN A. LIMONCELLI
Phone 2-5307
Cor. PARK PL. & 5th
ELMIRA, N. Y.

Edgcomb's
After
Christmas
Furniture
Clearance
Hundreds of Home
To Be Regarded
of Cost in a Grand
5 Day Year End
Bargain Event
161 N. Main St. Elmira

HEIGHTS LIQUOR STORE
Peter Perrotto, Prop.
WINES LIQUORS CORDIALS
DIAL 2-2731
104 WEST 14TH STREET
ELMIRA HEIGHTS

Sheely Bros.
FLORISTS
D. J. HOGLON, Mgr.
Flowers for All Occasions
DIAL 3717 OR 3718
101 30. WALNUT ST.
ELMIRA

JEFFERSON HOTEL
WATKINS GLEN, N. Y.
MAMIE V. GILSON, Manager
DINNERS SERVED
Daily — 4 p. m. to 8 p. m.
Sunday — 11:30 a. m. and 4-8
PUNCAN WINES RECOMMENDED DINING ROOM

HOWARD J. GRISWOLD
FLORIST
Gifts — Hallmark Greeting Cards
DIAL 2506
104 E. 14th St.
ELMIRA HEIGHTS

J. P. & M. SULLIVAN'S
For The Floor In
RUGS DRAPERIES FURNITURE
APPLIANCES
Headquarters for
FINE CARPETS AND RUGS
For Over Half a Century
Sullivan
118-117 EAST WATER STREET, ELMIRA, N. Y.
OTHER STORES IN CORNING AND WILLIAMSPORT

300 Rooms — 300 Baths
Single or in suite at popular rates. A modern, fireproof hotel offering every comfort and convenience to make your stay most pleasant.
W. C. EMERSON
Managing Director
THE Mark Twain HOTEL
ELMIRA, N. Y.

Serve
Coca-Cola
at home

BARRETT'S
Service Station
We Give
S. L. H. Green Stamps
BATTERY CHARGING
WASHING
ROAD SERVICE
LUBRICATION
ACCESSORIES
TIRES
REPAIRS
MOBILES
Dial 2-2811
Walnut - Washington Ave.

Dispensing Optician
H. S. BENNETT
INCORPORATED
Eye Examinations by
George L. Hickey, Jr.
Specialized Commercial
Dial 2-3111
Your Eye Matters
The Best
Special for Your
Optical Needs
118-117 E. GRAY ST.
Dial 3717
Elmira

2-3111 404 W. Washington Ave.
FINE WINES LIQUORS
Freestone's Liquor Store

Charles F. Hughes & Son
FUNERAL HOME
CHARLES A. HUGHES, Prop.
311 W. WALNUT ST. ELMIRA, N. Y. DIAL 4-9324

BE THIRTY
DIAL 30-30
ELMIRA LEASING RADIO
CONTROLLED SERVICE
TOWNER TAXI

ELEANOR V. McMAHON
GENERAL INSURANCE
711 BRUNSON BLDG. Dial 6751 or 2-1198

TOYS
TELEVISION
FRIGIDAIRES
CAMERAS, RADIOS
PENS AND PENCILS
LUGGAGE, RECORDS
BASKING APPLIANCES
LEATHER SUITCASES, ETC.
ALL KINDS SHOE GOODS
Virtually Everything in Elmira's Most
Interesting Store
ARMS COMPANY
111 W. Main Street
Elmira, N. Y.