



Bishop Casey's Appointments

DECEMBER

- 2 Friday—Nazareth Academy—Holy Hour—2:00 p.m.
- 3 Saturday—Holy Redeemer Hall — Address, Opening Parish Building Campaign—3:30 p.m.
- 6 Tuesday—St. Peter and Paul's — Closing Procession, Forty Hours—7:45 p.m.
- 8 Thursday—Cathedral Hall — Men's Club Christmas Party—8:30 p.m.
- 11 Monday—Cathedral Hall — Rosary Guild Christmas Party—8:15 p.m.
- 18 Sunday—Sacred Heart Cathedral — Christmas Pageant—7:45 p.m.
- 21 Saturday—Sacred Heart Cathedral—Pontifical Low Mass of Thanksgiving—7:45 p.m.

Revision Of Attitudes, Not Just Of Rites

Talking about Holy Week in the middle of Advent may seem to be quite out of place. And the recently reported revision of Holy Week's ritual may also seem to the cynics as a remarkable way to waste time when the world is in need of urgent spiritual help.

Whether we are in Advent, Lent, or Easter season, Holy Week remains the focus and central fact of all Christian worship. We abstain every Friday because of Good Friday. We go to Mass every Sunday because of Christ's resurrection which took place on Easter Sunday. Every week is to some extent a Holy Week, and we will better understand the rest of the year in proportion as we understand Holy Week itself.

During this coming Holy Week of 1956, Catholics will be able to take part in a series of ceremonies that are more understandable. Pope Pius XII has cut through the accumulated customs of several centuries and made the Holy Week rites easier for the people to attend and take part in them.

In the past, these ceremonies have been sort of a "super spiritual spectacular" which impressed people by their length and complexity if in no other way. Church rites were never intended to be pious mystification, however. They are tools whereby the Church teaches and by means of which the devout Catholic can express his devotion.

Our Holy Father has given us the revised ritual in plenty of time so we can study it and prepare for it.

In 1951, the Pope gave the first hint of what he had in mind. At that time, he authorized a more realistic observance of Holy Saturday. Facts of five years indicate that his program met with faint enthusiasm.

For 1956, this same Vicar of Christ extends the revision to include all of Holy Week. The Holy Father has decreed this change simply as a toy for the amusement of people who prefer to idle away their leisure in church. The Church's rites are meant to have profound meaning and purpose for all Catholics — priests, workingmen, housewives, office girls, children, aged folk, intellectuals, and everybody. The new arrangement is also not just "another way" of "performing" a ceremony.

The revision of Holy Week's rites will entail also a revision of our attitudes and hide-bound habits of doing the Church's ceremonies. It will involve re-educating ourselves to the realities we have overlooked and neglected. It will mean following the Pope not only with our words of allegiance but with an enthusiasm and sincerity thus far too often lacking.

History By Federal Permit

During the past week, newspapermen were given copies of "uncorrected galley proofs" of pertinent data on the 1945 Yalta Conference. The U. S. State Department published a history of the Conference last March but the just released and still not published records add another 60,000 words to the original story. Why these details, amounting in length to a good size popular novel, were suppressed in March no one has yet explained.

Senator Styles Bridges has asked for a Senate investigation of the State Department's suppression and falsification of facts published thus far about Yalta.

The Yalta Conference launched the Soviet empire on its free wheeling conquest of nearly a third of the world's population. Roosevelt and Churchill exchanged free people for Russia's unneeded aid in the Pacific phase of World War II.

According to reports, the recently released details describe Alger Hiss' previously unreported personal and private contacts with Soviet leaders including Molotov. It is also stated that Roosevelt bribed Russia to enter the war against Japan by offering highly secret military equipment, such as a cruiser with full radar. And this "bribe" was offered despite Russia's promise of two years previous that the Red forces would move against Japan as soon as Germany was defeated. To keep their promised word the Reds had to be coaxed into doing it at the cost of fabulous military supplies.

Other conferences where the "big three" met to shape the course of war and peace took place at Cairo, Teheran, and Potsdam. Thus far, the State Department has refused Congressional demands to publish details on these meetings and the American public is still in the dark as to what our leaders bargained away on these occasions.

We know that the Soviets hire historians to falsify facts and turn their history books into fiction. Our own country is presently being treated to a similar technique of suppression and distortion on the flimsy excuse of Secretary Dulles that revealing the full truth "might have done harm."

If our history books and newspapers adopt the philosophy of such standards of ethics and convenient truth, we would do better not to do any reading anymore.

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JOSEPH BREIG

How To Improve The UN

People continue to ask, "What can WE do about world peace?" One thing we ought to do is become informed on the subject.

That point was stressed recently by the Catholic Association for International Peace, which is affiliated with National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Le is of greatest importance, said CIAP, "to promote an informed public opinion" about successful functioning of the UN.

THE CIAP FOR YEARS has been urging review and revision of the UN Charter.

Now the U.S., supported by other nations, has asked that a 15-nation UN committee be selected to pave the way for Charter Review Conference.

Such a conference, says the CIAP, should be called "as soon as possible"—perhaps two years hence.

The CIAP suggests three areas in which charter amendments are needed.

1. International control of mass-destruction weapons, and eventual elimination of war.

2. Curbing of the veto power so that all qualified nations may join UN. This would enable UN to act more effectively against aggression, both by conciliation and economic pressure.

3. Further development of a code of international law.

The CIAP reminds us that not only the Poles, but also our American bishops, have spoken out on this subject.

Just after UN was established, the bishops noted that it had certain weaknesses.

THEY URGED that these defects be corrected through charter revision.

International society, the bishops emphasized, has rights and duties which the nations are morally bound to respect.

To protect those rights, and to insure performance of those duties, it is necessary, the bishops said, to create "a sound institutional organization of the international life."

This organization, they said, should be universal, democratic, and competent to enact into positive law the principles of the moral law as they apply to international life.

Pope XII also has spoken repeatedly in the same vein. He has pointed to the Natural Law (the universal moral law of man's nature) as the basis for international law and order.

CERTAIN SPECIFIC problems suggest themselves for study in any UN Charter Review Conference.

Should the big powers give up their veto power in the Security Council?

If they don't, how can the UN be given real peace-keeping powers?

On the other hand, should big powers have more than one vote in the UN Assembly, seeing that they represent great numbers of people?

What should be done to help underdeveloped nations to develop themselves?

What about the legitimate desire of dependent peoples for independence and self-government?

There are a great many such problems, and we ought to know enough about them to throw the weight of our opinion on the side of justice.

THE CIAP ALSO stresses that we should increasingly support the UN economic and social agencies — the Food and Agriculture Organization, for instance; the International Children's Fund; UNESCO, and so on.

They have been doing great work, says CIAP, in defending human rights and promoting better economic and social order.

Finally, CIAP reminds us that although the UN has not achieved permanent peace, nevertheless it has served as a world forum and has brought into open discussion "problems which might otherwise have provoked conflict."

It is our task, says CIAP, "to strengthen the UN, to remove the obstacles to its success, to support its work in relieving poverty and eliminating disease, and in fostering new social and economic growth in the world."

English Bishop Vatican City (VNC) — Bishop George Andrew Beck, A. A., of Brentwood, England, has been transferred to the Salford diocese, succeeding the late Bishop Henry V. Marshall who died in April, 1955.



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS "eye's retina" POPE PIUS XII saw Christ POPE PIUS V saw Lepanto

Theologian Explains Miraculous Image Enabled Pope Pius To See Christ

By THOMAS F. DOYLE
Staff Writer, N.C.W.C. News Service

The vision reportedly seen by His Holiness Pope Pius XII was not the actual, glorified Body of Christ, but only a replica miraculously formed in the Pontiff's retina.

This was stated by one of America's foremost ascetical and mystical theologians after the Holy See had confirmed a report that the Holy Father revealed that Christ appeared to him last December 2, when he seemed close to death. It was after this that the Pope began what many have considered a miraculous recovery.

Father Pascal P. Parente, a professor in the School of Theology of the Catholic University of America, said: "It is the common opinion of theologians, following the teaching of St. Thomas Aquinas, that when the Lord is said to have appeared in a vision, it is not the same Body that ascended into Heaven, but a replica formed miraculously in the retina and imagination of the seer."

Father Parente said that mystical manifestations such as that experienced by Pope Pius have been a frequent occurrence among saints and others ever since the Church was established. "But," he added, "the present instance is unique because never before has a successor of St. Peter revealed a personal experience of this kind."

"It is my own personal belief that there was also a location of the Pope actually experienced a real apparition, or sensitive vision," Father Parente said.

HE RECALLED that before Pope Pius was elected, he had been known in Rome as "the ascetical Cardinal." It was his habit to recite the Divine Office on his knees.

The priest said the prayer, "Soul of Christ, sanctify me," which the Pope was reported to have been reciting at the time of the apparition is attributed to St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus, and is found in every

prayerbook for the thanksgiving after Holy Communion. "Naturally," Father Parente said, "an apparition of Christ will always commend the interest of the entire Catholic world. However, we should not assume that the vision seen by Pope Pius was the only one of its kind experienced by the Popes, because there were so many saintly Pontiffs of whose lives we know little or nothing. "All we can say is that there are no records of other Popes being given this privilege. We have to remember that authentic historical Church records did not begin until the early Middle Ages. But before that, many saintly Pontiffs may well have experienced apparitions."

WHILE THERE is no record of apparitions of Christ to other Popes beside St. Peter and Pope Pius XII, Father Parente said, there are many instances of other celestial visions attributed to Popes. Some, he said, are recorded in history, others are simply legendary.

Among the first group, he stated, is the case of St. Pius V, who had a vision of the Blessed Virgin when he was in Rome in 1571 while it was taking place. The Pope saw the Christian fleet triumph over the Turks, and announced the victory several days before the news was able to reach Rome.

Father Parente pointed out that the Office of the Feast (November 23) of Pope St. Clement I (88-97) recalls that when his third successor of St. Peter was exiled to Greece by the Emperor Trajan he had a vision of Christ, not in the Saviour's human form, but in that of a Lamb. It occurred while he and 2,000 other Christians were being forced to work in a marble quarry. They suffered from a lack of water until the vision directed them to a spring on the summit of a hill.

This miraculous event is commemorated in the apex of the Church of St. Clement in Rome with a mosaic, the central figure of which is a lamb with a halo

around its head, Father Parente said.

HE RECALLED also the legend of Pope Liberius (352-366), who was said to have had a dream of the Blessed Virgin which led him to build the present great Basilica of St. Mary Major on the Esquiline Hill in Rome, where snow had fallen during the month of August.

Another instance, Father Parente said, concerned Pope St. Paschal I (817-824), who had a vision in which St. Cecilia, one of the early Roman martyrs, guided him to her tomb in the catacombs which had been concealed by a wall built in front of it.

Father Parente said St. Peter was already the acknowledged head of the Church when Christ appeared to him, as related in the Gospels. There is also a legend, he stated, that St. Peter had already been 25 years in Rome when Christ again appeared to him after the Pope had been advised by the Christians to leave the Eternal City and thus avoid the fury of the Emperor Nero.

On the Appian Way, St. Peter is supposed to have met with Our Lord bearing the Cross, on his shoulders and going toward Rome. "Domine, quo vadis? (Lord, where are you going?)," Peter asked, only to receive the reply: "I am going to Rome to be crucified again for you." It was this apparition that caused Peter to return to Rome, where he was destined to be crucified head down.

A church was built on the spot of the legendary apparition, and it still stands there under the name, Domine, Quo Vadis.

Daily Mass Calendar

- Sunday, December 4 — Second Sunday of Advent (purple), no Gloria, 2nd prayer of St. Chrysostom, 3rd of St. Barbara, Creed, Trinity Preface.
- Monday, December 5 — Mass as yesterday, except 2nd prayer of St. Sabas, 3rd for Faithful Departed, 4th of Blessed Virgin, Common Preface.
- Tuesday, December 6 — St. Nicholas, confessor (white), Gloria, 2nd prayer of Sunday.
- Wednesday, December 7 — St. Ambrose, confessor (white), Gloria, 2nd prayer of Sunday, 3rd of Vigil, Creed, Last Gospel of Vigil.
- Thursday, December 8 — Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (white), Gloria, 2nd prayer of Sunday, Creed, Preface of our Lady.
- Friday, December 9 — Mass as yesterday, except 3rd prayer of Holy Spirit.
- Saturday, December 10 — Mass as Thursday, except 3rd prayer of St. Melchisedech.

BOOK SHELF

By Sister Margaret Teresa, Nazareth College

LOVE DOES SUCH THINGS, by Rev. M. Raymond, O.C.S.O., Bruce '55, 124 pp., 8 color reproductions of masterpieces, \$4.95. At Tucker's, Trant's and all Catholic bookstores.

CATCH US THOSE LITTLE FOXES, by a Carmelite Nun, 95 pp., Regency '55, \$1.50.

Father Raymond's Christmas book is unique. From the bright jacket with Barocchia's dainty pink-robed Madonna to the last word of the snowy pages, with their red initials slowly spelling out S-A-V-I-O-R, he has made a book for grown-ups that restores to them the glow and wonder of childhood. The format may or may not be important. It does seem that the Christmas reds and golds and the Christ-lit stable of this book on its sparkling plastic case are a warm promise, but such promises are not usually fulfilled in superabundance. This time it happens.

HERE IS THE whole story of God's making man, rescuing man, shaping the cave of the Nativity with rain and wind through the centuries, planning our joy. Here is the secret of the special devotion of the angels, who wanted to undo the harm caused by one of their number. Here is even one's first acquaintance with — the Angel of New York State!

These are talks on happiness, all these chapters — rich as Christmas-cake out of Heaven, and good to the last crumb. A

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The Real Santa Claus

T. NICHOLAS' FEAST DAY, Tuesday, December 6, is one of the highlights of the Advent season. "Good St. Nick" has become parodied and commercialized to such an extent that hardly anyone recognizes that Santa Claus is really a bishop and a saint.

Instead of his usual red jacket and tasseled cap, Santa Claus should be garbed in cope and mitre.

About the only country which still recognizes Santa as a bishop is little Holland. In that land of dikes and windmills children put their wooden shoes on the fireplace hearth for the happy bishop to fill on his feast day.

When the Dutch settled in the New World, they brought their "Sinter-Klaas" with them and his name has been Americanized to "Santa Claus." And instead of wooden shoes, children now hang their stockings at the fireplace for the jolly saint to fill with gifts.

Many Christian parents are concerned these days about the gift-complex of current Christian customs. Some have tried to emphasize St. Nicholas' feast day as the day of presents and hanging of stockings at the mantle-piece.

That makes it easier to emphasize Christmas as the holy day of our Savior's birth, and gifts received on this feast are from the Christ Child and His angels. In this way, St. Nicholas is recognized as a holy bishop and he doesn't crowd out the Christ Child later in the month.

TRADITION RELATES that Nicholas was born in Asia Minor but orphaned at an early age.

His parents, however, had left him a sizable fortune. He was a pious young Christian so he split his funds three ways: one part for himself, a second for Masses for his parents, and a third for charitable purposes.

Hardly had Nicholas decided how he would regulate his finances when he had an opportunity to test his sincerity.

A man in his home town lost all his money as a result of an unwise business venture, leaving him with no dowry funds for his three daughters.

When Nicholas heard of their predicament, he took a bag of gold coins and tossed it by night through the open window of his friend's house.

The eldest daughter had her dowry and was properly wedded. After the first wedding, Nicholas returned with another bag of coins, and the second wedding was soon announced. The father of the brides still did not know who the secret benefactor was.

On his third mission of mercy, Nicholas was spotted and recognized.

In the course of centuries, the three coin bags of St. Nicholas have turned into Santa Claus' bag of toys. It is also said that the three golden spheres outside a pawnbroker's shop represent the three bags of gold of St. Nicholas. Medieval pawnbrokers adopted him as their patron saint and chose their symbol on that basis.

Nicholas was ordained a priest and later became Bishop of the city of Myra.

BISHOP NICHOLAS is believed to have attended the first great Council of the Church which was held in the year 325 in Nicea. It was at this council that the bishops formulated the Nicene Creed still said at Mass every Sunday and major feast day.

Enemies of the faith imprisoned the saint for a time but a reported apparition of Jesus and Mary brought about his escape. It is written of Nicholas that



ST. NICHOLAS Children's Favorite

he spent hours each night in prayer, sometimes allowing himself only two hours of sleep. He never ate meat, and had only one meal each day. During that meal, he had a cleric read Scripture to him.

Early biographers of the saint recount several events, perhaps exaggerated by legend, but which indicate his extremely generous nature.

One such story tells how three young boys were on their way to Athens to complete their education. They lodged at an inn on their way, and the innkeeper brutally killed them to obtain their tuition money. He hid their bodies in a tub intending to get rid of them when convenient.

St. Nicholas restored the boys to life and brought the murderer to justice. Statues and paintings of St. Nicholas often depict the saint standing beside three boys in a tub.

BOOK MANUSCRIPTS inform us that Nicholas died in the year 342 and was buried in his cathedral at Myra.

Asia Minor was conquered by Saracens in 1034 and the Christian faith prohibited. The cathedral was abandoned and gradually became a gaunt ruin.

In 1897, the saint's relics were brought to Bari in Italy where they are still preserved in a church built specially to enshrine them.

St. Nicholas is the recognized patron of Russia, Sicily, Greece, Limerick and Lorraine. He is also patron of merchants, travelers, butchers, and pawnbrokers.

In former times, nearly every church in Asia had a shrine or statue in his honor. Nearly 3,000 parish churches in Europe are dedicated in his honor.

Two churches in the Rochester diocese bear his name: St. Nicholas Syrian Church, Remington St., Rochester, and St. Nicholas Ukrainian Church, Horseheads Blvd., Elmira Heights.

There is a clear and simple answer to the wide-eyed wondering youngster who asks, "Daddy, is there really a Santa Claus?"

"Yes, my dear, there is a Santa Claus! St. Nicholas is very real and very dear to the Christ Child, and to all children."

"St. Nicholas wants you to be happy at Christmas time and forever in heaven. I think we ought to celebrate his own special feast day on Tuesday to help us get ready for the birthday feast of Jesus on Christmas."

SUNDAY SERMON

Second Sunday of Advent

In listening to the Scripture readings at Sunday Mass, we tend to think of them as stories that happened long ago. It is true that the events did occur in the distant past but the message given in those events has practical meaning in our own day and lives.

THE GOSPEL for this Sunday is Christ's tribute to St. John the Baptist.

John had sent his friends to ask Christ the question, "Art thou he who is to come?"

JESUS THEN cites his miracles, "the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear." These fulfill the ancient prophecies which foretold what the Savior would do.

More Than A Prophet

Neither was John interested in soft living or self-indulgence. He was supremely interested in only one thing — to be Christ's "messenger," to help the people get ready for Christ.

We as Catholics are supposed to play John's role in the world of today. We are expected to prepare our associates by our example and lives so they too can know the truth and grace of God.

If we compare our way of life with his comforts, compromises, and surrenders next to the rigorous life of St. John, then we see how far from the ideal we really are. The Church does not select this Gospel to discourage us, however. It is meant as a reminder. Just as John prepared the world of his day for Christ's coming, so now it is up to you and me to prepare our world for Christ.

By prayer, penance, and a constant effort to shape our characters in Christian virtue, we will bit by bit become like St. John himself, a messenger, a prophet, a spokesman for God in a world which needs to hear Him.

Greek Banknote Depicts Apostle

Athens—(RNS)—A new 500,000 drachma banknote just issued by the Greek Treasury bears a representation of the Apostle Paul preaching to the Athenians from famed Mars Hill.

The note is worth about \$16.60 at the current exchange rate.