



Venezuela Christmas Customs

Christmas customs vary from country to country. In Venezuela — where Christmas comes in summer time — the holiday is observed by roller skating in the streets and with big banquets featuring spicy foods like "hallacas" — fruits and vegetables wrapped in banana leaves. A novena of "aguinaldo"

Masses starts Dec. 16 at 4 a.m. and climaxes with midnight Masses starts Dec. 16 at 4 a.m. and climaxes with midnight Mass Christmas. Aquinaldo is the Venezuelan name for their rhythmic carols. (Creole Co. Photo).

Notre Dame High Notes

By JEANNINE LAWTON and JOAN DALY

The traditional Golden Mass, donated by the American Legion, was celebrated at Notre Dame High School, Elmira on Dec. 17, the Ember Wednesday. Dating back to our early Catholic ancestors who shared their crops with the poor, this beautiful custom has come down in a modernized form.

The Sodality assigned each homeroom a needy family to supply with food and gifts. At the Mass a financial donation was offered to supply the perishables put in each basket.

Ronald Richardson with a group of helpers took care of auditorium arrangements. Kathleen Sheridan and her committee will see that the baskets get packed efficiently, and Michael Yanovick will line up cars to deliver the baskets on Dec. 23.

With great solemnity the Mass procession included Bernard Coffey, prefect of the Sodality, as Cross Bearer. Walter Bulas, Randy Painton, Thomas Crowley and Michael Delaney acted as Torch Bearers. Servers and acolytes appointed were Michael Tardy, Joseph Zimmunsky, William Delaney and John O'Leary.

Christmas Meeting Set By Ithaca Rosarians

Ithaca — Rosary and Altar Society of Immaculate Conception parish, Ithaca will hold its Christmas meeting on Monday, Dec. 22, in parish hall following Benediction and recitation of the rosary in church at 7:45 p.m.

"The Christmas Story," a play of shadow scenes depicting the Nativity will be presented by public school children who attend religious education classes taught by the Mission Helpers of the Sacred-Heart. Junior and senior high school girls will sing Christmas Carols.

Society members who wish may provide a gift for a child to be distributed to the poor at Christmas and are reminded to bring them to this meeting unwrapped but with wrappings provided. The gifts will be wrapped at the Mission Center.

Refreshments for the social

Wanda Circle Sets Christmas Party

Women of Wanda Circle of St. Casimir Church, Elmira will conduct a Christmas party, Sunday, Dec. 21 at 6 p.m. in the school hall. Gifts will be exchanged.

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Mary Haag Named Top CDA Member

By HELEN A. BROSNAN

Owego — Mary Haag, a member of Court St. Rose of Lima, Catholic Daughters of America, was chosen the outstanding "Catholic Daughter of 1958," it was announced at the annual Christmas dinner held by the members of the court on Dec. 11, at the American Legion Home, Front St.

Mrs. Sally Kimball was toastmistress and introduced Rev. William E. O'Brien, pastor of St. Patrick's and chaplain of the court and Rev. Michael L. Reagan, assistant pastor, both of whom spoke briefly.

Mrs. Kimball also introduced Mrs. Alice Ward, who announced the Catholic Daughter award. Miss Haag was presented with an orchid and a Rosary.

The High Mass will be said at 8:30 a.m.

MIDNIGHT MASS

Owego — Midnight Mass will be celebrated in St. Patrick's Church, Rev. William J. O'Brien will be celebrant. Music for the Mass will be furnished by a choir under the direction of Mrs. Anna Meade, organist.

For the Mass the Introit by Rossini will be sung by the choir as well as the Kyrie and Gloria from the Mass of the Nativity by Dobbela; Gradual by Rossini. The Credo, Gregorian IV, Offertory, Rossini; supplementary Offertory, Adeest Fidelis, arranged by Krueck; Communion by Rossini. The recessional, O Little Town of Bethlehem. Other Masses will be at 7, 8:30 and 10 a.m. on Christmas Day. A High Mass will be offered at midnight in St. Margaret Mary's Church, Apalachin, and other Masses in the mission church will be at 8 and 10 a.m.

NEXT WEEK the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade will promote a day of prayer and sacrifice for the Missions. Expedition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held all day in the school chapel and Benediction offered by Father Joseph F. Hogan, school chaplain, in the auditorium ninth period.

In sponsoring the prayer movement at the last meeting of the C.S.M.C., senior Martin McCarthy spoke for the missions of Africa and dedicated the seniors' efforts toward those missions. Mary Jane Esdale urged all juniors to concentrate on the Oriental missions. Robert Griffin, sophomore, spoke in behalf of the missions in the United States while freshman Patricia Dimon reminded all her classmates to pray for the Latin American missions.

THURSDAY was a big day in oratory at Notre Dame. Six fi-

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GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

PAGANS FIGURE more prominently in the Christmas story than the Jews. First, it was a pagan Emperor, Caesar Augustus, who became the instrument of God for fulfilling the old prophecy of Micah that God would become man in the village of Bethlehem. Little did the Roman Caesar Augustus know that when he ordered everyone in the Empire to enroll in his own city, that Joseph and Mary, who belonged to the royal line of King David, would have to journey to David's birthplace of Bethlehem to register.

THEN TOO, there were the three pagan Wise Men who traveled across a desert to find Wisdom cradled in a manger. Though Simon was a Jew, he told Mary that the Divine Child would be a "Light to the Gentiles." Even the Angels who announced the Birth of Jesus to the shepherds said that the Babe came to bring peace to "men who are God's friends." This opened salvation not to one race or people, but to all who were willing to receive the Gift of God.

WHY DID THE PAGANS figure so prominently in the First Christmas? If it was not to give promise to what we know today as the mission lands? If God used the pagan Augustus, who killed three hundred Senators, to bring Mary to Bethlehem, why could He not use Mao of China, who killed three hundred missionaries, to prepare the way for Christ in China? If God used a star to bring the Kings of the East to the crib, why could He not bring the tribal kings of Africa to the King of Kings?

SHALL WE WHO kneel at the manger at Christmas embrace the Shepherd who are of "our own country" and ignore the Wise Men who came in distant mission lands to seek the Wisdom of God in the flesh? Would not you regard the crib in your Church or your house at Christmas a blurred picture of the truth if only the Shepherds were there and not the Magi? Have you celebrated Christmas by giving gifts to those who are at home while forgetting the Japanese, the Koreans, the Africans, the Indians who are still following the star? After all, it was the mission land visitors who brought gifts to the Child; there is no evidence the Shepherds brought a lamb.

HOW EMBARRASSING it is at Christmas to receive a beautiful gift from Aunt Rebecca knowing that you failed to send her even a card. But to those who are "God's friends" it is more embarrassing to have forgotten the pagans from the mission lands. Make up for it now; sit-down and send gold to the Vicar of Christ through his Society for the Propagation of the Faith, by burning the frankincense of worship to the Babe while offering the myrrh of sacrifice. You gave gifts to all your children; why not gifts to all God's children, even those in the foreign-missions.

GOD LOVE YOU to Mr. and Mrs. E.S.H. "I am making it my business to give to the missions every Christmas. Here is \$5. . . to C.T. for \$10 "I saved this by not eating in a restaurant on a recent trip." . . . to Anon, for \$2 "Whenever I spend, I look for a bargain; even when the money is for charity. Accept my thanks for providing me with a bargain that just can't be beat!" . . . GOD LOVE YOU to all those who send their Christmas Club money to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

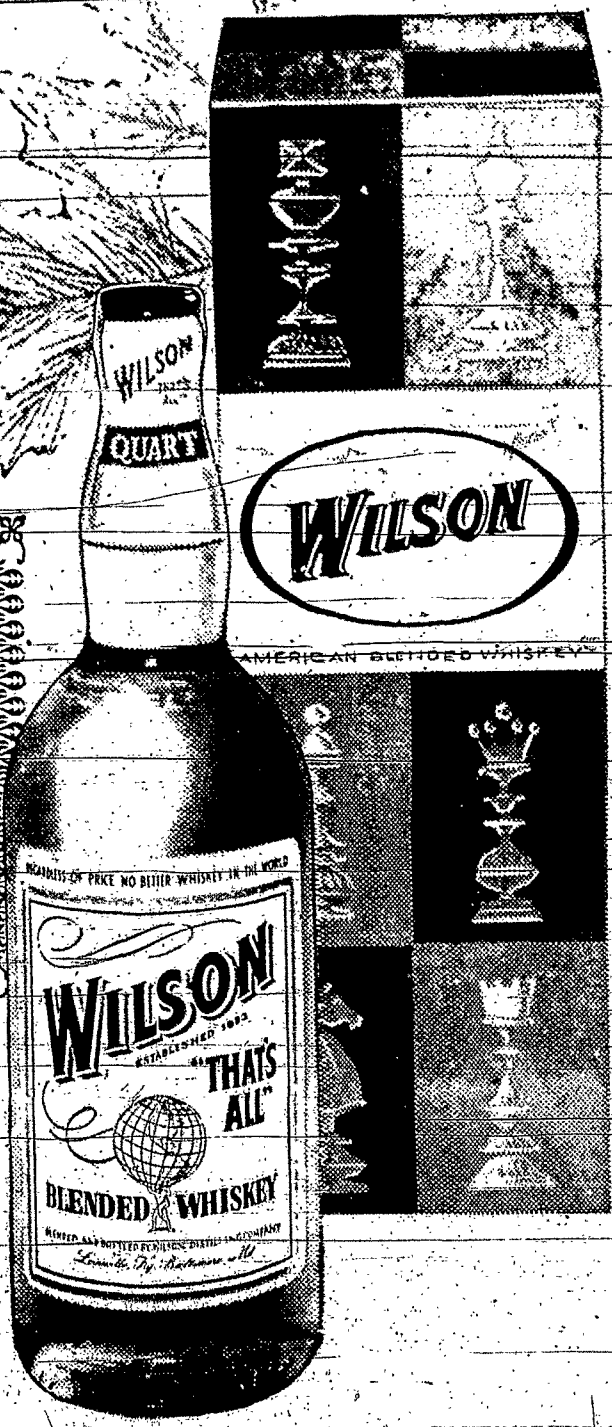
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