

Advent Program

ARTHRTIS?

I have been wonderfully blessed in being able to return to active life after suffering from head to foot with muscular soreness and pain. Most all joints seemed affected. According to medical diagnosis, I had Rheumatoid Arthritis, Rheumatism and Bursitis. For free information write

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At Notre Dame

Notre Dame — Two hundred fifty midwest colleges will converge on the University of Notre Dame campus for the 7th annual Advent Symposium to be held here Dec. 48. "The Student and the World Mission" will be the theme of the meeting which is sponsored by the National Catholic Action Study Bureau of the National Federation of Catholic College Students.



At Our House . . .

Antidote To Commercialism

By MARY TINLEY DALY

Advent 1959 — no mention in this column of an annual subject, the Advent Wreath.

Did we get letters? We got lots and lots of letters. Many asked for instructions on wreath-making; others, its symbolism; still other, "Don't you believe in it any more?"

Typical was one from Mrs. F.X.G. of Illinois "You let me down, Mary. I promised my family an Advent wreath the way I knew you'd describe it."

Sorry, Mrs. F.X.G. and other interested readers. I thought that the subject has been exhausted. Evidently not.

LIKE ALL CHRISTMAS and pre-Christmas customs, this one bears repeating, showing a desire to establish liturgical customs into family tradition.

As to "believing in" the Advent wreath, it's not a matter of faith and morals by any means — merely outward sign of a consciousness of what the coming of Christmas means, a joyful welcome of the birth of Christ.

Certainly as a family custom, the Advent wreath has its place during those four weeks when commercialism screams and endeavors to take a stranglehold on America. Newspapers, radio, television — all media of communication — are out to sell — to make Christmas Day a sort of deadline before which the theme song is a perpetual "buy-buy."

A serenely simple Advent wreath, encased as part of family decor during those otherwise hectic weeks serves as a symbol of the spiritual meaning of Christmas. When the family gathers each evening at dinner, says a prayer, minds and hearts are attuned to a higher spirit than what-to-get-Aunt-Nelle, or what-I-gonna-get?

As to the wreath itself. Don't be afraid of it! It has nothing whatsoever to do with the Sacraments, nor even of the sacramentals, except that it may be blessed with holy water.

Essentially, it is this: round, signifying eternal life, preferably of living greenery, with four white candles, symbol of the years before Christ and the four weeks of Advent. The roundness can be achieved by chicken wire, or almost anything.

At our house we go for a round aluminum jelly pan, covered on the outside by a glitter fringe bought at the five and ten. The pan is filled with wet sand and tender sprigs of ivy and outdoor bushes are stuck in and take root. Please try to make it pretty!

The wreath may be suspended from the ceiling, by purple ribbons as they do in monasteries; but somewhat impractical in the ordinary home. It can be used as a centerpiece at table. In this case, you tie purple ribbon bows (symbol of

penance) at the base of each candle.

Candles, to last the distance of four weeks, might be lighted only during dessert; otherwise, they have to be replaced in mid-Advent, thus disturbing the continuity of the tradition.

ON THE SATURDAY evening before the first Sunday of Advent, family assembled, the father sprinkles the wreath with holy water and says: "Our help is in the name of the Lord."

All answer, "Who hath made heaven and earth."

Father then says: "Let us pray. O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Who livest and reignest forever."

All answer with an "Amen" as they do at the close of the prayer all during Advent.

The youngest child able to understand the assignment, then lights the first candle which is burned during a stipulated period each night of the first week.

Starting the second week, the oldest child lights two candles. Prayed said by the father: "O my in Sacred Heart Cathedral, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds. Who livest and reignest forever."

Third week, the mother lights three candles and the father says: "O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Who livest and reignest forever."

Fourth week, all four candles are lighted by the father and the prayer: "O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and give us, with great might and grace, to await the coming of Thy Son. Who livest and reignest forever."

These prayers, you notice, are the collects from the Masses of the Sundays of Advent. If you forget the prayers, just consult your missal. They're right there.

This is a good way to inaugurate the Advent wreath ceremony into your home. Everything is short and easy, without truly reverent.

At our house the "kids in the middle" felt left out so, making our own rule book, we shifted candle lighting around: next-to-oldest-child, etc.

Let everybody get into the act and enjoy that Advent wreath!



Theatre News

Trapp Family

By EUPHEMIA WYATT

EUPHEMIA WYATT

When the Trapp family fled from the Nazi invaders of Austria their only capital was the God-given gift of their singing voices. For years Baroness Trapp toured this country with the eight young Trapps until the war claimed the boys and marriage the girls.

Now they are settled in Stowe, Vermont on a farm available for visitors, with skiing in winter and singing in all seasons but I wonder if they ever envisioned the capitalization of their family gifts in SOUND OF MUSIC, the musical of the season with its two million advance sale; with Lindsay and Crouse as the dramatists; Rodgers and Hammerstein for music and lyrics and Mary Martin as the Baroness in her youth.

It shows the theatre's kindly indifference to age that as Miss Martin grows older her parts become younger. Ten years ago in SOUTH PACIFIC, Miss Martin was an adult Army nurse, now she is a very young postulant whose irrepressible habit of singing wherever she is causes the Mother Abbess to send Maria as governess to Baron von Trapp's seven orphan children.

How she wins their hearts, teaches them to sing and rescues the Baron from the beautiful Viennese widow who is planning collaboration with the Nazis is the crux of the play which closes on the suspense of the Trapps hiding in the Abbey with the Gestapo at their heels and the flight by night over the mountain with Maria leading the way.

The rich sets by Oliver Smith bring the mountains close to the audience as well as the dignity of the old Abbey where Patricia Neway's fine voice and charm assure sympathy for the Abbess who is so understanding of Maria. As the Baron, who is also a Captain in the Austrian Navy, Theodore Bikel's authority and strong voice counteract



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MRS. JEREMIAH CLANCY Clancy-Petix Nuptials Held

Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey received the vows of Miss Joan Petix and Jeremiah Clancy at the couple's wedding ceremony in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26 at 11 a.m.

The Nuptial Mass was celebrated by the Rev. George S. Wood, diocesan director, Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

The bride was attended by Mrs. Sam Genca, her sister, as matron of honor and Mrs. Stephen Petix, Jr., her sister-in-law, as bridesmaid. Junior bridesmaids were Joanne Gail and Jean Marie Genca, twin nieces of the bride. Clancy was his brother, Alfred Clancy with Edward Joyce, cousin of the groom, Sanford Petix, the bride's brother, and George Charlebois, as ushers.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Petix, son of 2097 Lake Ave. and the groom's parents were the late Mr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Clancy.

Wright, French Nuptials Held

Waterloo — Miss Mary Elizabeth Wright, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Percy Wright, 19 Seneca St., became the bride of Romulus Joseph French, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph French, 26 Ingle St. in St. Mary's Church on Nov. 21 at 12 o'clock noon.

The pastor, Rev. James F. O'Connell, officiated at the double ring wedding ceremony with Rev. George E. Gorman, assistant pastor in attendance. Mrs. William Sisson was matron of honor and Miss Ella Dawn Getman was maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Miss Anita French, sister of the groom, Mrs. Paul Butler, Mrs. Frank Urbano and Mrs. William Warren.

Thomas French, brother of the groom, was best man and the ushers were James Wright, brother of the bride, Peter French, William Sisson, Michael Chiodo and Samuel Cordovani.

Ave Maria Editor Dies

Notre Dame — Funeral services were held in Sacred Heart Church here today (Saturday) for Rev. Patrick J. Carroll, C.S.C., 84, former vice president of the University of Notre Dame and longtime editor of THE AVE MARIA.

A priest for more than 59 years, Father Carroll was the third oldest member of the Holy Cross Fathers' Indiana Province. He was one of a very few Notre Dame priests who was at the University during the lifetime of its founder, Rev. Edward F. Sorin, C.S.C., who died in 1893.

Schools OK'd For Church Ceremonies

Tallahassee — (RNS) — Public schools may be used as temporary places of worship during hours when school is not in session, the Florida Supreme Court ruled here.

The ruling upheld a Duval Circuit Court (Jacksonville) decision which dismissed a complaint of a group of Protestant churches and individuals against the Duval Board of School Trustees for allowing a Catholic church group to use the Southside Estates Elementary school as a temporary place of worship.

Plaintiffs argued that permitting religious groups to use the school building was an indirect contribution of public assistance and thus violated the state constitution.

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