

At Our House®

Merry Christmas, Father!

By MARY TINLEY DALY

"Twenty-one shopping days until Christmas."

This you read in your morning paper, the entire count-down designed to stimulate the "buy-buy" spirit. After all, 21 "shopping days" make three whole weeks, so why get panicky?

Last year, when this column printed a "What to get for Sister" treatment, there was a veritable bombardment on a kindred subject. The requests had to do with "What Father would like," — the parish priest, counselor, confessor, spiritual adviser, friend or relative in the priesthood.

"It's hard enough," Mrs. R.G.S. wrote, "to get a suitable present for each of the men on our list, but when some of them are priests, what can you do? For the others, one can always resort to neckties, but — give Roman collars?"

ON THE HEELS of that, came this:

"Our pastor, God bless him, has been a true friend, a bulwark for our family. This year we would have been on the rocks without his sage counsel. Honestly, we never can repay him, but we should like to say 'Thank you, Father' in some way at Christmas time. Can you suggest a present for a priest? We are not wealthy, but we — my husband, children and I want to give our pastor something that will be meaningful, right from our hearts."

Unfortunately, most of the letters came too late, last year, to line up "what Father would like," what he would have included in his letter to Santa Claus.

Paraphrasing the popular commercial, it was decided to go to "the man who is one," a priest.

MATTER OF fact, several priests were visited and interviewed. Here are some suggestions from those consulted. By and large, we believe, this makes a good cross-section: a priest-teacher, a pastor in a metropolitan center, one in a country parish, two monks.

"Books," said all of them. Priests being what they are, a well-chosen book will be a stimulant in the quiet hours, a

companion at any time. However, selection of a book is a delicate, as well as a deliberate, operation. You must know your priests, know his taste, what he likes to read.

Then, there are magazine subscriptions: to a news magazine, a sporting journal (probably baseball), to the American Ecclesiastical Review. This last has proved a Godsend to many a priest who wants to keep up with what is going on in his own field — particularly welcome to a priest who is stationed in a lonely section, far from fellow-priests.

Always in order is the brevity with its new rubrics, which will be changed again, but which priests want to have as much as their mothers want the latest cookbooks.

One newcomer into the field of suggestions is a gift the average lay person would never know about: an assemblage of printed cards, Baptismal cards: "Remembrance of the Baptism of _____," by Rev. _____, followed by the date. These are especially cherished by converts, a priest told us the other day, and from his personal experience.

There is note paper, short: "From the desk of Father _____." Also, golf balls, shaving materials (a little more on the luxurious side than Father would purchase for himself) and, as one of the monks said, "I just never have enough socks and handkerchiefs — black and white presents — unimagined, perhaps, but they're for me!"

FOR A PRIEST relative, or a dear friend, there might be the conversion of an old-time pocket watch — perhaps one owned by an ancestor — into a pyx, carrying case for the Blessed Sacrament. This is done by having the watch part removed, a firm rim of gold, that which held the watch, inserted to hold the Host, base and cover close tightly as in the original watch. This is a life-time, precious gift for any priest.

Back to the more inexpensive, but still meaningful gifts — for one must always remember the dignity of the priesthood — there are records. And priests enjoy records as much as do the rest of us. For example, the stereo "These Things I Wish for You," the Jesus and Mary Church Group, novices and Religious of Jesus and Mary under direction of Mother Marie Laetitia, R.J.M.; "Patterns in Song," the Jesus and Mary Choral Group of novices and postulants. Also, there is the Mass as recorded by a native African group, with drums — its "Sanctus" really stirring, as is the entire Mass.

There are goodies from your own kitchen, those home-made items. "Like Mother used to make." They go for these as they did when they were ten years old. And for a group of priests, as in a monastery, not the elaborate "fruit basket" arrangement, but an assemblage of fruits, nuts, cookies in a wicker basket, even in a cardboard carton, with a gay bow on top and a card "Merry Christmas, You-All!"

Here's hoping these suggestions will answer questions posed last year, and provide a starter for a "Merry Christmas, Father!" for the priest, or the priests, you wish to remember.

Concerts Set At Parishes

The Women's Choral Club will entertain the members of the Rosary Guild of St. Louis Church in Pittsford at their Christmas Party on Dec. 11. Seasonal music will be followed by a presentation of Richard Kountz's "The Wordless Story" — a Christmas Cantata.

A similar program will be presented for the members of the Altar Society at St. Helen's Church on Dec. 12.

Marie Keber Burbank is director and Violetta Jelley is accompanist. Stella T. Zawadzki is president. Soloists will be: Alice Seibold, Lillian Michels, Arlene Kilpatrick, Dolores Martin and Joyce Szatkowski.



SOLOISTS Sheila Crilly and Angela Cutri rehearse with Mrs. Helen Kondolf at the piano in preparation for the Nazareth College Glee Club Concert.

Bishop's Mass

A special Bishop's Mass and the annual Christmas performance of the Messiah will highlight this year's Christmas party for faculty and students of Nazareth College on Tuesday, Dec. 18.

BISHOP KEARNEY will be the celebrant of the 4:30 p.m. Mass in the auditorium. Students and faculty will be seated around the altar which will be placed in the center of the auditorium.

The St. Pius X Liturgical choir will sing during the Mass. During the offertory the Bishop's own arrangement of Adeste Fideles will be performed.

At 6 p.m. students will assemble in three groups for dinner. Freshmen and junior students will dine in the college cafeteria and sophomores and seniors in Medaille and Lourdes Halls. Christmas messages will be given by Bishop Kearney, Sister Barbara Ann of the Nazareth mathematics department and art instructor Ou Mi Shu.

The Christmas program will end with an 8 p.m. performance in the auditorium of the

Christmas At Nazareth

A special Bishop's Mass and the annual Christmas performance of the Messiah will highlight this year's Christmas party for faculty and students of Nazareth College on Tuesday, Dec. 18.

Mission Group Gives Report At CDA Meet

A six months report of the Mission committee of Court St. Rita, No. 137, Catholic Daughters of America, Elmira, was given at the monthly meeting Tuesday evening at the Court rooms.

Included in the 1300 lbs. that have been shipped were 22 handmade rosaries, 388 magazines, 18,339 cancelled stamps, 3,166 bandages, 15 knitted bandages, 87 hospital gowns, 4,749 compresses, 767 plastic bags, 125 plastic bottles, religious articles, clothing and 9,762 trading stamps.

RECIPIENTS of the articles: La Sallette Missions, Hartford, Conn.; Holy Rosary Mission, Pine Ridge, S. D.; Father O'Sullivan's Mission Circle, Altamont, N.Y.; Father Kellin, Napanook, N.Y.; St. Joseph's Mission, Huntsville, Ala.

Sets of vestments including the five colors have been made and sent to Bishop Dermot O'Flanagan, Diocese of Alaska; Cardinal Richard Cushing, Boston, Mass., for use in Latin America; Rev. Patrick Perjes, Marana, Arizona; Sisters of Mary, Huntsville, Ala., and Vincentian Sisters of Charity, Phenix City, Ala.

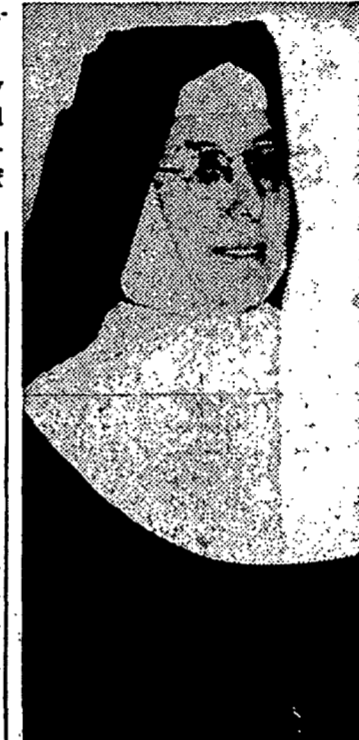
Request was made for worn sheets, white shirts, clothing and any religious articles. Anyone having articles they would like to donate please contact Miss Margaret Riebel, Mission Chairman, RE 4-8375.

Holvey-O'Brien Engagement Set

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Miss Kathleen E. O'Brien to Mr. Michael Clark Holvey of Pittsford.

Miss O'Brien, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. O'Brien, of Clyde, graduated from Nazareth College of Rochester, School of Nursing, in June, and is a Public Health Nurse for the Monroe County Department of Health.

Holvey is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Holvey, 1240 Marsh Road, and is presently attending St. John Fisher College majoring in business administration. He is a member of the United States Naval Reserve. A June wedding is planned.



SISTER BARBARA ANN

Family Rosary Radio Program

Friday, Dec. 7 — Edward Micek, St. Anne's accompanied by Kolping Society.

Saturday, Dec. 8 — Bishop Kearney accompanied by St. Patrick's Fraternity, Third Order of St. Francis.

Sunday, Dec. 9 — John R. Ward, St. Monica's accompanied by Rochester Council 178, Knights of Columbus members.

Monday, Dec. 10 — William Gaffney, St. Joseph's accompanied by Holy Name Society of that parish.

Tuesday, Dec. 11 — Joseph Reis, St. Philip Neri accompanied by Holy Name Society of that parish.

Wednesday, Dec. 12 — A representative of Holy Ghost, Coldwater Men's Club.

Thursday, Dec. 13 — Frank G. Jurlen, St. George's accompanied by Holy Name Society of that parish.

Choral Club Plans Concert In Auburn

The Women's Choral Club, under the direction of Marie Keber Burbank, will present a Sunday, Dec. 9, at 8 p.m. under ily Auditorium, Auburn, on Christmas Concert at Holy Family the sponsorship of the Holy Name Society of Holy Family Church. The program will commence with seasonal numbers and conclude with a Christmas Cantata.

Narrator for the Cantata will be Rev. Chester M. Kloeck, assistant pastor. Soloists will be: Alice Seibold, Lillian Michels, Arlene Kilpatrick, Dolores Martin and Joyce Szatkowski.

Violetta Jelley is accompanist. President is Stella T. Zawadzki and publicity chairman is Josephine M. Zawadzki.

Thomas I. Whelan is general chairman of the concert with Louis J. Nolan as co-chairman. James H. Condron, president of the Holy Name Society, honorary chairman. Other members of the committee are: Theodore C. Bielowicz, Raymond J. Wall, Kenneth Holland and James Tracy.

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IRAN: LAND OF THE MAGI

IRAN, better known to us as Persia, evokes thought of "ARABIAN NIGHTS," priceless rugs, porcelain, elaborate gardens, and — of course, long-haired cats. Scholars think the MAGI came from there, bringing their gifts to the CHRIST CHILD... The original religion of the Persians was Zoroastrianism. The MAGI were the priests of this religion, in which the study of the stars played a great part... Once the MAGI ruled this country — hence the reference to them as KINGS when, having "seen His star in the East," they journeyed to Bethlehem on the First Christmas... Today, at HAMADAN, in Iran, a group of Chaldean Christians will celebrate the same event in their little chapel. It took them seventeen years to build it!... The first money came from American soldiers stationed there during World War II. They are proud of their chapel, but they realize that a school is necessary too if their children are to preserve their ancient faith surrounded and far outnumbered by their Mohammedan neighbors. So they ask our help... The cost is \$4,000. Their struggle has been long and painful, but, like the journey of the MAGI, no without hope... We are their hope. Will you help them? Send what you can please.

NEWS MAKING YOU JITTERY? Recall the marvelous journey of the young Tobias with his guiding angel, Raphael, who led him safely through all his difficulties... Part of the angel's advice was to give alms against the evil day. Perhaps we should take that advice and be protected as Tobias was... Why not send your alms, some small sacrifice to our Association for the missionary priests and sisters... If you mark it a STRINGLESS GIFT, we'll place it where it is most needed. Thus you can be a ministering angel to these missionary workers who are poor among the poor.

CHRISTMAS PLANS
Why not use our GIFT CARDS? Send your donation to the missions. Give us the name of a friend in whose name the donation is being given... We'll send him or her a GIFT CARD before Christmas, telling what you have done.

DURING ADVENT, please remember our missionary priests with MASS OFFERINGS. Often these are their only income... A MASS STIPEND keeps a missionary priest for one day. An old ADVENT custom has the children placing one straw each day, one sacrifice each day, in a tiny manger in readiness for the Savior's coming.

EYELESS IN GAZA... This Biblical area in Palestine is a blue, sandy strip 30 miles long and 5 miles wide, along the blue Mediterranean. 300,000 refugees from the 1948 Arab-Israeli war cluster here with no satisfactory solution yet worked out for their future by nearby countries and the United Nations... Most pathetic are the BLIND CHILDREN who lead their dreary existence close to the tomb of the mighty Samson. He too was blind, made that way by his enemies... Now comes some HOPE for these sightless little ones. A school has been started for them... Funds from our Association support it. Here the children will learn to do useful craft work... Some hold "worry beads" to quiet their restless fingers, fingers which can learn so much if they are taught. But we need help to continue this school... Kindly think of these BLIND CHILDREN OF GAZA, for if you don't, no one will.

Dear Monsignor Ryan:
Enclosed find for the mentioned above.
Name
Street Zone
City State
Near East Missions
FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN, President
Miss Joseph T. Ryan, Nat'l Secy
Send all communications to:
CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION
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