

Around the World on Christmas

Polish Prelate Says

Cincinnati — (NC) — Roast goose and plum pudding, Santa Claus and Papa Noel — these are Christmas customs in lands as far apart as Canada and Korea, or Bolivia and Ireland.

But there are places where Christmas is greeted with dancing in the streets, where rice is the traditional Christmas dish, where shoes are put under the tree instead of stockings hung on the mantel, and, in at least one hospitable nation, where a piece of cake and a nip of whisky are left by the chimney for Santa.

"Whoever takes them," smiled Nora O'Donnell of Ireland's County Tipperary, "the cake and whisky are gone by mornin'."

In Canada they go to church in fur-lined caps and boots, and in South Africa, where it's mid-summer, in clothes that are gay-colored and cool. But both Canadians and South Africans look forward to plum pudding at the Christmas feast — and if it is served in an exciting aura of blue flame, so much the better.

"We eat rice on Christmas," said Andrew Ewaraye, 20, a

University of Dayton sophomore who comes from Warri, Nigeria.

No White Christmas there. The temperature will be around 95 degrees," he said. "On Christmas Eve, we have dancing in the streets until dawn. Children go around masked, begging for pennies like American children on the night before Halloween."

Ewaraye, who attended a Marianist high school in Nigeria, said in Christian homes a picture of the Holy Family is displayed prominently at Christmas.

Turkey and champagne, much embracing of friends and kin mark Christmas in Bolivia, according to Zulema Salas, student at the College of Mount St. Joseph here.

In her native land, she said, children place their shoes under the Christmas tree instead of hanging up their stockings — but with the same general expectations.

"Baby Jesus brings the children their gifts," she said, "but it is understood that Papa Noel helps."

BOLIVIA LOOKS for a green Christmas, but the feast day table, with turkey as the likeliest dish, resembles that of cooler climes.

"Never anything but snow at Christmas," said Carolyn Gratton, director of the Cincinnati Grail Center, about her native Canada.

She comes from the Province of Ontario, "English Canada," where customs are "much like those of the U.S." She said: "Children look for gifts such as skis, sleds, toboggans, and skates, all of which are taken outside immediately for trial runs." Whatever else is served for Christmas — dinner, there must be "a flaming plum pudding, very fruity, very plummy with a sprig of holly on the top," she said.

IN KOREA it's somewhat different, admitted Benedict Kim, who joined the faculty of Mount St. Joseph College this fall.

"No tree," he said, "and very little gift-giving." But it was important to the people to come early for Mass, he added. "They would come from 20 miles away or more, arriving early Christmas eve and staying with

friends or relatives, so they could attend Mass," he related.

But customs are changing in Korea, he said. "Since the war it is becoming Americanized, and there is much display of gifts in shop windows. I'm afraid Christmas is becoming somewhat commercialized," he said.

Miss O'Donnell, a nurse at Mercy Hospital in nearby Hamilton, said that there is some times snow at Christmas in Tipperary. She lived on a farm "between Cahir and Cashel," where roast goose or roast turkey was served at Christmas dinner.

"Gifts were mostly for children in Ireland," she said. "And the visit to the crib in church was very important." This took place on Christmas eve, and included all the children.

"We had no tree," she said, "but always a Nativity scene. "And in the window there would be a lighted candle to light the way for the Saviour."

Mental Health

Philadelphia — (NC) — The fourth annual meeting of the Academy of Religion and Mental Health will be held April 22 to 24 at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel here.

World Wants Peace, Food

Rome — (NC) — Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, Primate of Poland, said here that the world faces two urgent problems: the "peace of Christ" and the fair distribution of goods. The Cardinal from communist-ruled Poland also called for religious freedom in all countries.

Cardinal Wyszynski spoke during a Mass offered on the feast of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) in his titular church of St. Mary in Travastevere before leaving Rome to return to Poland. Present at the Mass were the 25 Polish bishops who attended the Second Vatican Council's first session with him, the students and faculty of the Pontifical Polish College in Rome and members of this city's Polish community.

"We (council Fathers) are returning to our countries comforted in spirit by what we have seen and heard in the Vatican basilica," he said.

HE ASKED those present "for constant prayers for the Church in Poland, for my Polish fatherland which is so far away and yet so close to Rome spiritually."

Scots Mark Anniversary

Edinburgh — (NC) — Both Catholics and Protestants in Scotland will mark next June the 1,400th anniversary of the landing of St. Columba who brought Christianity to the country.



Santa Claus and Friends

New York — (RNS) — It's a jolly old time as Santa Claus comes to town, assisted by Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York. The occasion was the cardinal's annual Christmas party for children of the New York Foundling Hospital, one of his favorite charities. This year some 1,500 persons attended the party at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel where some 90 children from the home ate ice cream and cake, played games and told Santa what they want for Christmas. The event raised \$55,000 for the 93-year-old Foundling Hospital, which has cared for more than 110,000 homeless, motherless and abandoned babies since 1869. Cardinal Spellman held the party shortly before leaving for the Far East to spend Christmas with U.S. servicemen.

Rome an Ally To Strict Jews

London — (RNS) — A prominent American Orthodox rabbi declared here that Roman Catholicism is the natural ally of Jewish Orthodoxy in the struggle against communism and materialism and for the assertion of the supremacy of religion in private and public life.

Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits, spiritual leader of New York's Fifth Avenue Synagogue, in an interview published by The Jewish Chronicle commented on his efforts to weld a better relationship between Orthodoxy and the Catholic Church. He has visited the Vatican and has met with Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York.

Dr. Jakobovitz told the weekly journal that because of his first-hand experience he could appreciate that Judaism and Catholicism "shared the fundamental belief in the supremacy of religion in public as well as in private life."

GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

You have heard the story of the Incarnation a thousand times, but have you ever heard it told in the language of a veil? Centuries before the birth of Christ, God gave Moses instructions concerning the tabernacle in the desert. In front of the Holy of Holies, which was the dwelling place of God, there was hung a veil of blue and purple and scarlet. This veil separated the sanctuary from the Holy of Holies. Once a year the High Priest, after sprinkling the veil with blood, was permitted to enter beyond it to the Holy of Holies. This veil symbolized the human nature which the Son of God took upon Himself on Christmas Day. As the veil hid the Holy of Holies, so the Flesh or Human Nature of Our Lord housed or tabernacled His Divinity.

When Our Blessed Lord died on the Cross and His Side was pierced with a lance, the great veil of the Temple of Jerusalem in the sanctuary was rent from top to bottom, showing that the barrier between God and the contrite sinner was gone. The opening of the Side of Christ was like the opening of the veil to the rich treasures of Divinity. Scripture, picking up this theme, says:

"Why then, brethren, we can enter the sanctuary with confidence through the Blood of Christ. He has opened for us a new, a living approach, by way of the veil, I mean His mortality." (Heb. 10:19,20)

The rent veil of the Temple and the open Side of Our Lord declared that the true way to God had been made known. His Death, His Blood had opened up the way to His Presence.

What then is Christmas? It is the veiling of Divinity, the enfleshment of the Word of God. Thanks to the rending of the veil on Calvary, we now have access to the Holy of Holies, where Christ reigns in glory. Our Christmas wish to all of our readers is that, as there is no longer a veil between us and the Holy of Holies, so there may be no veil separating us from each other. Rather, let there be a mutual exchange of sacrifices and prayers for one another. Then the veil of ignorance which hangs over so many nations of the world will be rent, and the Light of the Gospel will pierce through.

If you have remembered all of your friends with gifts—but not the 2 billion pagans in mission lands — then send some gold or frankincense or myrrh to the Holy Father through his Society for the Propagation of the Faith. In this way, our Christmas will be happy — and yours!

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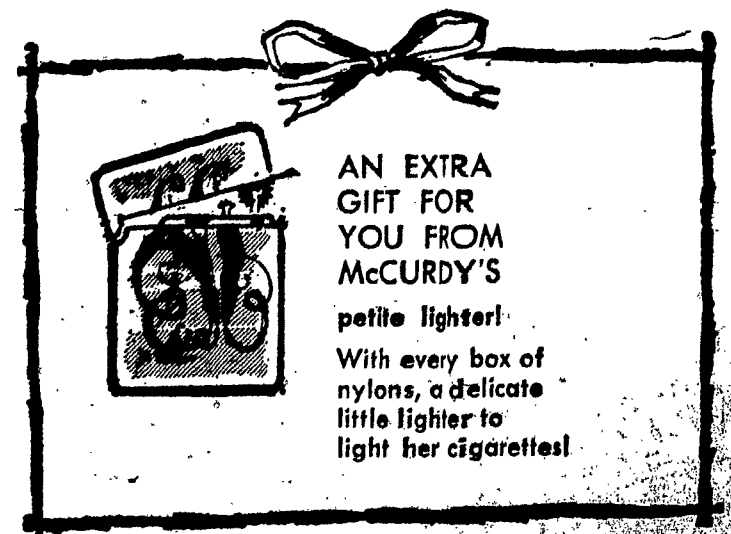
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Cue Maria

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us

+

Arlene Weider wishes you every joy and Christmas blessing.